

SEPTEMBER 2024

6.9.24



Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break. It has been a very busy summer here at school with the building work and various other maintenance programmes that have been undertaken, as well as another big clear out! Mr Mackenzie says that he has never worked so hard! He certainly deserves our thanks and recognition as he truly has gone above and beyond. Thank you too to the many members of staff who were in school over the summer to help get everything tidied, painted and organised; this also includes Mr and Mrs Ross who painted the Prayer Shed and tidied out the PE cupboard, with the help of Harry who has now moved onto high school - it was great to have him back for a day! Again, another shout-out to Mr Marsh for his help too.

This week, we had two very worthwhile INSET days. It was great to come together as a team and a huge collective effort went into getting our school ready for the children to return on Wednesday. And what a great return it has been! It is wonderful being with the children again and to find out about their adventures and memorable moments over the past few weeks.

A huge welcome to the 16 new starters who have begun their Whitegate journey in Acorns this week, along with Woody who has joined us in Y2, George in Y3 and Will in Y4. We are really looking forward to getting to know you all.

We also welcome Miss Davies onto our staff team; I know that she is very excited to be here and to teach our Y1 children in the newly formed Rowan class. Welcome back also to Mrs Shapland who will be providing support in Oak.

Curriculum Evenings

As usual, we will be holding meetings for you all to meet with your child/ren's teacher/s and to find out about the curriculum that will be taught this year. Please make every effort to come along to hear about the year ahead; the learning that your child will be doing; the educational visits and residential that are planned; as well as ways in which you can help at home. All Curriculum Evenings take place in the classrooms, so this is a good opportunity to see where your children are spending each day. Please see the list of dates as to when these take place. Please note, with the addition of Rowan class over the summer break, the dates and times have changed from those published at the end of last academic year.

Walking Bus

The walking bus returns next week and will be running on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays up to half-term. If you would like to use this facility, picking your children up at 3:45pm from Vale Royal Abbey, then please let the office know by 5pm on Monday. Why not give yourself 30 minutes of free childcare?!

Reading Challenge

Well done to all of those children who took part in the summer Reading Challenge ... and thank you to parents for supporting this. Next Friday, in our Celebration Worship, we will recognise the efforts of all of those who have taken part, so please remember to send in any certificates or medals that your children have received.

Astonishingly, 1 in 8 adults across the world cannot read. We believe that everyone has the right to read and this is why it is so important to read at home. As our homework policy states, 'Children whose reading is not supported by adults at home do not make the same good progress as their peers. Reading impacts on children's achievement in all other subjects.'

Opening of The Grove (our new-build)

The official opening of our new building, which we have called The Grove (in keeping with the tree theme that we have across the school), takes place on Thursday 26th September at 9am. We are looking forward to Bishop Sam Corley, the Bishop of Stockport, joining us for this very special occasion. You are all invited to join with us as we celebrate the fruition of seven years of planning!

I would like to thank all of the builders at Moduplan for their hard work and attention to detail. It was a joy to have them part of our Whitegate team for the past three months; our school felt very empty when their van drove away for the last time.

We are now planning to develop the area at the side of The Grove by putting down more artificial grass which will create a much more usable space during playtimes.

Family Breakfast

Please join us in the hall on Tuesday 1st October to share a cooked breakfast. We will be serving food from 8:15am and you are all invited. This must be pre-booked and is charged at just £2.50 per breakfast. Please use ParentMail to do this. We look forward to seeing you there.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

In addition to Mr Parrish's sports clubs and Mrs Finney's craft club, art club for children in Elder, Hawthorn and Oak will start on Tuesday 1st October and will run for six weeks. This is bookable via ParentMail. A reminder that there are a variety of activities taking place in The Ark each week. These are as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Obstacle	Cooking and craft	Lego and Construction	Forest School Activities	Movie Night

These sessions last until 4:15pm and cost £4.50 each. Please book and pay via ParentMail.

ASDA Cashpot for Schools

Please can I encourage you to get involved with this initiative.

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. All you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024. Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to FOWS. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get started.

Dates for September and October

Tuesday 17th September	5pm	Birch's Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 17th September	6pm	Oak's Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 18th September	All day	Golden RE Day!
Thursday 19th September	5:30pm	Hawthorn's Curriculum Evening
Thursday 19th September	6:30pm	FOWS AGM
Tuesday 24th September	5pm	Rowan's Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 24th September	6pm	Elder's Meet the Teacher Evening
Thursday 26th September	9am	Official opening of the new-build
Thursday 26th September	6pm	Acorns' Curriculum Evening
Friday 27 th September	9:30am	Y6s to host the Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday 1st October	8:15am	Family breakfast
Friday 4th October	All day	French Day
Monday 7th October	10am	Harvest Service in church
Wednesday 9th October	All day	Oak's visit to Cadbury World