

OCTOBER 2024

25.10.24



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Newsletter

Well this half-term has whizzed by and we are a sixth of the way through this school year! And what a great half-term it has been! The children have settled beautifully back into school and it is great to see the progress that they are making. We have also had many exciting events including the Golden RE day, French day, the family breakfast, the Macmillan Coffee Morning, the autumn fair, educational visits for Rowan, Birch, Elder and Oak and the opening of the The Grove ... phew! No wonder we are all ready for a break!

At each of these events it has been wonderful to see how polite and well-mannered the children have been. Outside of school, during educational visits, we have had nothing but praise for our children. We are very blessed!

Walking Bus

Due to the change in the weather, the walking bus will not be operating now until the spring. Thank you to all of those who have used this facility as it has helped to ease congestion in the village at pick-up time.

Parking

Please park considerately when dropping-off or collecting your children. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines, or where we are waiting for them to be painted (between the vicarage and where the zig-zag lines currently end). Please also do not park on the double yellows at the junction of Grange Lane, or in a way which is blocking villagers' driveways. I also remind you to be polite and courteous if a villager speaks to you about where you are parked. Please can you also pass these messages onto grandparents who pick up. I witnessed first-hand a grandparent react in an extremely rude manner to the chair of the Parish Council when he asked her not to park on the double yellow lines opposite school. This was also in front of the child, teaching them that it is okay not to follow rules.

Parents/Carers Consultations

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change the dates of our parent/carer consultation evenings after half-term. These will now take place on Thursday 14th November and Wednesday 20th November. Bookings will open for these straight after half-term.

Parent Governor

Following the resignation of Mr Pickering from the Governing Board, we will shortly be looking for a new parent governor. Primarily elected by the parents/carers of our school, they are a key part of the governing board that provide a parental perspective, but do not represent the parents. Parent governors work with the rest of the board in a strategic role ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction for the school. It involves time, energy and a willingness to become involved in the life of the school on a regular basis. Currently we are looking for individuals who have a background in business and have experience of developing a strategy, identifying risks and evaluating impact. If you are interested in this rewarding role and would like to know more, please do contact me using contact@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk.

Wreath Making

Please join us in the school hall on Monday 2nd December at 7pm for the FOWS wreath making event. This is an adult only event and is suitable for friends and family who are not associated with our school. This was very successful last year with those who attended giving a great review of the occasion. Please use the following booking link for guests:

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1197460871>

Attendance Policy

During August the DFE published statutory guidance, 'Working together to improve school attendance', hence why there have been some changes to the procedures in school. We have now updated our attendance policy and this can be found on our school website.

Homework

At Whitegate, we do not believe in setting lots of homework, especially tasks that require lots of input from you as parents and carers. We do however, expect that all children read four times a week and that they also access Numbots or Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS). In school, we are able to monitor when and for how long children are engaging in Numbots and TTRS and it is disappointing to see that so many children are not logging on to complete the tasks. In Year 4, the children have to sit a statutory multiplication check. This is because in order to access the Year 5 and 6 maths curriculum, children must know their times tables; therefore, I cannot stress enough the importance that they do this homework. They should be able to log-on without adult support as they do so in school. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Toast

Toast will cost £7.75 for the next half-term. Please ensure that you have ordered this on ParentMail by 9:30am on Tuesday 5th November.

PE Timetable

Due to dance rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas plays, the PE timetable has changed accordingly. The new timetable is in place from Tuesday 5th November.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Acorns	Acorns	Hawthorn
Birch	Rowan	Birch
Rowan	Elder	Elder
Oak	Hawthorn + Y5s in Oak	Oak

Extra-Curricular Clubs

After half-term, along with the clubs running in The Ark, craft club will continue with Mrs Finney for those in Rowan and Birch. Football club starts with Mr Palfreyman (Mini Stars Football Club) on Monday 11th November. Please note, Mr Fowles is not running after-school football this time, which is why we have asked Mr Palfreyman to do so. To book a place, please contact Mini Stars directly:

ministarsfootball@outlook.com

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
At The Ark: Cooking	At The Ark: Lego and Construction	At The Ark: Craft	At The Ark: Obstacle	At The Ark: Movie Night
Starting on 11th November, football club with Mini Stars Football Club for Children in KS1 and KS2.	Sports with Mr Parrish for KS2		Sports with Mr Parrish for KS1	
	Craft Club with Mrs Finney for KS1			
	Art Club with Mrs Savage and Miss Davies for KS2			

Dates for November

Monday 4th November	All day	INSET Day – School Closed
Tuesday 5th November	8:45am	School re-opens
Tuesday 5th November	All week	Anti-bullying Week
Monday 11th November	All week	Inter-Faith Week
Thursday 14th November	All day	Hawthorn and Elder visit the Gurdwara and Buddhist Centre in Manchester
Thursday 14th November	4pm—7:30pm	Parent/carers consultation appointments
Wednesday 20th November	2pm—5pm	Parent/carers consultation appointments

I wish you all a lovely half-term break. Enjoy the festivities that come at this time of year. Be safe!

*Every blessing,
C Mackenzie*