



January 2025
20.01.25



What a great start back we have had after the Christmas break especially with the wonderful performances of Wind in the Willows. The children in KS2 performed superbly on both occasions and it was wonderful to share this with you. The cast were a delight to work with this year and what a relief it was that they remembered their lines and direction after the two week break. What a great write-up we received in the Guardian! My thanks goes to Mr Thomas who had a big input in this.



Lunchboxes

If your child has a lunchbox, can I remind you of the school's healthy eating policy which states that pupils should be provided with healthy and nutritious food that is similar to food served in school - this is because it is in line with The School Food Standards. We are noticing that quite a few packed lunches contain processed food as well as chocolate bars and other confectionery items. Why not take a look at healthy suggestions from the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

As a way to encourage independence, we ask that the children put their lunchboxes on the trolley and collect them at the end of the school day, rather than parents doing this job for them.

Holiday Dates

School holiday dates for the next academic year (2025-26) have now been published on our school website. They can be found under the 'office' tab.

Be Kind

Since returning from our Christmas break a number of parents have not been particularly polite when speaking to or emailing school staff. I ask that you have patience and understanding when asking about issues such as toast, PE days and Ark bookings.

In addition, if a member of staff asks for you not to park in a particular place on the loop, please follow their instructions. If you have permission to park on the loop at the beginning of the school day, you must park in the staff parking area so that two lanes can be formed on the loop. This is so that we do not cause an obstruction by blocking the main road.



A reminder to be respectful to local residents and please do not park over their driveways or drive along the pavement on Grange Lane. Our safety officers are currently working with the Senior Road Safety Officer from the council along with our PCSOs to create a parking charter and we will be pleased to share this with you soon.

PTA Meeting

We are hoping to welcome many of you to tonight's meeting as we discuss the relaunch of our PTA. If you would like to be involved in this charitable arm of our school, we meet in the main building at 5:30pm. Please come to the main entrance.

School Sleepover

This is the news that many of you have been waiting for! On Friday 7th February, children from Y2 upwards are invited to come to school for a whole night! The children can return to school at 6pm dressed in their pyjamas, bringing with them a camping mattress or blow-up bed, along with a sleeping bag and pillow. The evening will begin with a Friday night feast and there will be games and a film, before settling down to sleep for the night. The children will need collecting promptly at 8am the following morning. To do this, they will need to raise at least £30 in sponsorship money. The sponsorship form will be sent out soon. This will be excellent preparation for the upcoming residentials for those children who do not often stay away overnight. All monies raised will be going towards our next (and final) instalment for the 10% towards The Grove. I'd like to say that we are looking forward to this event, but I'm not filled with joy at the prospect of a sleepless night (!) although I am looking forward to being in the company of the children.

Safeguarding

As many of you are on the playground and around the children each day, we all have a duty to ensure that our children are safe. In addition to this, many will spend time with Whitegate children from other families as part of playdates, birthday parties and sleepovers. If you are concerned about a child, please speak to myself as the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Mr Fowles, who is the Deputy Safeguarding Lead. Any concerns about online safety should be directed to Mr Thomas.

Our safeguarding policy can be found on the school website under the 'Our School' tab, then 'Our Policies and Procedures'. In there, you will find a wealth of information, including in the appendices, the signs of different categories of abuse.

Clubs

It has been great to have our after-school activities up and running again this term. Unfortunately, Mr Palfreyman has been unable to run his football sessions this half term but is hopeful to be back with us after the February break.

Dates

Monday 20th January	5:30pm	PTA Meeting
Week beginning 27th January	All Week	Assessment Week
Friday 7th February	6pm onwards	School sleepover for Y2-Y6 children
Thursday 13th February	1:30pm	Y6 Public Speaking Competition
Friday 14th February	3:15pm	Finish for the half-term break
Monday 24th February	All Day	INSET Day School closed
Friday 28th February	9:15am	Oak's Sharing Assembly for parents, carers, friends
Thursday 6th March	All Day	World Book Day
Friday 7th March	9:15am	Hawthorn's Sharing Assembly for parents, carers, friends
Friday 14th March	9:15am	Elder's Sharing Assembly for parents, carers, friends
Wednesday 19th March	4pm-7:30pm	Parent Consultation Appointments
Friday 21st March	9:15am	Birch's Sharing Assembly for parents, carers, friends
Tuesday 25th March	2:30pm -	Parent Consultation Appointments
Friday 28th March	9:15am	Rowan's Sharing Assembly for parents, carers, friends

Thank you for your continued support

C Mackenzie