



Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

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Dear Parents

2nd December 2016

Dick Whittington Day

Last Friday was a fun, fantastic affair enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. All the hard work, planning and preparation made such a great day for all. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who supported us throughout the day, especially Jo Cotton, who successfully choreographed a dance for all the children to learn, to 'Love Cats' by the Cure. The words of the original song, 'What's new pussycat?' by Tom Jones rang in my ears until the early hours of Saturday. The freeze-frames of part of the Dick Whittington story were marvellous! One classroom became infested with spectacular clay mice of all shapes and sizes. Another classroom was over-run by 3D cats in all their glory! Finally the end result of the Big Art Project, which depicts various London landscapes, can be seen next week in the Dick Whittington Panto at Great Whelnetham Community Centre. Our day was made complete when Barry Budgen, Hannah Cox, Val Petch and Trevor Bishop from the cast, joined the children for our end of day assembly, in full costume.

Thanks to the Great Whelnetham Players for their support and I am looking forward to seeing their production next week. Again a big thank you to parents who have made their £10 start of year donation to support such Enrichment Days. If you are unable to contribute £10 in one lump sum, donations of lesser amounts throughout the year would be gratefully received.

Future Enrichment Days are planned next year so watch this space! Memories of our special day have been created in the rolling loop of photos in the main office—be sure to take a look!

Christmas Parties

This year there will be 2 parties—one for Key Stage 1 on Monday 19th December and the other for Key Stage 2 on Tuesday 20th December. On the day of their party, your child needs to come to school in full uniform as usual but are invited to bring a named bag of party clothes with them. The clothes will be kept in their classrooms and then changed into after lunch. Children will have their school dinner or packed lunch as usual. This will be followed by an afternoon of games, gifts, prizes and festive fun with snacks in their classrooms. Please could we ask for a £1 donation per child towards the cost of this event along with the completion of the reply slip at the end of this letter. If your child has specific dietary requirements, please could these be specified. Please also take good note of the day of your child's party so that they arrive that day with everything they need for a great afternoon.

School Car Park

We have reluctantly had to take the decision to close the car park gates, because a number of parents are still choosing to take their children to and from school via the car park entrance. The safety of our children is central to this decision and we would ask once again that the Stanningfield Road, pedestrian entrance is the route that you all take in future. If you arrange for someone else to bring/collect your child, kindly ensure that they are aware of this requirement. Thank you.

Parking on the grass outside school

Earlier in the week, one of our families got stuck in the mud as they parked on the grass outside school, next to the car park entrance. At one point the car was on two wheels only as it struggled to manoeuvre to a firm surface. It highlighted the perils of parking in areas which were not designed to have cars driving on and off them. So this does not happen again, please could we ask that parents stop parking on the grass with immediate effect.

Thank you so much in advance for your support in these matters.

Christmas Productions

The two performances of our Key Stage 1 Christmas production will take place on Wednesday 14th December at 2.00pm and 6.00pm respectively. Tickets for the performances will be sent out separately.

Tickets will be limited to 2 per family per performance and please be aware that due to health and safety requirements regarding the capacity of the hall, tickets **MUST** be presented to gain entrance. **Regretably anyone leaving their ticket at home will not be admitted.** The children in the rest of the school will have the opportunity to watch one of the rehearsals and so will not miss out.

If you are bringing a baby or toddler with you, please ensure they do not run around, but sit quietly on your knee. If they start to cry would you please take them out of the hall. The children have worked very hard with rehearsals and we need to make sure they are not distracted and can be clearly heard.

We do not have photographic permission from parents for every child at the school and in the circumstances cannot permit any photography or videoing at all during either performance Mulled wine and refreshments will be available during the evening performance to help get you in the festive spirit!

For the evening performance, please ensure that your child is back at school **by 5.40pm and no earlier as staff will still be preparing for the performance.**

Christmas Post Box

Children wishing to send cards to other pupils or members of staff are asked to post their cards in the red box in the entrance hall as opposed to handing cards out themselves, which can prove to be messy and distracting. The post will be sorted and delivered by our 'postmen/women' to the relevance classes. The children very much look forward to these deliveries. Please ensure that surnames are written on the envelopes as well to avoid any confusion and if possible class names.

Menu Change

Wednesday 7th December—the main choice will be BBQ Chicken instead of Piri Piri Chicken (plain chicken breasts will be available on request)

Thursday 15th December—The main and vegetarian option this day will be Cheese & Tomato Pizza and garlic bread, followed by an ice lolly—please note that no jacket potatoes will be available.

Finally just a reminder that our Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday 8th December. Please be sure to send your child in with a packed lunch that day if you did not order one by the required date. If you are unsure, please ring and we will be most happy to help you.

Kath Parkin

Headteacher

To Great Whelnetham School

Christmas Parties 2016

Child/rens Name _____ Class/es _____

I enclose a £1 per child contribution.

Amount enclosed _____

Signed _____ Name _____