



## Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

# Newsletter

Headteacher: Kath Parkin Chair of Governors: Ben Sear

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4th November 2016

Dear Parents

We hope you all had an enjoyable half term break. Now that the weather has turned noticeably colder, please can you ensure that children come to school in a warm, waterproof coat and school shoes and that a pair of wellies are kept permanently at school.

### New Members of Staff

We are pleased to announce that we have recently appointed 2 relief Midday Supervisors -Mrs Emily Buckingham and Mrs Amanda Read who are both parents at school, to work with our children. In addition, Mrs Donna Medcalf will be working in our Early Birds Club with Mrs Large.

### Early Birds Club

This club continues to be popular with our parents and the new system of charging (50p per child, per day) appears to be working well. Just a reminder that there is a limit of 20 places per day which must be booked in advance. However booked places must be paid for and you will be still be expected to pay for your place, even if your child does not attend for whatever reason, and there will be no refunds. If you know in advance that your child will not be attending, we would appreciate it if you could let us know as a matter of courtesy, so that the place can be made available to someone else if required. We do hope that along with the other options in the morning - Cygnets, supervised drop off in Stanningfield Road and Community Centre park and walk, that parents find a method which suits them. Classroom doors open at 8.50am—please do not leave your child/ren unsupervised on the playground before this time. Payments remain flexible, however if you wish to pay weekly monthly or termly by cheque (payable to Suffolk County Council) we would appreciate this.

### Safe Parking and Drop Off

The yellow zigzag lines were remarked and extended in the half term break and we hope this makes it clearer and safer for our pedestrians. We understand however that some parents have been parking in the bus lane. Please could this be kept clear at all times to facilitate supervised drop offs. Please also note that the school car park is out of bounds for pedestrians.

### KS1 trip to the Discovery Centre and the Cathedral

On 20<sup>th</sup> October we took the children from Year 1 and Year 2 to the Cathedral for a Saint Edmunds day. We have been learning about Saint Edmund as part of our local History curriculum on 'significant historical events people and places in their own locality'. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I was very proud of all the positive comments from the Cathedral staff on our children's behaviour and engagement in their learning.

Thank you for all your support in enabling me to organise this trip.

Claire Masson – History Co-ordinator

### Harvest Festival Donations

We received a lovely thank you letter from the Bury St Edmunds Foodbank regarding your generous donations. An impressive 95kg of food was donated which is sufficient to feed 20 local families in need for 3 days. Thank you all again for your support.

### Football Club Fixture

Our football teams have their first fixture of the year this Monday 7th November against Ickworth Park School. Their Key Stage 2 team will come here to play against our team and our Key Stage 1 team are to go to Ickworth Park School in Horringer to play against theirs. We would like to wish them all the best of luck!

## Parent Questionnaire September 2016

We received 112 responses from Reception to Year 6 parents. Thank you.

	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know
1	My child is happy at this school	39%	54%	4%	1%	1%
2	My child feels safe at this school	46%	50%	1%		2%
3	My child is taught well at this school	46%	43%	5%	2%	4%
4	My child makes good progress at this school	43%	47%	3%	2%	5%
5	My child is well looked after at this school	54%	42%	2%		2%
6	My child receives appropriate home-work for their age	34%	51%	9%	1%	5%
7	This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	27%	45%	19%	2%	8%
8	This school deals effectively with bullying	15%	38%	9%	1%	38%
9	This school is well led and managed	39%	53%	2%	1%	5%
10	This school responds well to any concerns I raise	31%	47%	5%		16%
11	I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	33%	51%	10%	3%	4%
12	Would you recommend this school to another parent?	46%	43%	4%	2%	5%

### School Website

Thank you to all those who gave us feedback into our website redesign in July. Our new and improved website is under construction!! Our new website address is [greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk](http://greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk) and watch this space for a launch date soon. In the meantime please note that our previous website address is no longer available to view.

### Book Fair

A huge thank you to the parents who helped run the book fair and to those who kindly purchased books. We have been able to increase our stock of Upper Key Stage 2 library books with the commission. The lucky raffle ticket winners were: Sophie and Grace in KS2, Toby in KS1 and Mia and Kaylin in Reception.

### Attendance Matters

If children are too poorly to attend school we quite understand the need for them to stay at home. If your child is basically well enough to attend, but may require pain relief during the course of the day, we will now administer non-prescribed medicine, subject to the completion of the appropriate permission form. This is also applicable for on-going conditions such as migraines and hay fever. Please ask at the office for more details.

*Kath Parkin*

Headteacher