



Great Whelnetham Church of England Primary School

Newsletter

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28th November 2017

Dear Parents

As you may be aware, sadly the school office was broken into last week and the safe stolen. Some cash was taken but the main cost to the school will be in repairing the damage and the time and inconvenience caused. Many of you already pay for school dinners on line and we thought it would be a suitable time to request that as many of you as possible consider paying for lunches, uniform and trips using the Suffolk County Council online payment system. The system can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/>

Payment by cheque is always a safer option to cash and this another acceptable alternative.

Influenza Vaccine Reminder

The School Immunisation Team will be in school on Tuesday 5th December to administer the influenza vaccine to all children in Years R-4 for whom consent has been received. We would urge you to return consent forms back to us if you have not already done so, even if it is to withhold your consent. The parents of children who have not returned a completed consent form will be contacted by the School Immunisation Team directly.

Rock Steady Music School - Rock Stars Wanted!

Last Thursday, we had a half hour assembly with Steve from The Rock Steady Music School. Hopefully your child came home full of enthusiasm and excitement about an opportunity to perform in a band! After Christmas we will be welcoming Rocksteady Music School to Great Whelnetham School. It's an amazing opportunity for your child to join their very own rock band and learn either drums, guitar, keyboard or vocals. Music sessions will take place in school every Friday afternoon and help to build confidence whilst also teaching resilience, teamwork and listening skills.

If you are interested in the sessions your child can learn either drums, guitar, keyboard or vocals within their very own band. Sessions are taught by highly trained musicians and are fun, inclusive and accessible to all. At the end of each term the bands perform a concert for the school and their families, so you can see how far they have come! All instruments are provided and no experience is necessary. Payment is £31.25 payable by monthly direct debit.

On Friday 15th December, Steve will return to do 3 workshops where children can try out the instruments and learn all about being a musician in a band. If your child is interested and you want to find out more, do pop along, Steve will be here from 9.00am.

Workshop 1 (Reception/Year 1) will take place 9.30-10.00am

Workshop 2 (Years 2, 3 & 4) will take place 10.00-10.30am

Workshop 3 (Years 5 & 6) will take place 10.30-11.00am.

Your child will come home with a letter after the workshop with details of how to reserve places. For further information please visit their website www.rocksteadymusicschool.com or contact Rocksteady directly on 0845 094 1259 or contact@rocksteadymusicschool.com

Moving on to more festive topics, we would like to detail our Countdown to Christmas.

Christingle Service

The service, which is a pupil-only event, takes place on **Thursday 30th November**. Each child has been issued with a donation box in aid of the Children's Society and we would be most grateful if you could fill the box with loose change from home and then return it to school by the end of next week. The Children's Society is a charity which works to support vulnerable children in England and Wales and we support them in this way each year.



Christmas Fair

We are very much looking forward to the Fair which takes place on **Friday 1st December** at 3.30pm at the Community Centre. Santa is taking a break from his busy schedule and will be in his grotto from 3.30-5.00pm. There will also be lots of stalls and lots of fun and we do hope you will be able to come along and support the school. Remember that all monies raised by the PTFA are donated to the school and so it's the children who benefit in the end. We are still in need of some volunteers to 'man' some of the stalls. If you are able to spare just half an hour to help out, we would be so grateful. Please ring the office to see how you can help.

Christmas Post Box

Children wishing to send cards to other pupils or members of staff are asked to wait until **1st December** before bringing them into school. They are then requested 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 relevant 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 or Year group.

Parent Gift Stalls

As indicated in the recent PTFA newsletter, these will be in operation on the afternoons of the **5th and 7th December**. Please remember to send your child in with a sealed envelope (bearing their name and class) containing their 'spending money' if they would like to participate. Gifts will be priced at £1, £1.50 and £2.

Christmas Lunch

Just a reminder that our Christmas Lunch will be served on **Thursday 7th December**. Please be sure to send your child in with a packed lunch that day if you did not order a dinner by the required date. If you are unsure, please ring and we will be most happy to help you.

Christmas Productions

The two performances of our Key Stage 1 Christmas production A King is Born, will take place on **Wednesday 13th December** at 2.00pm and 6.00pm respectively. Information regarding tickets will be sent out separately.

Wear a Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children—Friday 15th December

Each year we invite pupils and staff to come to school in their Christmas jumpers, with the request that they donate £1 each for the privilege. We do hope you will be able to dig out their favourite festive sweaters and support this charity who help children less fortunate than ours.

PTFA Disco—Friday 15th December at the Community Centre

Cygnets/Key Stage 1—5.30-6.30pm

Key Stage 2—7.00-8.30pm

All tickets cost £2.50 or £7.00 for a family of 3, and will be on sale at the fair or can be ordered using the order form overleaf.

Carol Service

The whole school will come together for a Carol Service on **Monday 18th December**. We are pleased to be able to invite you to attend and help celebrate this special time of year with us. The service will start at 9.30am and we look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Parties

Our parties will take place on **Tuesday 19th December**, the last day of term. 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. 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.

Kath Parkin

Headteacher

To Great Whelnetham School

Christmas Party Tuesday 19th December 2017

Child's Name _____ Class _____

I enclose a £1 per child donation for the party activities—games, gifts, prizes and snacks.

Amount enclose £ _____

Dietary reminder if appropriate _____

To Great Whelnetham School PTFA

School Disco Friday 15th December 2017 at the Community Centre

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Please could I order:

___ Cygnets/Key Stage 1 tickets @ £2.50 each = £ _____

___ Key Stage 2 tickets @ £2.50 each = £ _____

Total enclosed _____ **£** _____

Cash or cheques payable to The Friends of Great Whelnetham School. (NB 3 tickets for the same family cost £7.00).

Signed _____ Date _____

