

**Great Whelnetham**  
**Church of England Primary School**  
***By growing together, we become the best we can be'***



Chair of Governors: K Palmer     Int. Headteacher: I Page

Telephone: 01284 386203  
Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham  
Bury St. Edmunds. IP30 0UA

3 June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on what was an incredibly busy last half term. It was remarkable what everyone crammed in to just four and half weeks and I am incredibly proud of all our children and staff.

Ms Wallis joined us as Deputy Headteacher and definitely hit the ground running, bringing immediately all her years of experience and expertise to the benefit of both children and staff.

Swans successfully completed their KS2 SATs exams and will continue this half term with their transition activities in readiness for high school. The end of year play rehearsals are now in full swing too.

Robins have equally worked successfully throughout the whole of May to complete their KS1 SATs assessments and Larks have been extremely well prepared for the Year 1 Phonics screening check taking place next week.

It has been lovely to continue to celebrate each week in our Friday Collective Worship beyond our routine team and individual Dojo point winners to include recognition of sporting achievements in football, gymnastics and swimming; writing competition winners in the World Book Day short story competition; maths success in the SumDog competition against children from both Suffolk and across the country; and acknowledging lunchtime leaders of games and nature clubs. Our environmental credentials remain high with children looking out excitedly for our recently hatched chicks on the webcam and those looking to save the ladybirds or reminding others to be mindful of litter. Our Junior Road Safety Officers have also demonstrated to us all (in an excellent way) the importance of wearing a bike helmet and keeping safe on the roads.

The literacy drive continued a pace when we welcomed local author Ann-Marie Howell to deliver an engaging presentation to Years 4, 5 and 6 in advance of the publication of her book, *The Garden of Lost Secrets*.

Equally Wrens have flourished and surprised me with their inspired *Chelsea Flower Show* exhibits in the last week. Owls and Kingfishers started the half term with a joint trip to Suffolk Showground and have continued to work collaboratively on an Art Project with the Theatre Royal.

The PTFA Disco was another wonderful event at the Community Hall. Thank you to all involved in the organisation and to all that were able to support on the evening. We continue to raise funds towards replacing our outdoor play equipment. The School Council have excitedly looked at some initial proposals with me and, following a failed attempt at Easter, we are now delighted to have been offered support from UK Power Networks to remove the old equipment on 26 June. Please do look out for more PTFA events this half term. The next meeting is this Thursday 6 June, 7.00pm at the Rushbrooke Arms. You would be most welcome.

Email: [office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk](mailto:office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk)

School website: <http://www.greatwhelnetham.suffolk.sch.uk/website>

*Values for Life: Compassion, Courage, Friendship, Trust, Truthfulness, Hope, Peace, Thankfulness, Creativity, Forgiveness, Humility and Justice.*

I was delighted to finally receive confirmation from the DfE regarding our Multi Academy Trust sponsor. The All Saints Schools Trust is an ideal match with a proven track record of understanding small Church of England schools. I am grateful to Mrs Melanie Barrow (Chief Executive Officer) and Mr James Hargrave (Chair of Trustees) for offering the parental engagement meetings so quickly. If you were unable to attend, two key announcements made were that Mrs Barrow will be Executive Headteacher from 1 September 2019 and Ms Wallis will become Head of School. Mrs Barrow brings a wealth of school leadership experience both locally and nationally. Her expertise in SEND is additionally welcome as this will continue to strengthen our work with all children, families and staff. I am already working very closely with Mrs Barrow and her team of staff welcomed our staff in ASST schools on the Professional Development Day immediately before half term.

Rest assured that we are all working incredibly hard and we will continue to keep you informed in as timely a fashion as we are able to do so. To that end may I draw your attention to the letter sent out today from Mrs Kim Palmer (Chair of Governors) regarding Mrs Jenkins.

On behalf of all the staff may I thank you for your ongoing support. It makes a massive difference to know that we are all working with the common purpose of making Great Whelnetham the best possible school for all our children.

We have a lot of learning and exciting summer events to enjoy together in the coming weeks. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact if I can help in any way.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Ian Page, BSc (Jt Hons.), PGCE, MSc, NPQH  
LA Associate Headteacher  
Interim Headteacher, Great Whelnetham CEVCP School

