



Great Whelnetham CE Primary School
Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0UA
(01284) 386203
Executive Head Teacher – Mrs. Claire Flatman
Head of School – Ms. Imogen Wallis
office@greatwhelnetham.co.uk

4th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a wonderful half term break and enjoyed spending time with all your families. We are delighted to see the children return to school this week and begin work on their new topics. School continues to be a vibrant place and it is a pleasure to visit classes and see the children fully engaged with their learning. Please find some important dates as well as some news to share in this newsletter.

Creating a Christian Vision at Great Whelnetham C of E Primary.

I have been speaking to all Key Stakeholders associated with the school to help create a new Christian Vision that we can all be proud of and own together. I have had so many different responses to the three questions that we asked everyone and I include an update on these responses for you all. The questions looked at were as follows:

- Who we are?
- Why we are here?
- How then do we live?

It was essential that everyone had an opportunity to think about our unique context. In doing so the following points were considered:

- What is the history of our school?
- What is our logo?
- Where are we located?
- What is special to our area that brings people together?
- What are our children like and what do they need?
- What is our school particularly good at and where do your challenges lie?
- How do we support our children and their families?

In answering these questions, we focused on the following two points: Know who we are. What is unique and special about us?

As a Church School it was important to think about what does Great Whelnetham C of E School need to give to its children? And how, as Christians, and with God's love, can we deliver that?

I have gathered all the feedback and have worked with Governors to create the following school motto. **NUTURE-GROW-SUCCEED TOGETHER**; this motto is supported by Jesus' mustard seed parable- "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed¹ that a man took and sowed in his field. ³²It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is

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the greatest garden plant and becomes a tree. (Mt/3v31-32). Valuing our school community, our Great Whelnetham family, together we embody our vision, “With God’s guidance; sowing the seeds of success; nurturing and inspiring pupils and adults to flourish together as a family.”

I thank all those who contributed to this process and would like to inform parents that this motto will be at the very heart of everything we do moving forward and we will work with the children to bring this to life in our everyday learning.

Entitlement of Experience

We plan our Curriculum carefully at Great Whelnetham and understand the value and importance of providing our children with key experiences that help bring their learning to life. I am delighted to let you know that Larks class recently enjoyed a visit to Framlingham Castle. The children are learning all about castles as part of their topic and this trip helped them to apply their knowledge and identify features of a real castle. The weather was kind enabling the children and the adults to have their picnic lunch outside. The children were all so brave climbing the stairs up to the tower and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Swans class have also been out and about. They have visited the Scott Polar Research Institute Museum, in Cambridge, and enjoyed two activities on the day. One was packing a case with items that would be useful for an expedition and the other was finding them in the museum and recording them in a booklet. The children learnt all about Ernest Shackleton, including finding the model of the HMS Endurance, his medals and designing a meal based on the food we know polar explorers ate. They also really enjoyed their day.

Finally, Owls class had an amazing day with Portals to the Past exploring the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The children were able to dress up, visit workshops and learn about this fascinating period of history in a hands on way.

A huge thank you to all the parents who helped make these experiences possible and to the staff for putting the time, effort and thought into their plans. It is much appreciated.

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Parent Consultations

Thank you to all the parents who recently visited the school before half term to discuss their child's progress. It was lovely to meet so many of you personally. We feel that it is incredibly important to keep parents updated on their children's progress and teachers are available at the end of each day to answer any questions that you may have. If you need any additional information, then please do get in touch with the school.

Flu Vaccinations

These are due to take place on 16th November. Could we please ask all parents to return your forms and state if you do or do not want your child to receive their vaccination. Thank you for your support with this.

Harvest

Thank you to Reverend Sharon Potter for leading our recent Harvest Festival. She will be leading the children in collective worship each week between now and Christmas and we welcome her to the Great Whelnetham family. Thank you, parents, for visiting the school to support your children and taking part. The children sang beautifully, read with confidence and really enjoyed seeing all the parents in school once more. All of the food donations have been passed on to the local foodbank- we are very grateful for all your support.

Staffing

At the end of the half term we said goodbye to Mrs Barbrooke. We will all miss her and her kindness a great deal at Great Whelnetham and wish her all the best in her new adventure as a child minder. Such lucky children.

We welcome Mrs Milner to Owls class. Mrs Milner will join us in the next few days to replace Mrs Barbrooke. We welcome her and Mrs Hawkins to Swans class and to the school staffing team.

After school Clubs

We are very excited to announce that we will be extending our After School Club and Lunchtime School Club offers. Staff will be writing to you soon to inform you of the clubs that

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we will be organising. These will include the timings and the classes that will be able to attend. We will continue to offer Sports, Rocksteady Music Club and we will also offer Homework club, Art club and Drama. We have no doubt the children will really enjoy these and we look forward to being in touch with you all next week.

Nativity

We are planning to perform our Nativity on the 8th December at 2pm and 6pm. This will all depend on the guidance that we receive from Suffolk County Council. We are currently following their directive and thank you all for your support and understanding with this. We will of course, keep you updated on any changes and confirm the dates stated above as definite as soon as we can.

Claire Flatman

Executive Headteacher.

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