

September
2023
8.9.23

Fortnightly Flyer



Welcome back! I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break. It has been great talking to the children about their adventures and memorable moments over the six weeks. And, how they have grown!

A huge welcome to the 23 new starters who have begun their Whitegate journey in Acorns this week, along with Henry and Amelia who have joined us in Y4. We are really looking forward to getting to know you all.

We are now into the autumn term and so the border should be one of autumn leaves, but I felt that the sunflowers and orange colours were more appropriate with the heatwave that we are experiencing!

Whole School Picnic

Did you know that the history of our school starts with the story of King Edward I almost being shipwrecked off the coast of Wales? He prayed to God to be saved and as a thank you, he laid the foundation stone for what was to be the last and largest monastic church to be built by the Cistercian Order in England - Vale Royal Abbey. For this reason, we will all (apart from Acorns) be walking to the abbey, next Wednesday - the 13th - for a picnic. Miss Byrne (our school cook) will make packed lunches for the children in Elm. For those children in Beech through to Oak, you can order a packed lunch by simply ordering a school dinner.

Reading Challenge

Well done to all of those children who took part in the summer Reading Challenge ... and thank you to parents for supporting this. Today, in our Celebration Worship, we recognised the efforts of all of those who had taken part and reminded ourselves of the gift of reading. Astonishingly 1 in 8 adults across the world cannot read. We believe that everyone has the right to read and this is why it is so important to read at home. As our homework policy states, 'Children whose reading is not supported by adults at home do not make the same good progress as their peers. Reading impacts on children's achievement in all other subjects.'

School Uniform

Thank you for your support in adhering to our school uniform policy, in particular the changes for PE with the removal of the navy zip through tops. It is great to see the children looking so much smarter. A reminder that shorts must be plain with no logos; children should not be wearing lycra shorts or leggings. Apologies if this has not been made clear before the summer break.

In addition to this, earrings must not be worn on PE days. Please ensure that these are taken out at home before coming to school on these days. Thank you.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Clubs are available for all of those in Y1 upwards, apart from Craft Club which the children in Acorns are able to attend. All clubs start week beginning the 18th September. The following clubs will be on offer this half-term:

	KS1	KS2	The Ark
Monday	Lego	Choir	Cooking
Tuesday	Engineering Craft Ball Games	Recorders Football	Art
Thursday		Drama & Debating Ball Games Ukulele (for those who have already started to learn with Mr Heath cote)	Outdoor activities
Friday	Gymnastics		

Clubs will be set up on ParentMail early next week. For Ball Games, separate communication will be sent out from the Sports Coaching Group. If you wish to join in with cooking or art, please book the slot until 4:15pm in The Ark and collect your child from the green pedestrian gate on the loop. For all other clubs, please collect from the Main Entrance.

Curriculum Evenings

Curriculum Evenings begin next week. Please make every effort to come along to hear from your child's class teacher about the year ahead; the learning that your child will be doing; the educational visits and residentials that are planned; as well as ways in which you can help at home. All Curriculum Evenings take place in the classrooms, so this is a good opportunity to see where your children are spending each day, as well as getting to know the teacher.

Lunches

A reminder to pre-book lunches at home, As we start teaching straight away when the children come into school, there is not the time to book these in school. Parents of the children in Acorns should have received your login details today from Appetite/Hutchisons.

FOWS

A huge thank you to FOWS for funding the artificial grass that has been laid over the summer break. What a transformation! The children are loving it! They are enjoying sitting and chatting, running around, but probably most importantly, rolling down the slope. I am sure that you are very happy that there aren't any grass stained clothes coming home to wash!

FOWS AGM takes place on 20th September starting at 6pm. Please come along and help to shape this year's fundraising events. We are a really friendly bunch and we always have lots to laugh and joke about. There's also wine and cheese on offer!

Sporting Competitions

Before the summer break, a number of parents queried how children were selected to represent the school in sporting activities and competitions. We take part in three types of events: Celebrate, Aspire and Inspire. Please see the attached document which details the different events and explains our thought process when choosing those who will take part.

Play Equipment

Just a reminder, that the play equipment should not be used before and after school. The children are only permitted to play on this during the school day. Thank you for your cooperation.

Holidays in Term Time

Please refrain from booking holidays in term time. I am unable to authorise them and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued. Everyday is a learning day in school. If children miss days, they miss out on important learning and often struggle to catch-up.

Dates

Wednesday 13th September	Lunch time	Whole school Picnic at Vale Royal Abbey
Thursday 14th September	5pm	Cedar's Curriculum Evening
Thursday 14th September	6pm	Willow's Curriculum Evening
Monday 18th September	5pm	Elm's Curriculum Evening
Monday 18th September	6pm	Beech's Curriculum Evening
Wednesday 20th September	All day	Elm's visit to the Blue Planet Aquarium
Thursday 21st September	5pm	Oak's Curriculum Evening
Thursday 21st September	6pm	Acorns' Curriculum Evening
Monday 25th September	All day	Willow Class + Y5s in Oak visit to Chester
Friday 29th September	9:30am onwards	Macmillan Coffee Morning hosted by Y6

Please join us for the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 29th September. Cake donations will be very much appreciated. Thank you