

SEPTEMBER 2023

6.10.23



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Fortnightly Flyer

I want to open this newsletter by saying how proud I am of our Y6s! Today, the majority of them have had the opportunity to tour prospective parents around our school and what an amazing job that they have done! They were confident and articulate. It only feels like a short time since they were in Acorns themselves!

Governor News

On behalf of the governors, I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Cotterill who has stepped down from our board after many years of supporting our school. Mrs. Cotterill was appointed in 2015 to lead the recruitment process of the new Head teacher - me! We have very much valued her advice, support and wisdom. With Will and Harriet being here at Whitegate, we will still be seeing 'Bear' on the playground and at various events throughout the year.

A big thank you too to Rev. Michael Field whose term of office comes to an end in November. We are delighted that he will still come in to school to lead Collective Worship as the children really enjoy the way in which he retells the stories from the Bible.

Emails

As I am receiving a number of emails from parents outside of work hours, including late into the evenings and during the weekends, for my own work-life balance, as we ask for the teachers in school, please send all messages to contact@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk.

A number of parents are emailing via admin@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk. Again, for Mrs Shephard's well-being, I ask that you refrain from doing this outside of school hours. All emails sent after 4pm should go to the contact@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk.

Arrangements Before School

Whilst we appreciate that some children want to run around with friends before school, some of the behaviors at this time are too rough and boisterous. A reminder please that until the whistle is blown, the children from Acorns up to Cedar are in your care. Please remain vigilant and put a stop to any behaviour that is not appropriate. The children should not be playing on any of the play equipment, climbing on the steps up to the PE cupboard, climbing on the fencing along the ramp or on the walls around the hall. In addition to this, they should not be playing any balls games. Thank you for your cooperation.

From Monday, in order to stop the congestion through the Acorns outdoor area, we are starting a new morning routine. When the whistle is blown between 8:40am and 8:45am, the children will line up on the bottom playground. (They will know where to go as this is where they line up for a fire drill.) A member of staff will lead each class in. We will want the children in class as soon as possible to start their learning and so, as usual, any messages need to come via the Home School Contact Books as there will not be time to talk at length first thing in the day. Many thanks.

Consultation on Proposed Academy Conversion

Many thanks for those parents who attended the consultation meeting on Monday. Please continue to check the dedicated page on the school website for any updates regarding the consultation; and, also please do email your thoughts and opinions to consultation@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk, or alternatively, post your comments in the box in the main entrance.

Autumn Fair

Y6 are starting to prepare for their autumn fair which takes on Wednesday 18th October starting at 1:30pm in the hall. In order for this to be a success, we require pre-loved toys, games, bric-a-brac as well as sweets and treats for prizes. What a good opportunity to have a good clear-out! Items are welcome into school from Monday. This year, the money raised will be sent to The Food Project Trust, a charity based in Pakistan that provides wholesome cooked meals to poor families in low-income areas. They also offer educational opportunities to children from under-privileged families through a school in Karachi. Mr. Thomas and his family have been involved with the school and charity for a number of years and he is excited to make a new link between our school community and theirs.

School Disco

FOWS are holding our first disco of the school year next Friday, the 13th October. To book your child in for this event, please join Classlist. This link was sent out last week in a separate email.

Harvest

What a wonderful occasion harvest was this year! It was great to see so many of you in church. I do not think that church has been that full for a long time; so full in fact that we ran out of orders of service - what a wonderful position to be in! Thank you for all of your donations to the Foodbank. A small group of children will be taking the items collected next week and so if you would like to make any last minute donations, they will be gratefully received on Monday.

School Photographs

On Thursday 19th October, the children will be having their individual and siblings photographs taken. If you have pre-school children and you wish to have a siblings photograph, please come to the hall at 8:30am. On this day, all children will need to come to school in their full school uniform; they will need to bring their PE kits to school to get changed for their PE lesson.

Imagining Eternity

Towards the end of this half term, all of the children in Key Stage Two will be visiting St. John's Church, Hartford to take part in 'Imagining Eternity'. This will be a highly interactive experience using art, poetry, textiles and music to encourage the children to think about the beauty of creation, the things that are wrong in our world and what they might hope life could be like in the future. As they explore their own ideas of a perfect world, they will have the opportunity to look at what the bible says about heaven and eternal life.

He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

The children in Cedar will travel to St. John's and back on a coach; Willow and Oak will travel there on a coach and will then walk back along the River Weaver. The walk will allow geographical studies linking to water. The children in these classes will require a waterproof coat and a packed lunch.

Music Evening

We are holding a music evening on Thursday 2nd November starting at 6pm in the hall. This is for any child who is learning to play an instrument and feels ready to perform. This promises to be a great evening of entertainment; and I have heard a little whisper that some of the staff are performing too! If your child is learning an instrument outside of school and would like to take part, please let us know by writing a message in the Home School Contact Book.

Clubs

As usual, after half-term there will be very limited clubs running. As most of you are aware, putting the Christmas productions together takes up a lot of staff time with painting scenery, making props etc. and their efforts after school focus on this.

Dates

Monday 9th October	2pm—4pm	Y5/6 girls football tournament
Wednesday 11th October	1:30pm—3pm	Open Afternoon for New Starters in 2024
Friday 13th October	5pm	FOWS Disco
Monday 16th October	9:15am	Cedar visiting St. John's, Hartford—Imagining Eternity
Monday 16th October	10:45am	Willow visiting St. John's, Hartford—Imagining Eternity
Wednesday 18th October	1:30pm	Autumn Fair—all invited
Thursday 19th October	Morning	Individual and sibling school photographs
Thursday 19th October	6pm	FOWS Meeting
Friday 20th October	10:45am	Oak visiting St. John's, Hartford—Imagining Eternity
Friday 20th October	3:15pm	Break up for half-term