



**July 2025
23.7.25**

Yesterday we said goodbye to our Y6s. Their Leavers' Service in church was a true testament to the journey that they have been on and how in their seven years with us, they have grown in wisdom. They shared wonderful memories of their time with us and thanked many of those who had helped them along the way, including Buddy and Reggie! Their prayers were beautiful and very much came from the heart. Mr Heathcote did a brief talk about how a bag of Haribo can remind us of so many of God's promises, including the fried egg that reminds us that God provides everything that we need and the love heart, showing God's love for us all. I hope and pray that the children will remember all that they have learnt at Whitegate and will make a great start to their next chapter at high school. Remember, you will always be part of the Whitegate family and it would be great to see you at events, such as the Christmas Fair.



Puppet Show

Last week the children in Hawthorn entertained our 21 new starters for September, with renditions of traditional tales in their puppet shows. The children had worked hard to sew their puppets, write scripts and paint scenery. The new starters sat beautifully. We are looking forward to them officially being part of our Whitegate family very soon.



Uniform

A reminder that children may wear royal blue polo shirts from September. These will be phased in, replacing the white ones, over the next couple of years. If you are purchasing everyday ones (without the school logo) from ASDA, these are the cobalt ones. Please make every effort to buy white sole trainers to protect our hall floor.

School Dinners

Hutchisons took over the provision of our school meals in 2022 and we have been locked into a contract since then. School meals have remained at £2.47 for the past three years, but as with everything, there is now going to be an increase. From September, the cost per day, for those in KS2, will be £3.15. If you still have outstanding debt from the purchase of school meals, this must be paid as a matter of urgency.

Summer Reading Challenge

Last week we welcomed Caroline Dunsheath into school from our local libraries to help launch this year's summer reading challenge. Nationwide, schools often find that after the long summer holiday, children's reading can dip due to not keeping up with the regular reading that they do during term time. Therefore, we encourage all children to keep up with their reading by completing the summer reading challenge. Please see the information sent out earlier last week via ParentMail which contains details for signing up online or drop into your local library to enrol. We can't wait to see the children back in September with their certificates and medals for completing the challenge. Let's aim for even more children than last year!

X/Twitter Update

We have made the decision to move away from using X (Twitter) as a platform for sharing the children's learning experiences with you. While X has allowed us to offer snapshots of what's happening in classrooms and on educational visits, we've found that it no longer serves our community in the way we would like it to.

There are several reasons for this decision. Over time, the platform has become increasingly difficult to manage in a way that aligns with our school's Christian values and ethos. Additionally, changes to the way content is viewed and shared mean it's harder to ensure that what we post reaches you effectively and safely. We are also aware that a number of parents have already moved away from using X.

We are currently exploring alternative platforms that offer a more secure, user-friendly and values-led environment. In September, we look forward to letting you know which platform we will be using in the future.



Attendance

Well done to Sofia G, Arlo G, Olivia W, George D, Emily D, Harvey C, Daisy J and George W For their 100% attendance this academic year. What a great achievement! When I presented them with their certificates, I made a comment about them being very healthy people who must never get ill! Their response was that they have been ill, but have taken some medicine and have braved it into school. I know that Arlo set himself the challenge of getting his 100% certificate early in the school year, showing what you can achieve if you set your mind to it.

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is 95.3%. Whilst this is hugely positive, it is just below the 96% target. Please remember not to book family holidays in term time: each day is a valuable learning day in school. Let's see if we can improve our percentage further next year.

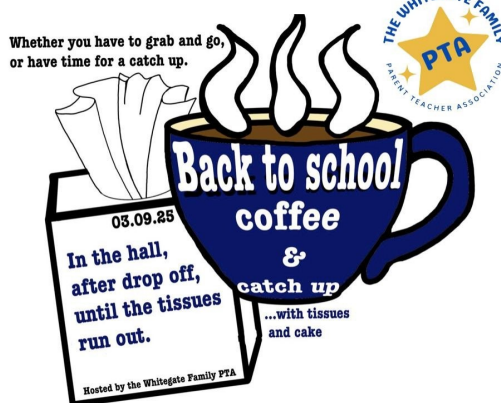
E-Safety

Please see the separate ParentMail from Mr Thomas in regards to important online safety issues that you need to be aware of, particularly for those parents of older children as they are more likely to be using chat groups during the break.

Curriculum Evenings

We have made the decision to combine our Curriculum Evenings next year. There will be one for Acorns, one for KS1 (Rowan and Birch) and one for KS2 (Elder, Hawthorn and Oak). These will take place in the school hall. Please see the dates at the bottom for when these take place. We anticipate that these will last no longer than an hour. Please make every effort to attend as we go through the key information for each class.

Please do come along to our Parent Coffee Morning on the first day back after drop-off. This will take place in the school hall. Come and meet up with friends, or come and meet new people if you are new to our school family in September. We look forward to welcoming you.



Dates

Tuesday 2nd September	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Stay and Play for new starters into Acorns
Wednesday 3rd September	8:45am	Children return for the new school year
Wednesday 3rd September		Parent Coffee Morning hosted by the PTA
Wednesday 10th September		Acorns children in full time from today
Tuesday 16th September	6pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Rowan and Birch
Wednesday 17th September		Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 23rd September	6pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Elder, Hawthorn and Oak
Thursday 25th September	6pm	Acorns Curriculum Evening
Friday 26th September	9:30am - 11am	MacMillan Coffee Morning hosted by Y6
Friday 26th September	TBC	School disco hosted by the PTA

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer break
Every blessing,
C Mackenzie