



Witchampton CofE First School News

September 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wish you a warm welcome to the new school year, especially those who are new to our school. We hope that you have all had a great summer. The children have all arrived back with great enthusiasm and are looking very smart. Our new Hedgehogs have settled in brilliantly and we are very proud of the year 4 buddies who have looked after them so well.

I have been overwhelmed with the warm welcome that I have received from the whole school community. It has been a pleasure getting to know the pupils, staff, parents/carers and wider community of this very special school over the last three weeks and it is an absolute honour to be leading the 'small school with a big heart' onto the next stage in its journey. If we have not already met, please introduce yourself! I will endeavour to be out at the front of the school at the beginning and end of each day - rain or shine! If you would like to speak to me about any matter, please contact the school office to make an appointment. My door is always open.

Over the summer holidays our long awaited new roof was finally installed and we eagerly await more improvements to the school building during the autumn half term break.

We have lots of exciting events planned during the term ahead and we hope you will be able to join us for many of these. Key dates were provided last week, however these may be added to over the term. They are available to view on the website. We have a communication board for parents/carers in the corridor that leads to Foxes. Please keep an eye on it for information and news and let us know if there is anything that you wish to add. Hopefully you will also all be receiving parentmail by now. If you have not received any parent mail messages this term and have signed up to the system please let Mrs Middlebrook in the office know. Hedgehogs will be provided with this facility shortly. Staff will also be posting regular updates about their classes on the class pages on the website.

A big thank you to all those parent/carers who came to our Meet the Teacher sessions. If you were unable to attend and would like more information this can be found in the class pages of the website. If you have any questions at any time, please do not hesitate to ask us. We look forward to seeing the reception parents at the forthcoming curriculum workshop and phonics evening.

I very much look forward to working with the children, staff and school community in the coming months.

Mrs Jo Hancock
Head of School

War on Waste Saturday

You will recently have received a poster advertising the War on Waste street party taking place on Saturday – 22nd September 12-4pm in Wimborne Square. Witchampton C of E First School have signed up to be part of the Wimborne War on Waste Campaign and will be actively promoting ways to reduce waste, particularly plastics, this year. So far this term the children have watched a film about the 'plastic ocean' and have created their own posters for the War on Waste poster competition. We are delighted to announce that Isabella in year 4 is one of the winners and will be awarded her prize at the street party on Saturday. It would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible!

School Council and Eco Champs

We have been extremely impressed with all the children who applied for the role of school council and eco champions this term and everyone had thought very carefully about the roles they were applying for.

This term the following children will be our School Council members:

Year 1: Albert and Felicity
Year 2: Chloe and Jake
Year 3: Felicity and Mason
Year 4: Ashton and Elfie

This term the following children will be our Eco Champs:

Year 1: Tyg
Year 2: Isaac
Year 3: Layla
Year 4: Tom

Congratulations to them all!

There will be another opportunity to apply for these roles in the Spring term when our new council members are elected.

Vision

On 12th October we will be launching our new vision that was created by the children, staff and parents last year. The day will explore what the vision means to us at Witchampton and the children will use collage to represent this visually. The children will also vote for the bible quote that they feel best fits our vision statement. We will reveal the work that the children have been involved in during the day at a parent share at 2.30p.m. It would be lovely to see as many of you as possible.

Wanted!

We are still looking for helpers in school. If you or someone you know (eg: grandparent, uncle, aunt, friend) has a spare hour or two a week to help in school we would be very grateful. A variety of help is required including listening to readers, helping in the library, cutting and sticking, art activities and gardening. If you think you can help please let Mrs Middlebrook in the office know.

Uniform

The children have started the new year looking very smart and all of them are excellent representatives for our school. Please also ensure that your child has a clearly labelled p.e kit in school. The uniform list is available on the website and Mrs Middlebrook has a large selection of jumpers, bookbags and p.e bags in the school office if additional items are required.



Reading

A quick reminder about the importance of reading regularly with your child at home. Statistics show that children who regularly share books at home is the biggest indicator of future academic success. Little and often is much better than for longer once a week. A balance of listening to stories aloud and reading books themselves is crucial. Even fluent readers benefit by listening to books being read aloud to them as well as having time to read to themselves. These websites provide more guidance on supporting your child with reading at home:

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk

<https://literacytrust.org.uk>

Attendance Really Matters

Witchampton C of E First School is committed to promoting good attendance and punctuality as we believe that it is essential for all children to attend school on time and regularly. Much of the work children miss when they are off school is never made up, leaving these children at a considerable disadvantage for the remainder of their school career. Last year our school worked really hard to improve our level of attendance and we will continue to endeavour to improve this even further this year. We will be continuing to celebrate the class with the highest attendance for the week every week on a Monday.

We are unable to authorise any holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Please refer to our attendance policy which was created by the Wimborne Academy Trust for further information.

Important Reminder – Earlybird/Dragonfly Clubs

To ensure that we have sufficient adult to child ratios, we require parent/carers to book sessions a minimum of a week in advance using the form attached. **Unfortunately, we cannot accept children into these clubs unless a booking form has been completed and paid for.** Further forms can be obtained via the school website or from the school office. Once completed, they can be sent via email or handed in directly to the office.

Payment must be made in advance. Payment can be made by cash or cheque made payable to Witchampton CofE First School. Bookings are non - refundable.

Speeding in the village

It has been drawn to our attention that the 20mph speed limit through the village is not being adhered to particularly at drop off and pick up times. Please ensure the speed limit is kept as I am sure that you will all agree the safety of all our children is paramount.

Lunch Boxes

As a healthy eating school we promote a healthy lunchbox. Please ensure chocolate bars, sweets or fizzy drinks are not included in your child's lunchbox. However, small cake bars and cookies are acceptable. Due to several children with nut allergies in school we are also a nut free school. Please ensure your child lunchbox does not include nuts – including Nutella. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Thank you.



Friends

A huge welcome back to all our friends and families at Witchampton School and to those families who are joining us this year.

It's easy to get bogged down when it comes to all the things school related that we have to remember each day, particularly those of us who have multiple kids at multiple schools. Mrs Middlebrook and the staff team are the first point of contact for all the information you need regarding your child's schooling, but we've found that it's definitely useful to have additional reminders for fundraising stuff. So to make life easier for you, each class now has a "Friends Rep" who will send out Friends reminders such as film night dates, "remember it's mufti tomorrow", "bring in your jam jar for the November Fair", Friends meeting dates and so on which aims to make life a little easier for us all.

Each rep has kindly volunteered to set up a WhatsApp group so if you'd like to join for your child's class, please send your name and mobile number to your class rep/s listed below:

Thank you!

Eve (Foxes) 07517687000

Kirsty (Badgers) 07766732602

Millie (Hedgehogs) 07968049832

If you aren't on WhatsApp but would still like to be part of the group please speak to your rep.

