



Newsletter February 2017 **Inspire, Believe, Achieve**

Our aim is to inspire and encourage our children to believe in their ability to succeed through learning.

This vision will enable them to achieve and succeed in reaching their full potential and beyond, now and for their future.

Head teacher update

Remember to visit the website to see what has been happening in and around our school. There are some great photographs to show what the children have been doing. Teachers have sent out this term's curriculum newsletters and copies can be found on our website.

Holidays during term time

Just a reminder that holidays during term time will not be authorised. Thank you to those parents/carers who inform us of holidays. We appreciate your honesty. A reminder that at key points during a child's time in primary school they are assessed and their results are reported to central government. These are some specific times where children's absence has significant impact on the pupils and the school.

Y1 phonic screening which takes place between 12th and 16th June 2017

Y2 SATs will take place during May 2017 and significant input will be given during the month of April to prepare the children for the assessments format and to meet the expectations of the said assessments.

Y6 SATS week 8th to 12th May 2017 Teacher assessments will be made during the month of May and reported so children's punctuality and attendance is really important. This will support their preparation and help them to feel completely ready for these assessments.

Attendance

Attendance data for the school year from September 2016 – January 2017 is 95.75%.

Safeguarding

We believe that safeguarding is an important part of the work with children and young adults so will keep this reminder in all of our newsletters. Just a reminder - safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us. If we are concerned about the safety of any child, we should let somebody know. Mrs Flack is the designated safeguarding person in school. In her absence, contact Mrs Adie who has now also been trained as a designated safeguarding person.

School Parliament

It's been a busy time for members of School Parliament. They discussed the charities that they would like the school to raise money for in school. Charities supported from decisions by the school council are as follows.

- National Charities: Royal British Legion, NSPCC, Save the children, and The children's society
- Local Charity: Holbeach food bank

It was decided that they will raise funds for the global charities by taking a table at the Farmer's Market on 30.3.2017. The School Parliament have also opted to carry out various fundraising activities throughout March including:

- Time for a cuppa' during the first week of March where parents will be invited in to school for a hot drink and cake/biscuit for the price of a small donation towards Dementia UK.
- Friday 24th March – Red nose day where children can pay a donation of £1 to dress down and wear items of red clothing to school.
- Finally, Friday 31st March – 'Wear a hat day' where children can pay a donation of 50p to wear a hat alongside their school uniform to raise money for Brain Tumour Research.

Further information will be sent out about these events in due course. The School Parliament were somewhat dismayed by the comment from parent questionnaires that the school does not actively fundraise for charity and wanted it made clear what they have achieved so far. The school parliament made a decision to support Save the Children this year and to support Children in Need as they usually do biannually.

Following a debate, members allocated £250 of their budget to be spent on new play equipment. This will be shared between all classes. We are also hoping to revamp the house point system in school and place more emphasis on this.

The School Parliament is currently reviewing our learning environment and children's books for different subjects and will suggest ways that we can make our school even more fabulous!

E safety

At Whaplode we are always conscious of the massive potential technology can have, but also of the potential misuse of this technology as well. Whilst it can bring massive advantages to both home and school life we pride ourselves on the fact that e-safety is always at the forefront of our thinking. Recently our digital leaders have been in to each Key Stage 2 classroom and delivered a lesson of their own design to their peers about the dangers of social media and apps such as snapchat and instagram. During these sessions they had wonderful discussions about how to stay safe online and always ask parental permission before doing, playing, or buying anything online.

They also discussed how to report inappropriate content such as indecent images or age inappropriate games such as Grand Theft Auto(18) and Assassins Creed(13+). Simon Pile, an ADE colleague of mine, has written a selection of wonderful e-books based on e-safety and conversations that he has had with both parents and students. They are called; "Is that your password?", "Is that your social network?" and "Is that your search engine?" and are free to download from the Apple iBooks Store.

School Playground

We would like to remind you that all KS1 children must not be left unaccompanied in the playground before school.

Nits

We still have children in school who have not been treated for nits after being contacted. This is very frustrating for parents/carers that regularly check and treat if necessary. Please check your children on a regular basis and treat if necessary so we can try and become nit free.

FSM entitlement

If your personal circumstances change, your child/children may be entitled to Free School Meals.

Please complete the LCC Free School Meal Checker Form (available from the office) then your details will be checked for eligibility and you will be notified accordingly.

School Lunches

Please note that our lunchtime meal provider has made an amendment to the menu for the week commencing 6th March. The dessert on Friday 10th March has been changed from battenburg cake to angel cake.

All meals must be ordered through the school office or via email to lorraine.rous@whaplode.lincs.sch.uk by 9am Monday for meals required the following week. Menus and order forms can be found on the Whaplode School website.

The deadline to order meals for week commencing 20th February is 9am Wednesday 8th February.

For meals week commencing 27th February the deadline for orders is 9am Monday 20th February.

Soccer Stars

The after school Soccer Stars club run by Simon has again started. No advance booking is necessary, children can just turn up and it is open for both boys and girls. The clubs run every Tuesday 3.25–4.15pm for Years 1, 2 & 3 and every Wednesday 3.25–4.15pm for Years 4, 5 & 6. For more information please contact Simon direct on 07748 958534.

Cold Weather

Please ensure that children have appropriate outdoor clothing in school for cold weather such as a winter coat, hat and gloves. Children do go outside at break and lunchtimes.

Possible school closure due to bad weather

If weather conditions deteriorate and we have to close the school, you will be advised of the closure via the following media. Please check these before attempting to ring the school directly.

Each school makes its own decision regarding closures and it should not be assumed that we are closed because other schools are.

Radio Lincolnshire

FM (VHF) 94.9 megahertz
Medium Wave 1368 kilohertz/219m
www.bbc.co.uk/lincolnshire

Lincs FM

FM (VHF) 102.2 megahertz
www.lincsfm.co.uk

Our own website

www.whaplodeprimary.co.uk

Succeeding Together

We have been informed of an opportunity to get ladies back into the workplace through the Succeeding Together project, as part of the 3 year Greater Lincolnshire MOVE project. If you are unemployed and are looking for work, you can find out more about this free to access project via the Succeeding Together website <http://succeedingtogether.org.uk>.

Dates for your diary

02.2.2017 Reception class visit to Sacrewell Farm
02.2.2017 Year 6 school representatives Houses of Parliament visit with local schools.
03.2.2017 Year 5/6 WOW Viking Day
07.2.2017 Safer internet day
08.2.2017 Y1/2 Pirate Graduation
22.2.2017 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Thinking Day
16.3.2017 School class photographs start at 09:00
21.3.2017 Parents evening
23.3.2017 Parents evening
24.3.2017 Red nose day
28.3.2017 Y3/4 performance
29.3.2017 Y3/4 performance
30.3.2017 Farmers market in the afternoon
31.3.2017 09:30 Easter Service at Church
31.3.2017 'Wear a hat day'
31.3.2017 End of term 4
18.4.2017 Training Day
19.4.2017 Start of Summer Term
20.4.2017 Hearing tests for Reception Class