

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



January 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Families,

On behalf of all our staff, welcome back to the spring term at Whinmoor St. Paul's. It was wonderful to welcome our children back into school this week and we are looking forward to an exciting, enjoyable, learning term ahead.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who have supported us in sending their children back to school on time and in smart uniform. The doors open at 8.40am and we are so proud of how well our children settle into learning.

This week we are preparing to change our whole school display in the entrance hall to reflect the opportunities we can take and the values we live by in school. The display is entitled, 'Developing Character at Whinmoor St. Paul's. A World of Opportunities – Growing in God's Love.' Our values this term are focussed around Courage, Respect and Thankfulness. We are talking to the children about the importance of being courageous in making decisions which can affect not only ourselves but others, leading by example, showing respect and kindness to those we come into contact with, the importance of good manners and valuing everyone as a unique child of God. The display will be ready to view by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Every class has contributed to it. Let us know what you think.

### **Weather**

We will always endeavour to keep our school open. However, if we have a serious snow fall overnight and are not able to open, we will inform families as soon as possible by sending a text, sending a tweet and uploading information onto the school's website. We will also inform local radio stations.

Please remember that if children wear wellington or winter boots to school they will need a change of shoes for the day. Either their black school shoes or pumps. If you can send a peg (labelled with your child's name) to keep the wellies together, we would be really grateful.

### **School Lunches and Packed Lunches**

We all know the importance of having a healthy, balanced meal at lunchtime and we know many of you have had the opportunity of sampling our school meals at open evenings and at our recent 'Healthy Eating' coffee morning. The school dinners are high quality, nutritious and prepared on the premises by Nicola, Rose and their team. If you wish your child to have a school meal, please inform our office staff who will give you further details. If you prefer your child to have a packed lunch, we ask for your support in packing a healthy lunch, which does not include chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. *In school we have several children with severe allergies, so please ensure that you do not pack any food which contains nuts as we need to safeguard all our children and will continue to be a nut-free school.* Great advice on healthy lunches can be found on the following website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

Water is always available in school and we ask that you send your child to school with a labelled water bottle, which can be refilled during the day.

### **Quick Start Meetings Focus: Maths**

We would like to invite parents and carers to pop into school with their children for around 20 minutes on the following days for another of our meetings, when their child's teacher will talk about maths teaching and learning, standards within the year group and explain homework expectations. If you can come along, we ask that your children accompany you back into the class to hear the messages with you, to support consistency. If you are unable to come along and want any clarification around teaching and learning in maths, please catch your child's teacher at the end of the day or make an appointment at the office.

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Year 3 and Year 4	3.30 - 3.50pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Year 1 and Year 2	3.30 - 3.50pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Nursery and Reception	3.30 - 3.50pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Year 5 and Year 6	3.30-3.50pm

### **Message from Mr. Ratcliffe:**

School will be holding a book fair later this month selling a wide range of new books. The fair will start on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February and run until Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February. School earns commission on each book sold, which effectively means free books to improve our reading corners, library and topic resources. Please look out for competitions for the children to enter leading up to the fair. The winners will each receive vouchers to spend on books at the fair.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 is World Book Day. We will be celebrating this in a variety of ways including dressing up as our favourite book characters. You may want to start to think about your costumes and we will send out more details nearer the time. If any families have clean costumes which their children have outgrown and are happy to donate them to others, please bring them to Mrs. Burns (school office) who will happily distribute them. Thank you.

### **Message from Mrs. Vaughan: Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Consultation**

The Department for Education has announced changes to relationships and sex education (RSE).

These changes will come into effect from September 2020 and all schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements.

This means that we'll be reviewing our RSE curriculum and policy so we can be sure our RSE provision is appropriate for our pupils.

Here's how you can help:

We're running a PSHE open morning on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 9.30am to 10.30am. If you'd like to participate, we'd love to see you. On the morning, you will be able to visit classes, see PSHE lessons being delivered and then join us for a period of time when we can share our topic plans for each class and discuss our draft RSE policy and the thinking behind it. If any parents or carers are unable to join us, we will upload all documents onto the website for your viewing by the end of the week. Paper copies available upon request. We ask for your comments and feedback by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of February. We will then produce our final policy.

Thank you for your support.

## **After School Clubs**

From the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020, we are thrilled to offer the following clubs to our children:

<b>Member of Staff</b>	<b>Type of club</b>	<b>Year Groups</b>
Mr Ratcliffe	Chess	Y5/6
Mrs. Brew/Mrs. Sheerins	Tri Golf	Y3/4
Miss Plews	Worship Craft Club	2 pupils per year group. Names in the hat and picked out if more children wish to join in than spaces available.
Miss Hamilton	History Club	Y3 - Y6
Mrs. Sharkey/Mrs. Boak	Phonics Activity Club	Y1/2 – spaces already allocated
Mrs. Lindley	Singing Club	Y3-Y6
Mrs. Wilson	Maths	Y6 – spaces already allocated
Mrs. Deverill	Lego	Y1/2
Miss Emmerson	Table Tennis	Y5/6

Mrs. Lindley will also be holding a Recorder Club, details of which will follow on a separate letter.

Dance club will continue for Years 3-6 on a Thursday. Please collect children from the main school entrance after the club. Many thanks to Miss. Schrompf for her amazing teaching and enthusiasm.

We are delighted that ukelele lessons will continue for our children in Year 5 and 6. These will commence on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

If you wish your child to take part in any clubs, please return the slip at the end of this newsletter by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020. All clubs begin straight after school and children need collecting at 4pm.

We are thrilled that so many of our children are enjoying our after school clubs and are learning new skills. Feedback in the autumn term from families and children, was fantastic.

However, every week some children were collected late. Our staff run these clubs to benefit the children and often have meetings and other commitments once they finish. It is unfair to ask them to have their time continually taken up waiting for children to be collected. We know that sometimes arrangements go wrong and of course, we will always understand this, but when a habit forms of constant lateness in relation to collection, we will speak to you and ultimately we will ask you to refrain from bringing your child to the club. In the same way, we ask parents and carers to collect children on time, on non-club nights. School finishes at 3.15pm and staff have their own commitments, meetings etc. to respond to. It is unfair to expect them to continually look after the children after this time. If families need child care before or after school, please contact CandyStripe, who run a before and after school club from the Hive.

We thank you for your understanding.

### **Collecting after Tuesday Club Night:**

Please can children be collected from the exits below – always collecting the youngest child first, if you have more than one child enjoying our clubs.

History - collect from Years 4, 5 and 6 exit

Chess Club - collect from Years 4, 5 and 6 exit

Maths - collect from Years 4, 5 and 6 exit

Tri-Golf - collect from quad

Lego Club – collect from quad door

Worship Craft Club – collect from the main entrance

Phonics – collect from Y1 class door  
Singing Club – collect from Reception class door  
Table Tennis – collect from the main entrance

### **Message from Miss Hamilton - School Council**

As we begin the new term, each class in school has been busy hosting elections to nominate their new School Councillors, these elections reflect democracy in action, one of the core British Values we reflected on during our Whole School Worship this week. We look forward to our next meeting on Thursday 16th January.

The School Council have already planned lots of fun events over the coming weeks including a talent show and the yearly 'Red Nose Day,' as well as helping Theo sell his key rings during lunchtimes to raise money for a spare Epi-pen in school. We recently nominated Theo for The Leeds 'Child Friendly City, Child of the Year' awards and were thrilled to find out, at the end of last term, that he had been shortlisted. Please read more about this in the article which was published in the Evening Post on Monday. Well done, Theo!

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/people/did-you-make-shortlist-child-friendly-leeds-awards-2020-1355766>

We were also thrilled to receive our 'Toilet Twinning' certificates which shows the latrines that the money we raised from our 'Blue for Loo' day helped to buy! Children across school have enjoyed researching where in the world these latrines are.

### **Eco Warriors**

Each class in school will also be holding elections for the new Eco-Warriors at the end of this week. We look forward to welcoming our new Eco-Warriors at the next meeting, which will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

We are very pleased to inform you that we are applying for the Green Tree Schools bronze award and have already taken some steps towards achieving this.

We would like to thank all the families who have donated their Christmas cards to school. If anyone else wishes to hand them in, please do so by the end of this week, and we will drop them off for recycling.

The school will also be involved in the Walkers Crisps Recycling Project, so please collect your empty crisp packets and bring them into school – they will be taken to the nearest recycling point. It can be any brand of crisps – not just Walkers. Pretzel bags and meat snack bags are not accepted for recycling neither are crisp or popcorn tubes.

Please also remember that we do collect old batteries as well, so please bring them in and hand them to your child's class teacher.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a happy and successful spring term.

Thank you.

Miss McBride.  
Head teacher

## **After school club reply slip**

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Child's Name:

Year:

Club you wish your child to join:

I will collect my child promptly at 4pm/ My child will be collected by CandyStripe. (Delete where applicable).  
If someone else will collect your child please provide details below:

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**Y5/6 only:** I give permission/do not give permission for my child to walk home after the club. (Delete where applicable).

*Please return by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.*