

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

Dear Families,

16.09.21

Welcome back to the start of a new school year. It is wonderful to have Whinmoor St. Paul's filled with the sound of children singing together, playing, talking and so important to us all, learning. After the difficulties the pandemic brought with it, our hope and prayers are for a calm, peaceful and productive year ahead. We have certainly made a positive start. Thank you to the many families who have made sure their children are in school on time, in full uniform and ready to learn. It has been lovely to welcome many new families into our school community; we have welcomed children into many year groups as well as into Nursery and Reception. We have been really impressed how quickly they are settling and learning our ways and routines.

Attendance

We all want our children to succeed and do well in school and their chances are seriously hampered if they do not attend school every day and on time. When children do not attend or are late, they often struggle to keep up with school work and miss out on the social side of school life. Poor punctuality and attendance can often affect their ability to make and keep friendships, which is such a vital part of growing up. Lateness not only affects the child, but other members of the class, as the teacher often has to stop the lesson and go over key learning points. Each week, the class with the highest attendance get a reward towards an end of term party and at the end of the year our 100% attendees get certificates and awards, too.

Head teachers are not permitted to authorise leave of absence, accept under exceptional circumstances. Holidays in term time are not authorised and may result in a Penalty Notice being raised and the council issuing a fine.

100% Attendance	0 Weeks of missed learning
95% Attendance	2 Weeks of missed learning
92% Attendance	3 Weeks & 1 day of missed learning
85% Attendance	6 Weeks of missed learning (a full half term!)
75% Attendance	9 Weeks & 2 days of missed learning

Classroom Leaders this term

Thank you to the many children who volunteered to play a leading role in ensuring our school is run democratically and smoothly. Over the last week, at an age appropriate level, we have appointed Sports Captains, Wellbeing Ambassadors, Eco Warriors and we now have a newly formed Worship Committee. These children will work, as part of our team, to ensure we live out our belief that 'Every Child is a Unique Child of God' and help us to hear the collective voice of the children within each class. Do talk to your children about who is taking on these roles in their own class.

Uniform

Thank you to our many families who have sent the children back to school in full uniform. We are proud of our children and their uniform identifies them as belonging to Whinmoor St. Paul's community and supports us in continuing to raise expectations and standards. Our full uniform list can be found on our website or pop into our office for a paper copy.

On PE days, children can wear their PE kits, to avoid changing in school. Please see our website for a full list of what can be worn. The PE kit is low cost and easily maintained and we ask your support in making sure the children's PE kit is treated as part of the school uniform expectations – please keep to the correct colours, no large labels, slogans etc. Thank you.

Golden Rules

As the new term begins, we ask that you put aside a little time to discuss and support your child in understanding, respecting and following the six Golden Rules of our School:

- **We are gentle** (we don't hurt others)
- **We are kind and helpful** (we don't hurt anybody's feelings)
- **We listen** (we don't interrupt)
- **We are honest** (We don't cover up the truth)
- **We work hard** (We don't waste our own or others' time)
- **We look after our property** (We don't waste or damage things)

Covid – changes

Procedures around our response to covid have changed within school this term, in line with Government advice. We no longer are required to do contact tracing any more, should any child or adult within school test positive. We are still doing our utmost to keep our community safe and measures including enhanced cleaning and frequent hand washing/sanitising will continue. Our children are now taking part in both worship and assemblies with other children within their key stage and the wonderful sound of singing is heard across school. At this stage, we are not inviting families to join us in school, however in the future, we hope to welcome families into our Friday celebration and worship, alongside other training, events and coffee mornings. We ask that, when visiting our office, you remember to wear a face covering, if you are able. We thank you for your support, as we navigate the new term and although it is too early to predict what will be happening, covid-wise, as the winter sets in, we really do hope we can resume our Christmas productions and services, with our families joining us. Watch this space!

Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings

The first consultation evenings will take place in the week following half term. During the meeting, we will focus on Transition – how your child has settled into their new class, their strengths, targets and any particular issues which have arisen. If you have any questions, we will also address these. More details around these meetings will follow soon.

Reverend Anne Russell

We are delighted to welcome Reverend Anne, the new Team Rector of the Benefice of Seacroft, into our school community. Reverend Anne (Rev. Anne to the children) has already visited school and met our children and staff. She is very much looking forward to meeting our families and working with us in giving our children the best start in life. If you wish to contact Reverend Anne, please email her at anne.russell@leeds.anglican.org or ring her on 07528 572072.



Message from Mrs. Vaughan

The year 2021-2022 marks an exciting change to our English curriculum as we celebrate 'The Love of Reading' within school. We have many interesting, engaging and fun events planned such as author visits, National Poetry Day, National Story Telling Week, World Book Day and World Story Telling Day.

We understand the importance of having a positive reading culture and over the year, we look forward to continuing to develop our school as a reading school, creating excitement around reading within classes starting with our inviting and vibrant book corners and reading areas, our high quality texts for class novels and our Drop Everything and Read sessions where time is regularly set aside in the classroom for both children and the teachers to drop everything and read! We have also started our creative 'Love of Reading' sessions where the children complete a range of creative activities linked to their class novels. Please follow us on Twitter to see the pictures!

A main feature of the year is our plan to convert 'The Den' into a wonderful new library. This will be the focus of our fundraising over the year. A lively, welcoming and well-resourced school library will give our pupils positive experiences and will help to create confident, enthusiastic readers and engaged children in life-long learning. Please do support us on this exciting journey!

Message from Mrs. Wilson

This year our classes are counting down **100 days of Maths**, as we head towards a fabulous Maths '100' festival in the spring term. Please take some time to talk to your child about the maths they have been doing in school and, if you have any questions, then please feel free to contact the class teacher.

We are continuing to use Mathletics to set homework in KS1 and KS2, and Numbots in EYFS. These platforms include quick-fire calculations, times table music videos and interactive tutorials in line with the maths topics covered in the primary curriculum. We recommend you view this short video online, which shows how you can support your child in using Mathletics at home:

<https://support.3plearning.com/mathletics/mathletics-parent-tour/>.

Children in Y1-Y6 have already been given a sheet outlining the key instant recall facts (KIRFs) which they are focusing on this half term. These support the development of mental skills that underpin the majority of mathematical concepts. We ask that you help your child learn these facts on a daily basis - little and often is best.

More information about our approach to maths, a link to the video and the KIRFs can be found on the Maths page of the school website.

Message from Mrs. Lindley - Morrisons It's Good To Grow

At Whinmoor St Paul's we are very proud of our wonderful outdoor space and enjoy taking the children to learn in this fabulous environment. So we are signing up for the new Morrisons token collection scheme that will support schools to collect free gardening equipment. It will mean that we can provide even more opportunities for our children to engage in practical outside learning and develop their understanding of how food is grown and where it comes from. Between the 6th September and the 24th October 2021, for every £10 spent in store or online at Morrisons, customers will automatically receive one 'Grow Token' to donate to our school. In order to support our school you will need to be a 'My Morrisons' customer and have downloaded the app. Then you can select 'Whinmoor St Paul's' to donate your Grow Tokens to.

Message from Mrs. Wallis

Physical education is a vital part of our everyday life and we aim to develop this over the year to ensure that every child's physical needs are met. Therefore over the next term, we are excited to announce that we will be starting up our sports after school clubs. This term we will be introducing our football, netball and dance clubs. (Please see the separate letter). We will also be working closely with Brad, from Leeds Rhinos, who will be working with us each Friday, as well as running a cricket after school club for our lower KS2 children. Over lunchtimes, Mr Evans, who delivers PE across several classes alongside working within Y6, will be introducing the children to exciting games which they can continue to play on the playground, helping them to develop further skills in multi-skills, football and much more. Over the next few weeks we will be joined by the Yorkshire Ballet Company, who will be running a workshop for Years 3-5. This will be



an opportunity for the children to develop new skills and hopefully a love and appreciation of exercise and dance.

Messages from Miss Hamilton - Swimming in Year 4

Year 4's first swimming session will take place tomorrow at John Smeaton Leisure Centre, following all government guidance surrounding COVID, with a thorough risk assessment in place. Each session is 30 minutes long and will take place each Friday over the autumn and spring terms. To ensure the safety of our children and staff and the leisure centre staff, we ask that children arrive 'beach ready.' This means that boys should wear trunks underneath their trousers on Fridays. The girls in class will be supervised to change into their costumes over the lunchtime period. School cannot borrow equipment from the centre so if your child requires armbands, you must send these with them on a Friday. Swimming is a vital skill for all children and we are excited to see the wonderful progress our Year 4 class are going to make!

Keeping Your Child Safe Online

Now more than ever, it is vital to ensure that your child is safe online. As usage of social media and apps increase, so too do the dangers of unsolicited attention. It is important that all children know how to keep safe online, how to recognise risks, harmful content and contact and are aware of how to report such incidents. There are lots of websites to offer parents and guardians support on how to ensure what your child accesses online is safe and age-appropriate. Some suggested web links are below.

- 1.) The current issues online - <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/what-are-issues>
- 2.) Advice on dealing with 'hot topics' - <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics>
- 3.) Useful websites and resources - <https://www.childnet.com/resources/parents-and-carers-resource-sheet>

September 2022 Admissions – open evenings

The application date for September 2022 Reception class starters opens on November 1st. In light of this, we are offering two evenings after school this half term where parents can come into school. Mrs Lindley, our Reception class teacher, will meet the prospective parents and will show them around our Early Year's provision and answer any questions they may have. The dates are Thursday 7th and Tuesday 12th October. The meeting will start at 3.45pm.

If you would like to put your name down on one of the above dates, please ring the school office on 0113 2657250. If you know families with children due to start school in September 2022, please pass on these details. We very much look forward to meeting prospective new families.

PTFA

In order to support and raise funds for the new school library, the PTFA will be holding an after school Tuck Shop from Friday 24th September. This will be held every Friday after school under the bike shed. There will be a number of nut-free treats and drinks. We ask for your support and that all children queue sensibly. Thank you.

We need your support:

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 this year.

Thank you for your continuing support.
Miss McBride

