



Whittlefield Primary and Nursery School

Autumn Newsletter 1

Friday 16th September 2022



Following the deeply saddening news that Queen Elizabeth II died on Thursday afternoon, we gathered together as a school to reflect on just what the Queen meant to us on Friday morning.

Our individual reflections are being collated in a very special Book of Remembrance and Condolence and we would like to invite our families to contribute

to this if they would like to. There is a special place in our school's main entrance near the school office where you can stop and write your own personal reflections; you are very welcome to call in...

This gathering was instead of our usual celebration assembly when we award our Learners of the Week with their special certificates so you will notice that there are no Learners of the Week shared in this Newsletter. We will celebrate again after the Queen's State Funeral has taken place on **Monday 19th September**.

Following guidance received from the DfE during this national period of mourning, our school will be closed on this day as a mark of respect.

A very special goodbye...

Last term due to a technical glitch, we were unable to send out our final Newsletter of the year. So I would like to include in this edition, some very important "goodbyes".

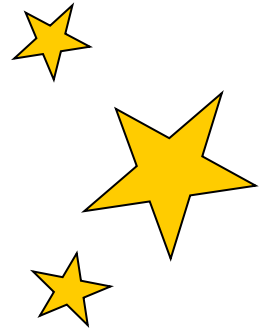


I was delighted that our wonderful Year 6 children and staff were able to enjoy their Leavers' Celebration meal at Ballaros; I was so sad that I and my other Senior Leaders, weren't able to join them due to the reintroduction of 'bubble' restrictions. I know Mr Booth gave them all the best Whittlefield 'send off' we could in all the challenging circumstances we have been facing (including the hottest day ever on record here in the UK).

I would like to take this belated opportunity to wish each of the Year 6 children, the very best of success as they moved onto secondary school. I feel privileged to have been able to 'get to know' them all since January and know that they all have the potential to succeed at whatever they choose to become and do. I sincerely hope they remember the words of the song 'Proud' I shared with them, especially on those "wobbly" days we all have, and "step out of the ordinary... you're on your way, can't stop you now...you could be so many people!"

The Whittlefield family are so PROUD of the people they are becoming and look forward to visits from them in the future sharing with us how well they are doing- we have had four visits already this first week back.

An unexpected "goodbye"...



Sadly, we said "goodbye" to Mrs Tipping over the summer.

Mrs Tipping was successfully appointed to a promoted post in another Lancashire school at the end of the summer term and started there on Monday as their School Business Manager. We wish her every success as she moves onto Spring Hill Primary in Accrington and we will all miss her here... she has been such a huge part of our Whittlefield family for eleven years. I know she will miss us too: "The Whittlefield team are exemplary and the friends I've made during my time there will last a lifetime. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time there and thank you for the opportunities you have given me along the way".

She asked me to include the following message to you all:

"I just wanted to let you know that towards the end of the summer term, I made the difficult decision to move onto pastures new and start a new chapter at Spring Hill Primary in Accrington. It wasn't an easy decision to make as I hold every single child, parent and colleague very close in my heart. Due to personal circumstances, I'd been absent from school for almost two full terms, then upon coming back to school a close family member passed away and I missed the last few days of term. I am left feeling sad that I didn't get the opportunity to say goodbye to you all properly.

I wish you all nothing but the best, I hope the children continue to thrive and I wish you every success for the future."

The start of the school year

The start of the school year brought with it some changes and saw us welcome our new Reception children, Elijah and Fraser in Year 5 as well as a new member of staff, Miss Williams who is working in Nursery and as you can see in her photograph, loves hot chocolates like we do! Miss Williams and our new children are settling in well and we hope they feel part of our family soon.



Over the summer closure, some work has taken place and you may have noticed that we now have some new signs...



As well as a digital signing in system for our visitors





A refurbished hall floor...
And best of all, a new Trim Trail, which Mr Martin declared open last Wednesday at a very special opening ceremony!



The children are thoroughly enjoying using it and becoming even more active during playtimes.

PLEASE could I ask parents not to let their children on the Trim Trail at the end of the school day when it is not supervised by staff. THANKYOU.

Attendance

Well done to Year 3 this week who take the lead with this week's attendance:

Reception	75.2%	Year 3	97.3%
Year 1	95.3%	Year 4	95.9%
Year 2	94.1%	Year 5	93%
		Year 6	97.1%



Happy Birthday

The end of last term's Happy Birthday goes to:

- Timothy in Nursery
- Olivia and Troy in Reception
- Henry, Harrison and Filip in Year 1
- Eliza, Henry, Aronas and Leo in Year 2
- Willow, Magda and Mason in Year 3
- Harrison, Isabella, Louis and AJ in Year 4
- Louise, Dahlia, William and Thomas in Year 5
- Mariam, Jack and Julia in Year 6



And this term, we wish a Happy Birthday to:

- Libbie-Rayne, Joe and Quinn in Reception
- Mila in Year 1
- Harry and Logan, Esme and Ava in Year 2
- Annabeth, Poppy in Year 3
- Evie- Mai in Year 4
- Luke and Corey in Year 5

We hope you have a lovely day celebrating and that it is filled with special moments, especially if your birthday was over the holidays.

Parent Matter

This week, we had to return to remote learning for our Reception children due to a COVID-19 outbreak in order to ensure the safety of both our children and staff. This decision was not made lightly and was very much a last resort.

So I just wanted to update parents that we no longer have explicit government guidance on managing outbreaks as we had previously and so such decisions fall to me as the Headteacher.

I wanted to assure the families we serve that in any decision I make, your children's safety and wellbeing always comes first and then that of my staff. The only time I would make the decision to close school (whether that is partially, fully, to open at a later time or close earlier) is simply because the school cannot operate safely.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that if your child shows any of the following symptoms, they should not come to school until they are well:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19>

Children and young people (aged 18 years and under) who have symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19

Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. Symptoms can be caused by several respiratory infections including the common cold, COVID-19 and RSV.

For most children and young people, these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids.

Very few children and young people with respiratory infections become seriously unwell. This is also true for children and young people with long-term conditions. Some children under 2, especially those born prematurely or with a heart condition, can be more seriously unwell from RSV.

Attending education is hugely important for children and young people's health and their future.

When children and young people with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

All children and young people with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

It can be difficult to know when to seek help if your child is unwell. If you are worried about your child, especially if they are aged under 2 years old, then you should seek medical help.

Thank you.



SAVE THE DATE

Monday 19 th September	School closed for the Queen's State Funeral
Wednesday 5 th October	Individual Children's Photo's
Wednesday 5 th October	Parent's evening
Friday 21 st October	School closes for half term
Monday 31 st October	School reopens for half term