



Newsletter 1 25-26

2025-2026 Whitchurch Primary School
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Things to remember:

PE - All children should have a PE kit that they wear to school on their allocated PE days. Below is the form showing days for each class. This should consist of a house t-shirt (which can be purchased on Parentpay for £5), shorts, daps and trainers all clearly named. Children should also have jogging bottoms or a track suit for colder weather.

EARRINGS - Children in Key Stage 1 are not allowed to wear earrings to school, children in Key Stage 2 may wear one pair of **small stud earrings** as long as they are able to remove them themselves.

WET/HOT WEATHER - Children will go out to play in all but very extreme weather conditions. Please make sure that your children have adequate outdoor clothing and sun cream if necessary.

WATER BOTTLES - All children should have a water bottle in school.

SNACKS – Children in years R to 2 are offered free fruit or veg every day! Please do not send snacks in if your child is in KS1. Children in KS2 are welcome to bring their own fresh fruit or vegetables for break time.

WELCOME BACK!

WELCOME BACK to Whitchurch Primary School! We begin a new year of educational excellence and enjoyment, in which we hope all are ready to 'achieve our best together'. The children have returned looking smart, proud, and ready to learn, showing many of our school values!

MAKING WHITCHURCH EVEN BETTER! Each year we work on our 'School Improvement Plan', a document designed to continue improving our school and making it a great place to learn and work in. This year our main targets are:

- **GREATER DEPTH:** We aim to get more children to the higher standards in their work and learning. Test results show we already perform above national in getting children to where they need to be, so we now aim to exceed these standards.
- **BEHAVIOUR:** This was recognised as a strength of the school by OFSTED amongst a majority of our children. We now work towards making sure ***all children*** are ready, safe and kind.
- **PEDAGOGY:** Teaching staff will continue their work on improving teaching techniques, moving from Tom Sherrington's 'Walkthrus' as our guide to Doug Lemov's 'Teach Like a Champ!'

By working on these areas we aim to make Whitchurch Primary School not only a wonderful place to attend and learn in, but also one where children become well educated, inspired and essential members of our society, both local, regional and national!

SPELLING: Another educational advance is that we are changing the way we teach spelling. In KS2 classes (Y3,4,5 and 6) we will be teaching spelling **rules**, rather than just words. Rather than children being asked to memorise the word '**international**', children will know that this consists of the word '**nation**', what the prefix '**inter**' means and the suffix '**al**'. As a result of this new scheme, spellings will no longer be sent home weekly. We will gauge the impact of this new scheme in 6 weeks, but national research already shows it to be far more effective.

OUR SCHOOL TREE: As mentioned in previous newsletters, our school tree will shortly need to be removed. Although it is safe, more and more structural supports are needing to be added, to the point it will become more support than tree. We will keep you posted as work advances.



PUPIL PREMIUM NOT JUST FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS, CAN COVER TRIPS ETC TOO

- If you are receiving benefits, or are a low income earner, your child may be entitled to free school meals. If you are not sure, please apply online through the council website using this quick and easy link <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. Please note that we also receive additional funding for your child that may go towards paying for school trips and excursions, and also be used to pay for swimming and gym trips, so do please apply.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS - If your child has a medical condition for which there is a Health Plan this must be updated regularly, please check with the school office that our information is up to date and sign the plan. If your child's medical circumstances have changed, it is essential that you inform the school office immediately. If your child has an inhaler for asthma, an information form must be completed each term - these are available from the office. Children in KS2 are expected to take responsibility for looking after their own inhalers but we need up to date information on record. Teachers in KS1 will look after children's inhalers but it is your responsibility to collect them at the end of each term and to ensure that medication is in date. We are a nut free school.

YEAR 3 – Children in Year 3 are no longer entitled to free school dinners. Please ensure dinner money is paid on Parentpay in advance. Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNERS – There have been a few teething issues with our new school system. Once fully up and running, children will be able to order from a broader and more diverse menu, expanding their culinary experiences!

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS Many Secondary Schools have begun approaching us to advertise their opening days. We will add these attachments to our newsletter as we receive them.

PE, SWIMMING, GYMNASTICS and FOREST SCHOOL TIMETABLE: Please see below for this information, and please ensure your child wears full PE kit on this day. (Children should come to school wearing their kit, as this prevents delays due to changing and drastically cuts down on lost property). Please also note what days your children will be taking part in swimming and gymnastics sessions, and also when your child's forest school sessions will be taking place this year (Please bring wellies and a waterproof coat on these days). Thank you.

	PE Days	Swim	Gym	Forest
Robins (R)	Monday & Thursday	X	20 th May – 17 th Jun	Within weekly timetable.
Redwings (R)	Monday & Thursday	X	24 th Jun – 15 th Jul	
Parrots (1)	Tuesday & Thursday	X	25 th Mar – 13 th May	10 th Jun – 15 th Jul
Penguins (1)	Wednesday & Friday	X	14 th Jan – 11 th Feb	18 th Mar – 6 th May
Puffins (2)	Wednesday & Thursday	X	25 th Feb – 18 th Mar	8 th Oct – 12 th Nov
Swifts (3)	Wednesday & Friday	5 th Nov – 10 th Dec	1 st Oct – 15 th Oct	11 th Feb – 11 th Mar
Swallows (4)	Tuesday & Wednesday (Gym)	22 nd Apr – 3 rd Jun	10 th Sep – 24 th Sep	19 th Nov – 10 th Dec
Kites (5)	Monday & Tuesday	11 th Feb – 25 th Mar	10 th Dec – 7 th Jan	13 th May – 10 th Jun
Kestrels (5)	Monday & Tuesday	17 th Dec – 4 th Feb	22 nd Oct – 12 th Nov	10 th Sep – 1 st Oct
Kingfishers (6)	Wednesday & Wednesday (Swim)	10 th Sep – 22 nd Oct	19 th Nov – 3 rd Dec	14 th Jan – 4 th Feb

WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL: Please note only children in Year 6 should walk to and from school unaccompanied. We also ask that should a sibling bring your child to and from school, they should be over 16 years of age. Thank you.

A MESSAGE FROM KEYNSHAM LIFE SAVING CLUB: The start of a new school year is the perfect time to try something new! **Keynsham Life Saving Club** is holding a **free taster session on Sunday 14 September 2025, 2–4pm at Keynsham Leisure Centre**, and we'd love to invite young people aged 8–18 to come along.

At our club, members learn first aid, water safety and specialist rescue skills. They can work towards Royal Life Saving Society awards, take part in competitions, and for older children, lifesaving can even count towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award. It's a fun way to keep fit, make friends and gain essential life skills.

The taster session will give a flavour of a typical club night, including basic first aid, casualty recognition, safe pool entries and rope-throw rescues.

Places are free but limited – find out more and book now at www.klsc.co.uk