

Dear Parents/Carers

We demonstrate our Values of **respect, caring, supportiveness, tolerance, perseverance, forgiveness, and trust**, at Whixall C.E. Primary School in all that we strive to do each day.



Thank you so much to everyone for all of your support with our Christmas Fair. For the donations, the amazing surprise jars, support before and during the fair and to everyone who came with a stall. Thank you to the children who sang so beautifully and to the staff, especially Mrs Higgs for all of their hard work. We will let you know the final amount raised.

Diary Dates

- Sunday 24th November - Christingle Service at St Mary's at 4 p.m.
- Wednesday 27th November - Individual and family photographs
If it is your child's PE day then the children need to come into school in their school uniform and bring their PE kit with them please.—this includes the children from Peregrine Class who are attending the Kwik Cricket event.
- Thursday 28th November - Robin Class to DT event at Thomas Adams.
- Wednesday 4th December - Year 1 to Doctors Surgery in Wem
- Year 6 singing at Bradbury Daycare Centre
- Thursday 12th December - Carol Service at School at 2 p.m.
- Monday 16th December - Dragonfly Class to New Vic Theatre
- Friday 20th December - Break up for Christmas Holidays
- Monday 6th January - Return to school

*** School Admissions Dates ***

Applications for Reception School Places

Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 can start primary school from September 2025

Applications can be made online from Monday 4th November to 15th January 2025.

To apply please visit: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>

click on: Apply to start or transfer school

then click on: Starting infant or primary school

If you have any queries or would like support with your application please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you are concerned about someone's safety

In an emergency dial 999, but for other calls to the police please ring 101. To report a safeguarding concern by phone ring our **First Point of Contact team** on 0345 678 9044 Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 4pm. If you have urgent adult safeguarding concerns outside of these hours, please phone the **Emergency Social Work Duty Team** on 0345 678 9040.

WHIXALL SCHOOL NEWS

PE and outdoor learning

Please find below the days that each class will have their PE lessons. Children will need to come into school in their PE kits (apart from this Wednesday— please see diary dates.)

Monday	-	Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)
Wednesdays	-	Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6), Skylark Class (Year 1) Mayfly Class (Year 2) PE for Dragonfly Class (Reception) and Bumblebee Class (Nursery) and Robin Class (Years 3 and 4)
Thursday	-	PE for Dragonfly Class (Reception) PE for Skylark (Year 1) and Mayfly Class (Year 2)
Friday	-	PE for Bumblebee Class (Nursery) and Robin Class (Years 3 and 4)

If children could bring their outdoor learning clothes into school please and leave them in school, that would be appreciated. It would also be appreciated if all children could bring a pair of wellies into school please .

Important message

Due to a recent change in policy, sQuid will now be penalising school for the dinner money arrears in each child's dinner money purse. Consequently, ALL dinners must be paid in advance or on the day they are taken.

From Monday 25th November, children will not be able to order a school meal if they are more than one meal in arrears.

If your child is currently in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, please can you also check your child's account as those ordering toast will be charged 10p per day.

Please can all parents check their sQuid catering purse as a matter of urgency and clear any arrears and consider putting 'auto top up' in place. Auto top up will automatically top up your child's catering purse if the credit falls below a preset amount. We appreciate your help with this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office, if you have any queries.

Attendance

There is currently a Government drive to improve attendance in all schools. Our school is no exception. Measures that are currently in place are:

1. The holiday code for attendance has been removed and there is an expectation that headteachers will not authorise holiday requests and any unauthorised requests will be fined.
2. The procedure for the Education Welfare Officer becoming involved with children's attendance has become a much shorter process.

We understand that children do have illnesses but wanted to explain that the Education Welfare Officer linked to our school is monitoring attendance much more closely.

Child Absence

Please telephone school (01948 880330) by 9.00am if your child is unwell and will not be attending that day. If leaving a message, can you please provide the exact reason why your child is absent. If we have not heard from you by 9.30am we will text you and then follow-up with a telephone call if we have still not heard from you by lunchtime.

We shall also be contacting parents of Nursery children who do not attend, for whatever reason, on days that we are expecting them. This is a health and wellbeing safeguarding check.

Shropshire Larder - a resource for people in Shropshire

The Shropshire Larder is a community information resource, bringing together the support available in Shropshire for people on low incomes.

Take a look at their website for further information on the following:

- How to access emergency food
- Where to access low cost or free food in Shropshire
- Advice on eating well on a budget
- Where to get local help with money issues

<https://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/>



Cost of Living Support

Increases in the cost of food, fuel and utilities will continue to affect most households across Shropshire this year. If you find yourself worried about money or you are struggling right now, you are not alone. But don't wait to get help. Shropshire Council and many support organisations are seeing rises in the number of people seeking help, and as winter approaches you may see more delays in getting responses.

The good news is that there's help available.

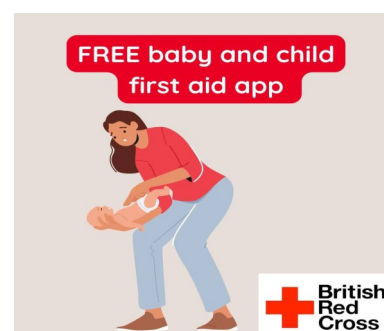
The website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/ was created in partnership with trusted community organisations to help you find the help you need, whether it's to get through a short-term crisis or to find more long-term support.

Would you know what to do if your child was injured or had a medical emergency?

The British Red Cross have created a fantastic free baby and child first aid app to help you keep your little ones safe. It is designed to support parents, grandparents and caregivers to learn 17 first aid skills to help in a first aid emergency.

You can also find tips on how to prepare for emergencies both at home or while out and about.

Click here to find out more <https://orlo.uk/M5PMZ>



Among Us

This game has been rated as PEGI 7, meaning it is not suitable for those under the age of 7. However, whilst the gameplay may be suitable, there are communication features available, where issues such as inappropriate language and bullying may arise.

Additionally, it is important to note that Among Us does have the option for in app purchases so please ensure that a password (that your child does not know) is required for all purchases.

Find out more about Among Us from Parent Zone:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/among-us>

The NSPCC discuss online games in more detail here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>