

Dear Parents/Carers

WHIXALL

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.

Diary Dates

- Monday 16th December - Dragonfly Class to New Vic Theatre (children need to wear full school uniform please.)
- Christmas Journey Day
- Tuesday 17th December - Christmas Lunch and Parties
- Friday 20th December - Whole School to take part in a nationwide virtual sing
- 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.

PE and outdoor learning

Please find below the days that each class will have their PE lessons.

Monday No PE this week.

Wednesdays Peregrine Class

Skylark (Year 1) and 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 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.

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 10 p 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.

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.

Roblox

You may have seen the recent investigation about Roblox by Hindenburg, which highlights very worrying concerns about the content that can be seen on Roblox, even when users have listed their age as under 13. You can read the full report here: <https://hindenburgresearch.com/roblox/>

What is Roblox?

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls.

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content.

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child.

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other. You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

Age Categories

This article discusses the difference in accounts based on age (under age 13 and aged 13 – 17): <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428367965460-What-happens-as-I-get-older-on-Roblox>

Roblox accounts with Parental privileges - NEW

Roblox have just launched a new system to manage your child's experience on Roblox through 'Roblox accounts with parent privileges.' The new format allows you to view and update parental controls from your own device. Controls include setting content restrictions, managing screen time and setting a spending limit. You can find out more here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428248050068-Parental-Controls-FAQ>

Content Labels - NEW

Roblox have begun labeling experiences based on the type of content rather than by age. You can set limits on which content labels are accessible in parental controls. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted. You can find descriptions of each here: <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

