

Dear Parents/Carers

WHIXALL SCHOOL NEWS

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.

What a start to 2026! Thank you so much to everyone for their patience and support this week, we are so proud of our school community and their resilience. Special thanks to our staff for braving the elements each day to keep school open.

PE

We are hoping to give you an update on swimming in the next couple of days.

- Monday – Bumblebee Class (Nursery), Dragonfly Class (Reception)
Robin Class (Year 3)
- Tuesday – Skylark Class (Year 1), Mayfly Class (Years 1 and 2)
- Wednesday – Red Kite Class (Year 4), Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)
- Thursday – Skylark Class (Year 1) Mayfly Class (Years 1 and 2), Robin Class (Year 3) Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)
- Friday – Bumblebee Class (Nursery), Dragonfly Class (Reception) Red Kite Class (Year 4)

Children should come to school in their PE kits please.

Theatre Visit

Our children received so many compliments about their behaviour and attitude at the theatre on the last day of term.

An amazing time was had by everyone.

School Admissions Dates

Applications for Reception School Places

Children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 can start primary school from September 2026

****The deadline for submitting an on time application is Wednesday 15th January 2026****

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 with your application please contact the school office.

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.

Items in school

Could we please request that the children do not bring pencil cases and their own items of stationary into school please.

We would also appreciate it if the children only wear a watch and earring studs to school if they wish to.

We really appreciate everyone's support.

Coat, hat, gloves and wellies



Can we please ask that during the cold weather your child brings a coat, hat and gloves to school each day. If your child does not already have a pair of wellies in school (labelled with their name please) can we ask that you send a pair in that can be left in school.

We like to take the children out at playtimes whenever the weather allows.

Water Bottles

Please can children bring a water bottle, labelled with their name to school each day. If your child is bringing juice to drink with their lunch can they also bring a bottle with water in so that they can stay hydrated throughout the day.



Thank you.

Would you like to read our Online Safety newsletter in a different language?

You can use the translate tool on our web version:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/january-2026-primary/>

**** School Transport ****

Your child may be eligible for school transport if they are in Reception Class to Year 6 and fulfil certain criteria.

Applications can be submitted online at <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/school-transport/available-support/>

Scroll down and click on Primary.

Any queries please contact the school office.

Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Children in Nursery to Year 6 may be eligible. Please visit the site below to check if you are eligible to apply.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Thank you.

Easy Fundraising

During these uncertain times we are looking for different ways to raise funds for school. We have registered for the Easy Fundraising scheme and would really appreciate your support with this. The scheme is very easy and free to use—if you buy any items on-line then please register with the easy fundraising website:

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

Once registered with the site when you buy on line, please log in and see if the retailer you are purchasing from is registered with easy fundraising—if they are then log into the retailer's website via easy fundraising identifying Whixall School as your chosen beneficiary and make your purchase—a percentage of the purchase price will be donated to school.

Please support us with this if you can, as it is a very easy way to raise funds for our school and does not cost you anything.

Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.

location sharing (via Snap Map).

cyberbullying.

contact from strangers.

excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.

“disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.

in app purchases.

Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

see who your child is friends with.

see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.

- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

Using a strong password

Setting up 2step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>