

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.

PE and swimming

Monday – Bumblebee Class (Nursery), Dragonfly Class (Reception)
Swimming for Robin Class (Year 3) and Peregrine Class (Years 5 and 6)

Tuesday – Skylark Class (Year 1), Mayfly Class (Years 1 and 2)

Wednesday – Red Kite Class (Year 4),

Thursday – Skylark Class (Year 1) Mayfly Class (Years 1 and 2),

Friday – Bumblebee Class (Nursery), Dragonfly Class (Reception) Red Kite Class (Year 4)

Just a reminder that Robin and Peregrine Classes are swimming for the rest of this half term on Mondays. All other classes will swim during the Summer Term. Further details to follow.



Holiday Club



Holiday Club will run again during February half term on Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th February. Details about booking will follow shortly.

Dates

Monday 19th January	Swimming for Robin and Peregrine Classes
Monday 26th January	Swimming for Robin and Peregrine Classes
Monday 2nd February	Swimming for Robin and Peregrine Classes
Friday 6th February	Young Voices—Years 5 and 6
Monday 9th February	Swimming for Robin and Peregrine Classes
Thursday 12th February	Visit to Liverpool for Peregrine Class
Friday 13th February	Break up for half term
Monday 16th—Thursday 19th February	Holiday Club
Monday 23rd February	Children return to school

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

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.

Instagram Teen Accounts - update

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.



Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include “hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviours”

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called ‘Limited Content.’ This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here:

<https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>

Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement. Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so we thought we’d provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.

Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI include further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence, if accessing the app/game etc.

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls.

Further information

Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>