

*Dear Parents***WHIXALL SCHOOL NEWS**

Welcome to: Teddy, Faye, Freddie, Harry, Anastasia, Dorothy, Freya, Jacob, Penelope, Lauren, Lucy and Albert also welcome to Mrs Taylor who will be teaching Dragonfly class.

Monday 9th September	Recorder for children in Year 4. Year 3 to do Folk Whistle with Catherine Douglas from the Music Service Private piano lessons
Wednesday 11th September	Community Lunch Guitar tuition for children who are having private lessons Spanish lessons for Years 2,3,4,5 and 6 with Mrs Acs.
Thursday 13th September	Ukele lessons for children in Years 5 and 6 with Caroline Nowotoski from Shropshire Music Service
Monday 16th September	Recorder for children in Year 4 Year 3 to do Folk Whistle. Bikeability for year 6
Tuesday 17th September	Bikeability for Year 6 Mayfly Parent Lunch Parents' meeting 2.30 and 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday 19th September	Swimming starts for Mayfly and Peregrine

On Friday 27th September, the children will be joining in with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. We will be holding a cake sale for the children to purchase cakes at playtime – all proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Research.

We will also be holding a coffee afternoon for parents which will be from 2 p.m. on the same day.

If anyone would like to donate cakes for this event – they will be gratefully received

– please bring them to the hall on the morning of 27th.



Communication

We endeavour to operate an 'open door' policy at school, however we do understand that at times our 'drop off' and 'collection' systems do not always allow informal communication between staff and parents. Below are some ways that we hope will assist us in this:

Teachers will be available between 8.35 a.m. and 8.45 a.m. or after school or clubs if parents wish to have a short informal chat or if you would like to make an appointment to discuss something at length.

If you need to write a short note please do not hesitate to use your child's reading diary, Diaries are checked daily and we will always respond to any questions or queries at the first available opportunity. Please use your child's reading diary for all classes.

If anyone wishes to speak to Miss Brayford, please contact the school office by telephone or e-mail, to arrange a convenient time.

Tuesday 17th September-Parent Meetings

On Tuesday 17th September we will be holding 2 parent meetings (both meetings are the same in format) one at 2.30 p.m. and one at 4.30 p.m. The meetings are an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to hear about organisation of classes for this year and day to day routines. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions, that you may have. There is no need to inform us of your intention to attend the Meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

Tuckshop

Toast is available to the children every playtime at a cost of 10 p per slice. Children in Reception, Key Stage 1 and Year 3 also have free fruit on a daily basis.

Children are welcome to bring healthy snacks into school such as raw vegetables, fruit etc., to eat at playtimes.



Music Tuition

All the children in year 4 will learn the recorder and Year 3 the folk whistle.

Children in years 5 and Year 6 will be taught ukele. The tuition and instruments are paid by school.

Mr Jones will teach private guitar lessons this year and Mrs Douglas private piano lessons. Please contact the school office if you would like more information—a form is attached.

Uniform - School Uniform

We will be working closely with parents to ensure that a strict uniform code is adhered to by everyone.

Our school uniform is as follows:

Grey trousers or skirts

White polo shirt / blouse or shirt

Navy blue school sweatshirt or cardigan

Black shoes for boys and girls (no sandals)

Light blue and white checked dress

For PE

Navy blue shorts or jogging bottoms

Plain navy T-shirt or a navy T-shirt with the school logo on it

Plain navy hoodie or track suit top

Trainers for all children (not pumps)

Children are allowed to wear a watch and plain STUD ear rings.

We really would appreciate everyone's co-operation with our uniform code.

We would appreciate everyone's support with our uniform code please.

School Drop off and Collection Procedures

Access to the school site before school is by the usual pedestrian gate or by using the system and dropping your child off at the top gate where a member of staff is on duty. At 8.50 this gate is locked and access is then gained by the front door, if your child is late coming to school, will you please bring them to reception.

At the end of the day could we ask that parents collecting their children on foot or by bike please wait in the area in front of Mrs Higgs' office window. Could we ask that parents collecting by car use the car collection system.

After school access to the school site is by the pedestrian gate which is the gate which is used in the mornings.

School Transport

Application forms for the school bus can be obtained from the school office. If you are unsure as to whether your child is eligible for free school transport—please telephone the school office and we will contact the Transport Department.

School Meals

The price of our school meals will be £2.20 per day. Cheques should be made payable to 'Fields Multi Academy Trust'.

A reminder to the parents of children in Year 3 that Year 3 children are no longer entitled to Free School Meals, so if your child is having a school lunch, then the cost is £2.20 per day.

Free School Meals

All children in Year Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal.

However, if you think that your child would have been entitled to a free meal anyway, based on your income or benefits etc, a free school meal form still has to be completed. Please telephone the school office if you think your child is entitled to free school meals.

Reading

As ever we really appreciate your support in your child's reading development. We understand that it is difficult to hear your child read every day, but if you could try to build in some time during the course of the week to hear your child read as often as possible or to talk with them about their reading that would really benefit your child. Could we also ask that you sign your child's reading diary when you have heard them read as the children have a bookmark in school which is stamped every time that your child reads at home. When they complete their bookmark the children choose a prize. Many thanks.

We have attached a reading mat which provides advice and guidance on hearing your child read- we do hope that you will find it useful.

We would like to remind you of some organisational details which will help the school day to run smoothly and safely for everyone.

1. The school day begins at 8.45 a.m. and the children are supervised on the playground from 8.35 a.m. by a member of staff. Please remember that the school does not take legal responsibility for the children until 8.35 a.m.
2. Please do not send your child into school with large backpacks or sports bags as our cloakrooms are not big enough to accommodate these. P.E. kits should be brought into school in drawstring bags.
3. Can we please request that children bring their P.E. kits into school on Monday morning and leave it at school for the rest of the week.
During the course of this year, the children will be learning the skills to play a number of sports such as hockey, football, cricket and rounders. If parents feel that it is appropriate for their child to have a mouth guard and shin pads in school for these activities, then can we please ask you to purchase these for your child. These should be kept in your child's PE bag.
4. Children may wear a watch for school and **studs** if ears are pierced. In the interests of safety and security no other jewellery should be worn. Children will be expected to take ear rings out during all P.E. and swimming lessons—if this is not possible, then children will be asked to tape up earrings with micro pore tape. We appreciate everyone's co-operation in this matter as it is for the children's safety.
5. Braids and beads should not be worn in children's hair. It is not acceptable for the children to have unconventional hair cuts such as 'tramlines' etc.
6. We would appreciate it if all money sent into school could be placed in an envelope with your child's name on it. Money is collected in during registration.
7. **On entering and exiting the school premises we ask that everyone ensures that the pedestrian gates are closed behind them.**
8. We ask that children do not bring pencil cases from home into school as we do not have space to store them during the school day.
9. Medicines - if your child has to take medication during the school day and has been prescribed **four doses** then we are happy to administer medication, however we do ask that medicines are brought into school by an adult who we will ask to complete a medicine administration form.
10. Could we ask parents to collect their children promptly please at the end of clubs, staff are only paid until 4.30 p.m. to run clubs. We are always happy to supervise children occasionally if parents are unavoidably delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.
11. Please ensure that your child adheres to our uniform code and that all items of clothing are labelled. This includes appropriate hairstyles.

UKELE Years 5 and 6

Dear Parents,

Children begin their ukele lessons on Thursday 12th September and some are very keen to practise their violin playing at home!

We are quite happy for the children to do this, however ask that you return the reply slip giving your permission. We must ask however that if your child breaks a string while the ukele is at home, that a donation of £1 per string is paid towards the cost of a replacement.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Kind regards,

Nicola Brayford
Headteacher

UKELE REPLY SLIP

I give permission for my child to bring their Ukele home and understand that if a string on the ukele breaks then I will pay £1 towards the cost of a replacement string.

Child's name:.....

Signed:..... Date:.....

GUITAR/Piano Years 2 to Years 6

My child is interested in private Guitar/Piano lessons. Piano commences on Monday 9th and Guitar on Wednesday 11th September. (Please note, you will be informed of the cost of each lesson on the day, as costings depend on the amount of children taking part, and if acceptable should send payment into school for the whole term's lessons).

Name of child

Instrument.....

Signed: Parent / Guardian