

*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.

Thank you to everyone who supported the poppy appeal—we will let you know how much was raised once we are informed.

***** School Admissions Dates *****

Applications for Reception School Places

Children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 can start primary school from 2nd November 2023 to 15th January 2024 online.

To apply please visit: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions>
click on: Apply to start or transfer school.

September 2024

Events for this week.

Monday 13th November

Parent Consultations

Tuesday 14th November

Parent Consultations

Please bring a torch to parent consultations if your appointment is after 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday 15th November

Years 1 and 2 visit to Cosford

Thursday 16th November

NSPCC assembly for Years 5 and 6

Friday 17th November

Comic Relief—children may wear something 'spotty' for a donation to Comic Relief.

Wrap Around Care

We are offering wrap around care after our normal school clubs from 4.30 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. These must be booked and paid for in advance by 3.00 p.m. of the Friday of the previous week (booking will close at 3 p.m.)—our apologies but unfortunately until the club becomes established, we cannot accept bookings in any other way.

Clubs will therefore be organised as follows:

3.00 p.m. —4.30 p.m.—Usual clubs—please see above at £1.50 per session these are booked and paid for in the usual way.

4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. - £4 per session payable under the booking section of sQuid

4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.—£6 per session payable under the booking section of sQuid

If anyone wishes their child to access club during the week beginning 20th November please book by Friday 17th November.

PE

Please find below the days that each class will be swimming or will have their PE lessons. Children will need to come into school in their PE kits on PE and swimming days (please see the letter which was sent home about swimming last week for specific arrangements.)

Mondays —PE for Skylark (Year 1)

Wednesday —Swimming for Dragonfly (Reception) and Peregrine (Years 5 and 6)

Due to the visit to Cosford, there will be an additional swimming session for Mayfly Class on Monday 4th December, children from Peregrine who attended the Worship Council training will also swim on 4th December.

Thursday - PE for Bumblebee Class (Nursery) and Robin Class (Year 3/ 4)

Fridays — PE for all classes in school.



Holiday Club



The next holiday clubs will take place on Thursday 21st December, Friday 22nd December and Wednesday 3rd January. Bookings are now available on sQuid for these.

Dates for your Diary

26.11.23	Christingle Service at 4 p.m. at the Church—all welcome
1.12.23	Advent Journey Day for the whole school
6.12.23	Christmas Performance at 1 .30 p.m.
7.12.23	Christmas Performance at 6.00 p.m. More details about the performance will be sent out this week.
13.12.23	Disco at school all children welcome (please note that this is a date change.)
14.12.23	Christmas Lunch – children welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper
19.12.23	Carol Service in Church at 1.30 p.m.
20.12.23	Last day of the Autumn Term – children break up
21.12.23 – 22.12.23	Holiday Club (Thurs and Fri) More details will follow shortly
03.01.24	PD Day – children not in school (however Holiday Club will be available)
04.01.24	Spring Term Begins – children back to school

Parenting Helpline

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. Shropshire Council's Parenting Team is here to support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around child development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Helpline where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen? Call 01743 250950 - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 12.30pm.

If you would like to find out about other services the Parenting Team offers

Children can start school in reception at the beginning of the academic year following their fourth birthday.

Therefore, children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 can start primary school from September 2024.

Applications should be made online. See the attached guidance to help you make your application. If you have any queries or encounter any difficulties completing your application, please contact the School Admissions Team by email - school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk.

Please note that the online facility is open from **2 November 2023**. You must apply by 15 January 2024. If there is a reason why your application is late i.e. due to a house move, please email school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk to advise

Applications received after 15 January, without exceptional reasons, are considered late. Late applications won't be processed until all the applications received on time have been allocated. This may result in your child not being offered a school place at your preferred school.

Shropshire Local Authority residents should use the Shropshire online portal to make their application for any English state infant or primary school. If the school you wish to apply to isn't there, please email school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk with the name of the school, and we will get it added

- If you wish to apply for a neighbouring Welsh authority primary school, you should apply directly to either Powys or Wrexham authorities

If you want to apply for a Shropshire school but do not reside in the Shropshire Council authority area, please refer to our [who to apply to](#) page. Telford local authority residents must apply via Telford and Wrekin Council not Shropshire Council

- Applicants from either overseas, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland can use the Shropshire Council website to make an application for a Shropshire school

IF AN APPLICATION IS MADE THROUGH THIS PORTAL FROM A RESIDENT IN ANOTHER ENGLISH AUTHORITY OTHER THAN SHROPSHIRE IT WILL BE DISCARDED

BEFORE MAKING AN APPLICATION

Ensure you read the [Parent's Guide to Education in Shropshire](#). This guide provides all the correct information to help you make your application

- Note the importance of naming more than one school on your application, particularly when not applying for your catchment area school

Ensure that you're happy with the application before you submit it. The online portal doesn't allow you to change your application once it's been submitted and downloaded by the Admissions Team. If you do need to amend your application after you have submitted it, you must email

school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos on TikTok may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure the appropriate security/privacy settings are on.



Account set up

By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private at the start and we would recommend keeping it as this.

This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available (such as switching off comments and switching on restricted mode) here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings>

As always, it is important that when setting up an account on TikTok, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age. For example, Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15 and they do not receive push notifications from 9pm. In addition, advertisements are tailored to the user's age.

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode (limit the appearance of content that may not be appropriate) and screen time management. You can find out more here:

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user. You can find out more here:

<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/report-a-problem>

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>