

*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 so much to everyone who supported our Christingle Service, the children led such a lovely service. Your donations raised an amazing £140 for the Children's Society.

### \*\*\* 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

**Individual and Family Photographs**—The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 5th December to take individual and family photographs. Please can all children be wearing their full school uniform with school shoes on this day. The photographer will take the Nursery children first and so any parents wishing to have family photographs of their nursery child with older/younger siblings should be in the school hall for 8.30 am. If your child is not in Nursery on that day - but you wish them to have a school photograph, you are welcome to come to the school hall for 8.30am and wait with them for their photograph before taking them home again. Please can we ask parents to park carefully to avoid blocking the dropping off system.

### 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 4th December please book by Friday 1st December.

## Attendance

Well done to all of our children who had 100% attendance this week. Well done to Mayfly and Robin Classes who had 100% attendance for the whole week.

## 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)

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

Fridays — PE for all classes in school.

**Please note there is an extra swimming session for Mayfly Class and the Year 5 and 6 children who attended Worship training on Monday 4th December.**

## Dates for your Diary

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. Robin Class Stone Age Visit leaving at 9am prompt returning in time for end of the school day. The children may wear their own clothes and will need warm and waterproof clothing as much of the day will be spent outside. They will also need a packed lunch and drinks (no glass bottles or fizzy drinks please).
8.12.23	Non uniform day for a donation towards an item for a Christmas hamper.
13.12.23	Disco at school all children welcome (please note that this is a date change.) Nursery sing-a-long (a separate letter will be coming home regarding this event) Dragonfly Visit to the New Vic Theatre
14.12.23	Christmas Lunch – children welcome to wear a Christmas Jumper
18.12.23	Dentist talk for children in Dragonfly Class. Height, weight and hearing tests for children in reception and Year 6
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)
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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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>