



Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh  
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

## Newsletter

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### February Half Term holiday:

Please note the dates below as school closes today and re-opens Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

### GEMS Assembly:

The winning team for the weekly GEM Trophy was Ruby Well done to everyone in Team Ruby!

Find out about our GEM procedures here: <https://whinfield.net/parents/gems/>

### World Book Day:

World Book Day is Thursday 7th March. We will be doing lots of exciting activities in school and having a special assembly.

The theme this year for the whole school is "Bedtime Stories". We would like staff and children to dress in their pyjamas. We would ask parents/carers to ensure children wear shoes/trainers and dress appropriately for the weather. The children may also like to bring their teddy.

### Parents/Carers Activities Summer Term:

We have planned some activities for parents/carers to join the children in school during the Summer Term as we used to do pre-Covid. Please check the dates in the box below.

At the end of the year there will also be a 'Welcome' meeting so that you can come and meet the next year group's staff before we break up for the holidays in July - again dates are below.

### Futsal:

Well done to the Year 4 & 5 children who participated in the Darlington Futsal competition. The children had an amazing time winning 3 games in their group and drawing 1 to finish top of the group stage. Whinfield then went onto win their semi-final 3-2 against Firthmoor.

The children saved their best performance for the final, winning 5-1 against Harrowgate Hill!

We are very proud of you,

### School drop off and pick up:

When dropping off and collecting your child from the Key Stage 1 playground, please ensure they stand with a grown up. Please don't allow children to climb on the wall or run up and down the astro turf as this can be slippery. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Sickness:

As you are aware it is the time of year when there are lots of different bugs and viruses going around. If your child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, please keep your child off school for 48 hours after the last time they were sick. This helps to prevent the virus spreading. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Breakfast and afterschool childcare.

Please ensure all sessions are booked and paid for 7 days in advance through School Gateway. We are no longer able to accommodate any 'ad hoc' or late bookings due to numbers. The childcare is now full most days and due to staffing ratios we have to limit places. Any children who just turn up and are not booked on will be turned away and parents contacted to collect them. We are also unable to amend or cancel any bookings that are out of the 7 days notice. Any changes you wish to make with the 7 days notice period can be done





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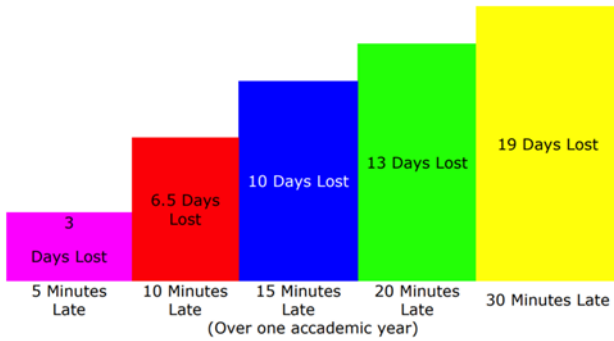
through the School Gateway app. Once you have booked your sessions, please double check all sessions are correct by clicking on manage bookings.

**Late children:**

Last week we had 80 children sign in late through the school office.

**Every Minute Counts**

If you arrive late to school everyday your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school everyday over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. This can significantly reduce achievement, regardless of academic ability. Your child may also feel awkward arriving to the classroom when everyone else is settled. Furthermore, when one pupil arrives late, it disrupts the entire class and the teacher - everyone's education is compromised.

Please ensure you adhere to your child's school start time. Children should not be coming into school late through the school office. They should also be picked up at their allocated time and not collected from the office early. We ask that where possible any appointments are made out of school time. If this is not possible and your child has an appointment bring a copy of your appointment letter to the office. Children coming to school late and leaving early are missing valuable learning time which can have a long-lasting impact on their progress. Thank you for your continued support.

**Parents Evenings:**

Parents Evening is now available to book. Please visit <https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments.

**Afterschool Activities:**

| Day     | Club                         | Year group       | Time            | How to book  |
|---------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--|
| Tuesday | Mayors singing contest choir | Years 4, 5 and 6 | 3:15pm - 4:15pm | No need to book this will continue after half term until Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March |
| Tuesday | Film Club                    | Year 6           | 3:15pm - 5pm    | Book through School Gateway - Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 11am                   |
| Tuesday | Board Game Club              | Year 5           | 3:15pm - 4:15pm | Book through School Gateway -  |



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|           |                              |                         |                 |   |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
|           |                              |                         |                 | Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup><br>February 11am                                     |
| Tuesday   | Boys Football                | Year 5                  | 3:15pm -4:15pm  | Book through<br>School Gateway -<br>Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup><br>February 11am |
| Wednesday | Numbots and<br>number blocks | Reception and<br>year 1 | 3:15pm - 4:15pm | Book through<br>School Gateway -<br>Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup><br>February 11am |
| Thursday  | Netball                      | Year 5 and 6            | 3:15pm - 4:15pm | Book through<br>School Gateway -<br>Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup><br>February 11am |

All activities will start week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and finish week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Children need to be collected after the club by an adult from the Asda entrance. If your child is attending a sporting activity, please send them to school in their school PE kit (no football strips).

**Important Dates for the Spring term :**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February | School closes for February half term                          |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February | School reopens for pupils                                     |
| Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March     | Parents Evening   |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parents Evening   |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March   | World Book Day (more information to follow)                   |
| Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March   | Year 5 Easter Performance 2pm (more information to follow)    |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March  | School closes for Easter holidays                             |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April    | School reopens for pupils                                     |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May     | Class RN Stay and Play (more information to follow)           |
| Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May   | Class RM Stay and Play (more information to follow)           |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June   | Year 1 Parent workshop 2pm - 3pm (more information to follow) |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June    | Year 2 Parent workshop 1:30pm (more information to follow)    |
| Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June  | Year 5 Parent Workshop 9:30am (more information to follow)    |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June   | Year 3 Parent Workshop 1:30pm (more information to follow)    |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June   | Reception new starters 2024 meeting 4pm                       |





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|                                 |   |
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| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June | Year 4 Parent workshop 9:15am (more information to follow)              |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June  | Parent meeting for new year group - Year 5 moving to Year 6 - 3:15pm    |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July    | Year 6 parent workshop - 1:30pm (more information to follow)            |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July  | Parent meeting for new year group - Year 4 moving to Year 5 - 3:15pm    |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July    | Parent meeting for new year group - Year 1 moving to Year 2 - 3:15pm    |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July | Parent meeting for new year group - Reception moving to Year 1 - 3:15pm |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July  | Parent meeting for new year group - Year 2 moving to Year 3 - 3:15pm    |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July    | Parent meeting for new year group - Year 3 moving to Year 4 - 3:15pm    |

