



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

## Newsletter

Friday 22nd March 2024

### GEMS Assembly:

The winning team for the weekly GEM Trophy was **Sapphire**. Well done to everyone in Team **Sapphire**!  
Find out about our GEM procedures here: <https://whinfield.net/parents/gems/>

### Gems treat:

The Sapphire team has won the Gems treat:  
Their treat is on Thursday 28th March during the school day. Animal Stories are bringing a selection of interesting and amazing animals for the children to meet and hold or stroke if they would like to. If your child is in team Sapphire please make sure your child's class teacher is aware of any animal related allergies your child may have. Or alternatively please let the school office know.

This is the website of the company if you would like to have a look at the animals they maybe bringing.

<https://www.animalstory.co.uk/>

### Easter holidays:

School closes on **Thursday 28th March** for the Easter holidays and re-opens Monday 15th April.

### Year 2:

Year 2 are making vehicles next week. Please could the children bring in boxes starting from Tuesday 26th ready to start making on Wednesday 27th. They need a small selection of different sized boxes, a cereal box being the biggest. Thank you!

### Water bottles:

Please do not send your child to school with large water bottles. Children only require a standard size bottle that can be refilled throughout the day.

### Year 5 Easter Production:

The Year 5 Easter production, "Easter Story" will be on Tuesday 26th March at 2pm. Tickets are now available to book. Please click the link to book your tickets. Please visit <https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk>. Thank you.

### Advice from the NHS regarding MMR vaccine appointments in relation to measles (you may have seen the adverts on the TV):

- As you may be aware there is growing concern nationally about the rising number of measles cases across the country. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) having now declared a national incident - warning that measles could spread rapidly causing a national outbreak of this vaccine-preventable disease. Data released this week shows there were only three cases in our region last year and that from October 2023 to January 2024 there have been no cases in the Northeast. While the uptake of the mumps, measles and rubella vaccine (MMR) in our region remains the highest in England, the number of children getting their second dose of the vaccine has now fallen below 95%, the national target required to avoid outbreaks and the rapid spread of the disease. MMR is part of the NHS Routine, Childhood Immunisation Programme - with one dose offered at one year and another second dose at 3 years 4 months. People must have both doses of the vaccine to be protected. Health teams across our region [are calling on parents and carers to urgently book any missed MMR vaccinations](#),





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with their GP practice, to ensure they and their children are fully protected. It's important to remind everyone that measles is a highly infectious illness, that can affect unvaccinated adults and children - complications can be life-changing with dangers including blindness, deafness, and swelling of the brain. Spending just 15 minutes or more in direct contact with someone infected is enough to catch measles, making it one of the most infectious diseases in the world. [Find out more about measles symptoms and treatment.](#) Parents and carers whose infants missed out, or anyone of any age who has not yet had their MMR vaccine, are urged to come forward. The free MMR vaccine is a safe and effective way of protecting against measles, as well as mumps and rubella. Anyone concerned should contact their GP.

- [Get advice about measles on the Healthier Together website](#)

### Childcare:

As you are aware the childcare provision was set up to be self-funding. Fees have not been increased since 2019, long before the pandemic. We have tried to keep the cost low as we appreciate the increases in energy and food costs, we have all felt. However, as costs have continued to rise significantly during this time this has meant that the childcare provision is no longer self-funding and therefore school has no alternative but to increase the fees.

In order to give parents/carers some notice fees will increase from 1st June 2024. If you have pre booked sessions for 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards these sessions will be cancelled, leaving a credit on your account.

**You will then have to rebook these sessions after the 24<sup>th</sup> May.**

Once the price has been increased, you will be notified when sessions from the 1<sup>st</sup> June are available to book.

**From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

Breakfast Childcare will be £3.00 per day

Afterschool Childcare will be £12 per day

### Important Dates for the Spring term :

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)



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Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception new starters 2024 meeting 4pm
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

