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

Newsletter
Friday 18th October

GEMS Assembly:
The winning team for the weekly GEM Trophy was Emerald.

Well done to everyone in Team Emerald! Find out about our GEM procedures here: https://whinfield.net/parents/gems/ .

Attendance:
As you are aware regular attendance at school is extremely important and the Government published statutory guidance in August 2024 that school has to follow. This year we will be sending letters each half term where children's attendance has dropped below 90% as a gentle reminder as often parents/carers do not realise the impact of missing regular 'odd days' on overall attendance. These will start next week.

Cross Country:
On Wednesday afternoon, five Whinfield pupils took part in the Tees Valley Cross Country Finals at Stuart's Park. Every child who ran made us extremely proud and competed at a very high level. Well done everyone!

Rugby Festival:
Whinfield children in Year 3 took part in a local Rugby Festival at the Mowden Park Darlington Arena. This was an amazing experience for the children, and they participated in different games and activities to improve upon and learn new skills. They were a credit to the school. Well done Year 3!

Parking Safety:
We cannot emphasise enough how important it is that cars park SAFELY. Please do not park across driveways or in the bus lane. You must ensure you drive at a sensible speed and be vigilant as you are driving and parking so that you are always watching where children are walking. The safety of our children is paramount.

Halloween At Hopetown Darlington - For Families

Hopetown have asked us to share some information regarding Halloween activities. They have some spooky Halloween fun on for families from the 19th October to the 3rd November.
There's a range of activities from our the free Spooktown trail to paid for workshops.
For more information and details of prices and how to book, please see the website https://www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/whats-on/Spooktown

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New Starters Evening – September 2024:

There will be a new starter evening for parents/carers and children to come and look at the Early Years area and meet the staff on Tuesday 22nd. October. All welcome.

Harvest:

For Harvest this year we will be collecting tins of food and dried food such as pasta and rice to donate to the local food bank. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please send any donations into school with your child by the 22nd October. Thank you.

Holiday Requests:

Following the letter that was sent regarding the new attendance legislation in September you will be aware of the updated guidance regarding holidays during term time. As we are now part of the Education Village academy trust any holiday requests are taken to a Panel meeting and discussed with members of the panel from EVAT. Please use link below and complete the form for any holiday requests and return this to the school office at least 2 weeks before.

Holiday request form

Poppies:
Poppies and poppy merchandise (wrist bands and reflectors etc) will be available to purchase in school from Monday 4th November for a donation.

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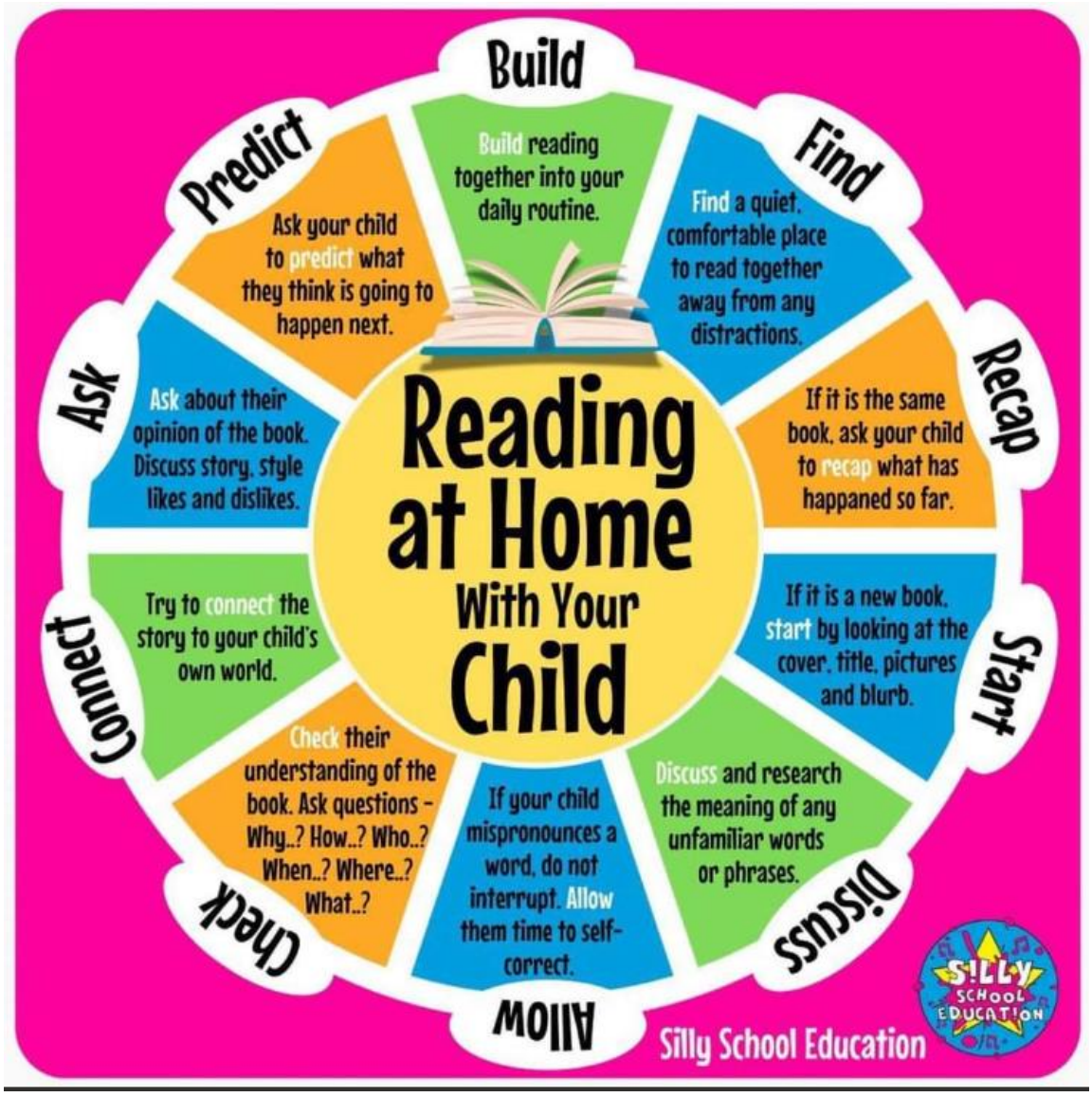
Reading at home with your child:



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School start and end times and entrances and exit reminder;

Start & End of School Day

Timetable 2024 - 2025			
Year group	Start time	End of day	Drop off and pick up from
Reception	8.45a.m.	3.05p.m.	Key stage 1 playground
Year 1	8.50a.m.	3.10p.m.	Key stage 1 playground
Year 2	8.45a.m.	3.05p.m.	Classroom doors
Year 3	8.50a.m.	3.10p.m.	Classroom doors
Year 4	8.50a.m.	3.10p.m.	Asda Gates
Year 5	8.45a.m.	3.05p.m.	Asda Gates
Year 6	8.45a.m.	3.05p.m.	Y6 front gates

Doors will remain open for 5 minutes.

Breakfast and afterschool childcare:

A reminder to Parents/Carers that when you have booked your childcare sessions on School Gateway, please can you click on manage bookings to check that the sessions are booked correctly. We are unable to amend or cancel sessions if not given 7 days' notice and if your child is not booked in, we will not be able to accept them due to staffing ratio's. Thank you

Important Dates for Autumn term:

Tuesday 22nd October 2024	Parents open evening for Reception September **2025** new starters 4:30pm – 5:30pm
Friday 25th October 2024	School closes for October half term
Monday 4th November 2024	School reopens
Thursday 7th November 2024	Flu vaccinations
Monday 11th November 2024	Anti-bullying week (more information to follow)
Monday 11th November 2024	Parents evening 3:30pm – 6pm (more information to follow)
Wednesday 13th November 2024	Parents evening 3:30pm – 6pm (more information to follow)
Friday 15th November 2024	Children in need

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Friday 29th November 2024	PD day – School closed for pupils
Tuesday 3rd December 2024	Year 3 Christmas performance 10am (more information to follow)
Tuesday 3rd December 2024	Reception Christmas performance 2pm (more information to follow)
Wednesday 4th December 2024	Year 4 Christmas performance 10am and 2pm (more information to follow)
Thursday 5th December 2024	Year 1 and Year 2 combined Christmas performance 10am and 2pm (more information to follow)
Monday 9th – 11th December 2024	Year 6 Robinwood
Friday 13th December 2024	Year 2 and 3 Christmas party (more information to follow.)
Monday 16th December 2024	Year 1 and 5 Christmas party (more information to follow.)
Tuesday 17th December 2024	Reception and year 4 Christmas party (more information to follow)
Wednesday 18th December 2024	Year 6 Christmas party (more information to follow)
Thursday 19th December 2024	Christmas dinner day (more information to follow)
Friday 20th December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20th December 2024	School closes for Christmas holidays.

Year 5 will have an Easter performance and Year 6 will have an end of year performance.

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here to help

SJOG Hospitaller Services

Autism & Mental Health Parent Sessions

Attend these free-of-charge sessions for more information on autism and mental health. These sessions will provide you with information, advice and guidance as well as practical tips you can use at home.

To book:
Email: heretohelp@sjog.org.uk

Location of sessions:
Darlington Connect
(6 Northgate - next to Costa)

DATES:

Monday 14 October 2024, 6-7pm
How to support your children with emotional recognition

Monday 18 November 2024, 6pm-7pm
Understanding meltdowns and shutdowns

Monday 16 December 2024, 6pm-7pm
Autism and Anxiety

Monday 20 January 2025, 6pm-7pm
Autism, Suicidality and Self Harm

SJOG Hospitaller Services – registered charity no. 1108428

www.sjog.uk/heretohelp

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SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2022/23

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