Principal: Mr S Robson.
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

Newsletter

Friday 17th October

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/ .

Messages from Mr Robson:

NEW SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

This week, staff at Whinfield Primary School came together to begin an exciting and important piece of work: developing a new vision for the future of our school.

During our session, we reflected on feedback from both staff and from parents and carers through our recent surveys. We discussed how the school and wider community have evolved, particularly in the years since the Covid pandemic, and what this means for our mission and vision going forward.

It was a really valuable conversation and marks the start of a process that will take time and thoughtful collaboration. As we move ahead, we'll be working closely with **pupils, parents and carers, and our governing body** to shape a shared vision that reflects our values and aspirations.

Watch this space – we look forward to sharing more as this work develops!

DARLINGTON PARENT CARERS DROP-IN SESSIONS AT WHINFIELD

Darlington Parent Carers Forum (DPCF) is the Department for Education's recognised parent carer forum for our area. They work with schools, health services, and the local authority to help improve support for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities.

DPCF offers a space for parents and carers to share experiences, access advice, and influence local services. They host regular drop-in sessions at Whinfield, where you can speak directly with representatives and other parents.

Upcoming Drop-in Dates at Whinfield (2–3pm): Friday 28th November, Friday 19th December, Friday 30th January, Friday 20th March, Friday 8th May, Friday 19th June, Friday 17th July.

All are welcome – come along to share your views and find out more.

RECEPTION AUTUMN STORY, SOUP AND SONGS

Reception Autumn Story, Soup and Songs Event – This Thursday!

We're looking forward to welcoming Reception families to our Autumn Story, Soup and Songs Event on Thursday from 2.15–2.45pm.

The children and I will be sharing some lovely seasonal songs accompanied by the guitar, including favourites like The Wheels on the Bus, Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, and Big Red Combine Harvester. It's a joyful way to celebrate autumn together!

Please come along, join in the singing, and enjoy the atmosphere – we can't wait to see you there!

Have a brilliant weekend everybody!

Mr Robson

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Harvest:
Harvest festival will take place on **Thursday 23rd October at 9:20** in KS2 hall. Year 3 and 4 will be singing Harvest songs and doing a couple of readings. We would like parents and carers who have children in Years 3 and 4 to join us for this special event. We can only ask a few parents in at a time as we have limited hall space. We are currently looking into doing other special events across the year, where we ask other parents to attend.
It is a celebration where we would appreciate everyone's contributions of tinned foods and packets. Please bring into school with your child, whatever you can afford to give- we will really appreciate it! We just ask if you could check the used by dates on the tins and packets- thanks! The contributions of food will be sent to the St Andrew's food bank.
Thank you,
Mrs O'Callaghan

Author visit:
On Friday 21st November, Author James Harris will be coming to school do an assembly with the children. James is local to Middlesbrough and has written a number of children's books, from picture books for young children to award winning titles such as "The Unbelievable Biscuit Factory"

Children can buy his books using the following link.
https://uk.bookshop.org/shop/theunbelievablejamesharris

Childcare Sufficiency Parental Survey:
Dear Parent/Carer,
Darlington Borough Council has a duty to carry out a childcare assessment each year. We would like to gather feedback from parents/carers who use childcare provision. We would be very grateful if you could complete this survey https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/HC2WQLY. It should take about 5 minutes. The closing date is Wednesday 22nd October.

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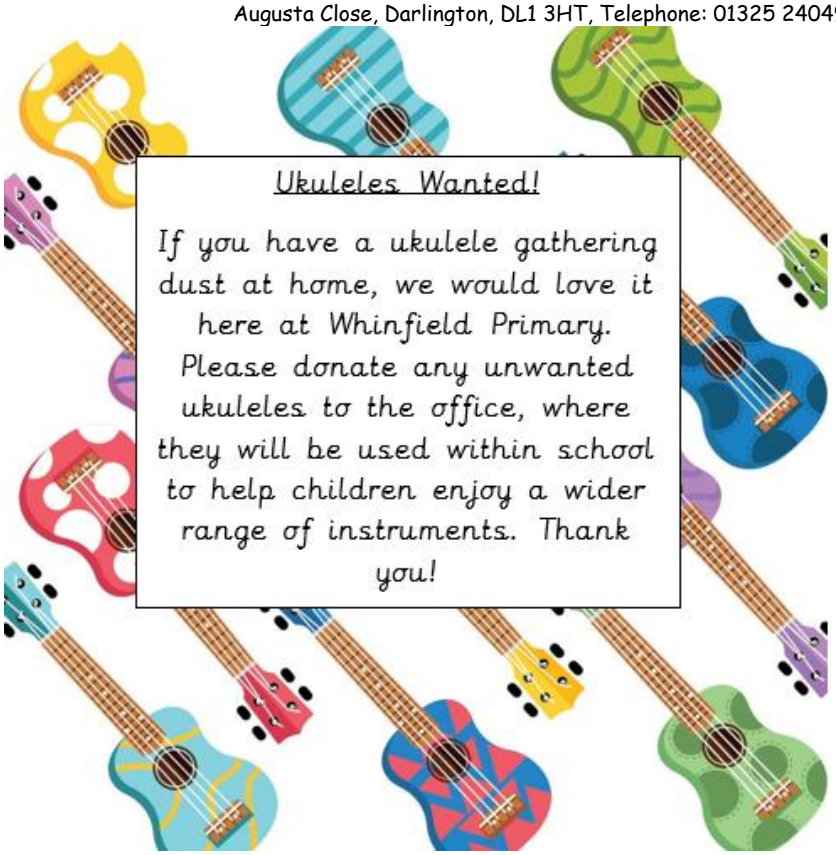
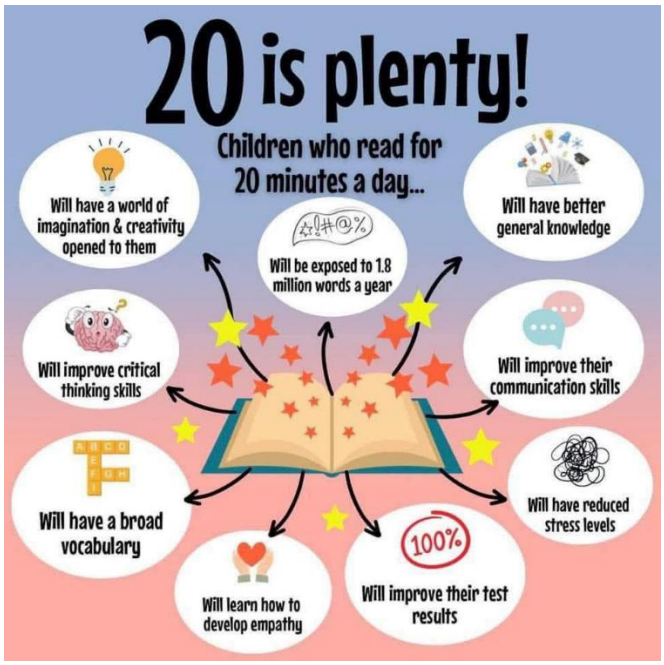


Reading:



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Important Dates for Autumn term:

Date	Event
Monday 20th October	Whole school flu vaccinations – letter to give consent has been sent by email.
Thursday 23rd October	Reception parents – story, soup and songs. 2:15pm
Thursday 23rd October	Year 3 and 4 Harvest assembly 9:20am. Parents welcome!
Friday 24th October	School closes for half term
Monday 3rd November	School reopens for pupils
Monday 10th November	Parents evening (more information to follow)
Wednesday 12th November	Parents evening (more information to follow)
Friday 14th November	Children in need (more information o follow)
Wednesday 26th November	Reception and year 6 heights and weights
Monday 8th December	Reception nativity 2pm (more informaton to follow)
Tuesday 9th December	Year 4 Christmas performance – 10am (more information to follow)
Tuesday 9th December	Year 3 Christmas performance – 2pm (more information to follow)
Wednesday 10th December	Year 1 and 2 performamces 2pm (more information to follow)
Thursday 11th December	Year 1 and 2 performamces 10am and 2pm (more information to follow)
Friday 12th December	Year 2 and 3 Christmas Party – PM (more information to follow)
Monday 15th December	Year 1 and 5 Christmas Party – PM (more information to follow)
Tuesday 16th December	Reception and Year 4 Christmas Party – PM (more information to follow)

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Thursday 18th December	Year 6 Christmas Party – PM (more information to follow)
Thursday 18th December	Christmas dinner day (more information to follow)
Friday 19th December	Christmas jumper day
Frday 19th December	School closes for Christmas holidays