



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

Newsletter - Friday 27th November 2020

Whinfield Right of the Week is: [Article 42 - Everyone must know children's rights](#)

Items brought to school:

As the second national lockdown comes to an end on Wednesday 2nd December and the children are now well settled into their new routines, we continue to ask that only essential items are sent into school. However, we appreciate the difficulties in carrying everything and therefore from Wednesday 2nd December children will be able to bring a small bag to school daily.

Uniform:

We have added a red fleece to the school uniform. If any child is feeling the cold in the classroom, they are welcome to wear a fleece as an additional layer. These are available from ALR Embroidery, supermarkets and Amazon. They do not need to have the school logo on but do need to have your child's name in as we get a huge amount of lost property.

Childcare:

We informed you last week of the reduction in the cost of our Breakfast childcare to £1.80 per child per day thanks to the Greggs Grant which will pay for the breakfast food. This has now been implemented, however in order to be able to give you this reduction in price, all future childcare sessions had to be cancelled on the school gateway so you can rebook them at the new price. **A credit for the cancelled sessions has been added to your account; therefore, it is important you go back onto the school gateway and book all your childcare sessions to enable your child to attend.** Sessions must be booked at least 7 days in advance.

Greggs Foundation:

We are delighted to receive support from Greggs Foundation. In addition to supporting breakfast in school they are able to support vulnerable families through their 'Hardship Fund' which provides small grants to people in financial need. Grants can be made to fund essential household equipment, such as cookers, fridge freezers and clothing and can make a significant difference to people's lives. School can apply for a grant on your behalf. If you are currently suffering financial hardship, please contact Mrs Murray between 8am and 5pm on 07469 402630 to have a confidential discussion.

Greggs Foundation & The Community Match Challenge:

Greggs have also been awarded additional funding from the Community Match Challenge due to the current situation with COVID. If you are in financial need and struggle to feed, you and your family on a day-to-day basis then the added pressure of Christmas can be overwhelming.

If you need support in the form of a food hamper for Christmas, please contact Mrs Murray between 8am and 5pm on 07469 402630 to have a confidential discussion.

School Closure:

In preparation for any severe weather, the procedures will be:

We will aim to send a 'warning' text/app message/email/tweet or Facebook post to you by 7:00a.m. This will let you know whether school will be either closed or whether there is a possibility we will be able to stay open. A confirmation of whether we are open or closed will be sent at 7:45a.m or as soon after that as we are able. We hope this will enable parents to have the time to make alternative arrangements.



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Christmas Card Drawing Competition:

Our talented children have designed Christmas cards for Durham Constabulary and all the entries have been sent off.

They also designed cards for Greggs Foundation which required school to select the winning entries. We are delighted to share with you the winning designs (attached) which were independently judged by our Chair of Governors. These have been sent to Greggs for their national competition.

We could however not let the fantastic creativity go unrewarded, so prizes have been awarded in school. Many thanks to EE for their generosity in contributing one of these prizes.



Showbie - Our virtual Classroom

A reminder that parent accounts allow you to oversee what your child is assigned to complete and what they submit but will not allow you to edit or contribute. If your child is isolating or assigned homework on Showbie, they will only be able to edit and complete work if they are logged in on their **student** account. Student login details can be found on the inside of home learning books. Please only complete work on Showbie if your child is isolating or if it has been set as homework.

If you are experiencing difficulties with home learning, please contact your child's class teacher using the home learning email address:

Receptionhomelearning@whinfield.net

Year1homelearning@whinfield.net

Year2homelearning@whinfield.net

Year3homelearning@whinfield.net

Year4homelearning@whinfield.net

Year5homelearning@whinfield.net

Year6homelearning@whinfield.net



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Christmas with a Difference

Whilst the Government have relaxed the COVID rules for a few days at Christmas to enable families to celebrate they have not relaxed any rules for us in school in the lead up to Christmas. This means that we have been thinking about how to do this year's Christmas celebrations differently.



The school environment is beginning to look a lot like Christmas as the trees have been put up and children are enjoying many exciting activities. However, below we will explain the changes we are going to have to make.

Christmas Lunch:

Unfortunately, we are not able to offer our usual Christmas menu to all children and staff as the time slots in the dining hall are simply not long enough. There is a turkey lunch scheduled on the regular menu in the last week of term which pupils, who already have school meals, will receive.

Christmas Jumper Day:

Christmas jumpers can be worn on Friday 11th December to support the 'Save The Children' Charity. Please make any donations to 'Save The Children' online, do not send donations into school. Please do not go out to buy one especially for the day as they can be expensive. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, they may wear an ordinary jumper instead of their school sweatshirt.

Christmas Cards:

We are unable to have our usual whole school post box for Christmas this year as our pupil posties are not able to move from bubble to bubble. Instead, each year group will have a Christmas box for pupils who wish to send cards within their year group. Once posted cards will be quarantined and sorted for distribution once a week.

Christmas Performances:

Unfortunately, there will be no live Christmas performances for parents/carers to attend due to the restrictions placed upon us. However, not to be beaten by the virus we have lots of activities planned in school which will be shared with you at Christmas. Watch this space!

Christmas Parties:

Instead of the usual party we have replaced it with a Pantomime. All classes will watch 'Sleeping Beauty' on the Smartboard in their classrooms during the last week of term. No monetary donations are required from parents/carers.

End of Term

School finishes on Friday 18th December and reopens on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Please note Monday 4th January is a staff training day so school is closed to pupils.

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