



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

Newsletter - Friday 11th December 2020
Whinfield's Right of the Week is: Article 4 - Implementation of the convention

Christmas Holidays:

School closes on Friday 18th. December and re-opens to pupils on **Tuesday** 5th. January.

COVID Notifications over the Christmas Holidays.

It is vital that ALL parents/carers and staff follow this guidance.

Positive cases of COVID during the 2 week Christmas holidays **MUST** be reported to school so we can support the Track and Trace system as directed by the Government.

You must email admin@whinfield.net or message us using the [School Gateway App](#) if your child receives a positive COVID test.

Please **DO NOT RING the school office** as the building will be closed so telephone messages will not be received.

In the event school receives notification of a positive test we will contact all close contacts to self-isolate in line with Government guidance.

The government have updated their guidance for parents and carers on COVID. The updated guidance can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Times of School Day - the only way we can keep our bubbles intact is for you to bring /collect your child at the right time. It is absolutely ESSENTIAL you keep to the times of each bubble. Please do not come early or stay later. Please park in ASDA and walk DO NOT park in the bus lane to wait for your child.

Class	School Starts Door open time	School Ends Door open time
Reception Mrs Rowney - Miss Nixon - Miss Lindsay	8:50am	3:00pm
Year 1 Miss Green - Miss Dunn - Mrs Murphy	8:55am	3:05pm
Year 2 Mrs Hall / Mrs Paterson - Miss Graham - Mrs Airey	8:50am	3:00pm
Year 3 Mrs OCallaghan - Mrs Walker Hodgson - Mrs Vinton	8:55am	3:05pm
Year 4 Mrs Souter - Mrs Dunn - Mr Thomas	8:50pm	3:00pm
Year 5 Mrs Bowe / Mrs Barker Jones - Mr Legg - Mrs Richardson	9:00am	3:10pm
Year 6 Mrs Close - Mrs Boulton - Miss Watkins	8:50am	3:00pm

Childcare from 1st January 2021 - Reminder:

As you were informed on last week's newsletter, school operates our childcare on a 'Not for Profit' basis meaning the fees charged simply cover the costs of staff, food and resources for use in the childcare provision. The charges to parents/carers have remained static since childcare was established a number of years ago. Last year we trialed extending the opening hours without increasing the cost to parents and whilst this 7.30am start was popular with parents/carers it is simply financially unsustainable with the restrictions COVID has placed upon us. This has meant that we have had to revert to the 8am start. In order to operate in year group bubbles, we have had to increase the staff hours which has, in turn, increased the cost to school meaning that the childcare provision is now making a significant loss. Therefore, reluctantly, Governors have agreed a small price increase from 1st January 2021.





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You are still able to book all your sessions for the Autumn term at the current price as normal 7 days ahead on the School Gateway. Bookings for Spring term have been closed on the School Gateway to allow us to change the price. The booking system will reopen for January onward sessions from Saturday 19th December 2020 and all sessions must be booked 7 days in advance.

New Charges

- **Breakfast** will operate 8.am to start of school and will cost £2.50 per session. (whilst we receive the Greggs grant this will reduce to £2.30 per session).
- **After school** will operate end of school to 5.30pm and will cost £10.00 per session.

Christmas Jumper Day:

The children and staff looked brilliant in their Christmas jumpers today! A reminder that you can donate to the "Save The Children" Charity <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/get-involved> OR if you prefer to donate locally, you can donate to "GREGGS" *"To get involved just text JUMPER to 70470 and donate £2. • Texts cost £2 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. • If you'd like to give £2 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text JUMPERNOINFO to 70470"*

Christmas Jumpers can also be worn on Friday 18th November 2020 to Celebrate Christmas. Please do not go out to buy a Christmas Jumper 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 Gifts:

Our staff are very appreciative of the gift's children bring them, particularly at Christmas. However, this year we are supporting "Feeding Families" and ask that instead of purchasing a gift for your child's teacher you make a donation to our "Feeding Families" boxes which will be distributed by "Feeding Families" to families in need this Christmas:

Examples of donations:

Sponge or Christmas pudding	Gravy granules	Savoury snacks - crisps, nuts etc.
Custard or white sauce	Coffee / Tea	Cranberry or Apple sauce
Cake - Christmas, chocolate, chocolate rolls etc.	Jam, Marmalade, chocolate spread	Squash, Juice
Chocolates or sweets	Tinned meat	Hand wash
Mince pies	Stuffing	Shampoo
Chocolate Biscuits	Part baked bread	Shower gel

"Feeding Families" are a national charity who work locally. Full information about donating to or requesting support from them can be found on their website. <https://feedingfamilies.org.uk/>

Christmas Parties:

As we are limited by the current restrictions, instead of the usual party we have replaced it with a Pantomime. All classes will watch 'Sleeping Beauty' on the Smartboard in their classrooms on Wednesday 16th December 2020. **Pupils can wear their own clothes all day on Wednesday 16th December.** If your child has PE this day, please ensure own clothes are suitable for PE e.g. leggings and T shirt.

FREE Adult Education

In the Autumn Spending Review, the government have announced free training for any adult without 2 A levels or equivalent. If this is you and you would like to gain some new skills, please follow this link to find additional information. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-skills-fund> Please feel free to share this info with anyone who it might be useful for.

