



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

Newsletter - Friday 16th July 2021

Summer holidays:

School closes today and the children return to school on Monday 6th September.

As we all go into the Summer holidays, we want to thank you for the support you have given to the school this year. It has been such an unpredictable year in so many ways and you have been patient with us as we have had to change starting/ending times, amend activities and ultimately close 'bubbles' whilst following the rapidly changing Government Guidance. We really appreciate the difficulties these closures have caused for you and can only thank you for the supportive comments we have received.

In all of this have been the children who have been resilient, accepting of the changes and just done their best with everything that has been asked of them. As a school we are so proud of them and as parents/carers we know you are too.

We have initial guidance for September and are currently working on that, however, will continue the start and end of day times which are currently in place - see below. We will be sending a newsletter out to all of you the week before the children return (either 2nd or 3rd September - please look out for it) which will contain the most up to date information.

We hope you all have a fantastic summer, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming the children back in September and continuing to work in partnership with you.

Track and Trace over the weekend and then from 19th July:

If your child or a member of staff has symptoms or tests positive on either Saturday 17th July or Sunday 18th July please email admin@whinfield.net or message us using the [School Gateway App](#). Please ensure you state the name, class and the date that the symptoms started and the date you received the positive test. If you have had a positive test but have not had symptoms, please state the date of the test.

From Monday 19th July any positive cases **MUST** be reported to Track and Trace who will directly trace any close contacts using the NHS Test and Trace.

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.

Please click the links below for the Government information from Monday 19th July:

- [Contact tracing letter to parents from DFE](#)
- [Contact Tracing for Step 4 Onwards - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Contact Tracing for children and young people from 19 July 2021 - PowerPoint](#)

Staff changes:

We have a number of staff who are leaving today. A huge thank you to each of them for everything they have done for the children at Whinfield.

Mrs Fowle is retiring after 23 years at Whinfield. We send lots of good wishes with her and hope she now has time to do all of the things she has planned to do.



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Mrs Paterson is leaving after 18 years to spend more time with her family. She will be coming back to cover supply in school so it will be nice to see her again, and we wish her lots of happy times.
Mrs Reynolds and Miss Stephens have both secured new positions in other primary schools, and we wish both of them lots of luck and send good wishes with them.
Miss Lamont is leaving to take a new direction in her career, and we wish her lots of good luck.
Mrs Sweeten is retiring from the cleaning team and we wish her a relaxing retirement.
Mr Hayward, the caretaker, leaves in August and we send our best wishes with him.
Thank you again all of you, we will miss you all and wish you all the best for the future.

Year 6:

We say goodbye today to the Year 6 children who leave for their secondary schools. They have had a great week with lots of activities and the crowning glory this morning was the 'balloon arch!'
They are an amazing group of young people who have responded to everything they have had to adapt to across the last 2 years. They have shown a fantastic attitude and it was lovely to be able to hold a 'virtual' assembly for them this morning.
"You are amazing, you are brilliant, and you can achieve great things!" said Mrs Close. You are! Remember this and go and make yourselves, your families and us proud! Lots of good luck and good wishes to you all!!

Darlington PHSE Quality Mark:

It is with much pride that we announce that we have secured the Darlington PHSE Quality Mark once again for the excellent work which takes place in PHSE across the school. Mrs Airey is the subject lead for PHSE and due to her hard work in developing the curriculum and ensuring that the children receive a high quality PSHE curriculum we have been reaccredited with the award. Thank you and well done!

The Active Mile - NEW for September 2021:

You will have no doubt have heard on the news or social media that many schools have opted to complete a 'daily mile.' This is part of the initiative to get children up and moving and achieve the goal of 60 active minutes each day!

We have recently had a mile track mapped out on both the KS1 and KS2 yards so that we can start completing the 'daily mile' from September.

In September, your child's year group will be completing their 'active mile' on an allocated day each week - a timetable will be sent on the September newsletter.

Our active mile will help your child to achieve their '60 active' minutes a day, recommended by the government. We will begin by seeing how far the children can get round the course in 10 minutes by walking, jogging or even skipping! Your child will set their own target to try and improve each week.

Your child can complete their 'active mile' exercise in their school shoes. When purchasing school shoes over the summer holidays, please can you ensure that they do not have a heel and if children are unable to tie shoelaces, that they are velcro fastening. We will be returning to complete uniform for all children on all days other than PE days. If you and your child would prefer, on their 'Active Mile' day they can bring their trainers in a separate bag to wear.

Free White Rose Maths Workbooks:

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At Whinfield we follow the White Rose Maths Scheme of Learning. White Rose Maths has teamed up with Morrisons, to give primary pupils a series of free workbooks to use at home. These colourful and engaging workbooks are perfect for revisiting and practising work that children have covered during the year, or to prepare them for the new school year ahead.

If you think you might find them useful, parents and carers can collect the books from Monday 2nd August onwards at any Morrisons' store by calling in at the 'Children's Little Library' within the store. Families are welcome to take one free copy per pupil from Y1 to Y6. The workbooks contain a link to the answers too.

Reading Certificate Draw:

The children who have read exceptionally well during the week receive a reading certificate. Their name then goes into a whole school draw every half term. Congratulations to the children below, we hope you enjoy your reading book!

Amara - Year 1, Jake - Year 2, Niamh - Year 2, Tommy - Year 4 and Ruben - Year 6.

September:

As you are aware the Government guidance is changing from 19th July however, we are continuing with the current start and end of day times and in school routines.

Year group	Start of day	End of day
Reception	8:50am	3:00pm
Year 1	9:00am	3:10pm
Year 2	8:50am	3:00pm
Year 3	8:55am	3:05pm
Year 4	8:50am	3:00pm
Year 5	9:00am	3:10pm
Year 6	8:50am	3:00pm

ALR Embroidery:

If you would like to order school uniform from ALR Embroidery, please ensure you do so by Monday 16th August to ensure your order will be ready for collection by Friday 3rd September. Thank you.

Please continue to follow COVID-19 procedures:

As you will be aware, there has been a larger than expected increase in positive cases of Covid-19 in Darlington over the past week. We are seeing the greatest proportion of cases in children and young people of school/college age who have not been protected by the vaccination programme, and these rates are continuing to rise.

The main variant circulating nationally and locally is the Delta variant. The evidence is that this variant is very easily transmitted. This means that it spreads much more easily in families, friendship groups and in any other situation where people are mixing, both indoors and outdoors. This also means that the risk of transmission in school is increased.

It is important to reinforce to everyone that the more robust people are in following the control measures, all of the time, the better protection for everyone there is.

We would like to encourage everyone to continue to follow our procedures:





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- Maintain social distancing within the school grounds.
 - Adults to wear face coverings within the school grounds.
 - Contact the school via telephone where possible to avoid any face to face discussions.
 - Contact the school immediately if your child has any of the recognised symptoms and arrange for a test.
 - Adhere to the allocated pick up and drop off times for your child's year group
- Thank you for your continued support in helping keep our community as safe as we possibly can.

Safeguarding:

If you have any safeguarding concerns about any of our children, please contact Mrs Murray on 07469 402630



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