



Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
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Newsletter - Friday 4th March 2022

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/>

Parents Evening:

You should have now received an email with instructions on how to book your parents/carers meeting. If you have not yet booked an appointment and would like to do so, please visit <https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk>.

Parents/carers who choose the face-to-face option must follow the guidance to keep both them and the staff safe. We appreciate that Covid guidance has changed however, we want to protect both you and the staff to meet safely.

- please conduct a lateral flow test prior to the appointment
- please wear a face covering at all times
- all staff will wear a face covering
- you will be invited into the classroom by the member of staff using the outside classroom doors - please do not come to the main entrance, go to your child's classroom. Parents/carers of children in Years 4 and 6 will be told the specific room to use.
- sanitise hands on entry
- maximum of 2 adults per appointment and no children to attend
- sit on the chairs provided
- the room will be set up so that the teacher is more than the recommended 2m away
- doors will be left open to ensure that the ventilation is good
- there will not be any books to look at during the appointment
- if there is a positive case in your household book a virtual meeting
- if there is an outbreak in that class then all appointments will be conducted virtually
- appointments will be 10 minutes long and staff will stick to these timings to ensure the evening runs smoothly

We thank you for your support. As you will appreciate, we want everyone to stay well.

Afterschool Activities:

If you have booked an afterschool activity on the School Gateway, please see below the dates that the activity commences. Your child must be collected by an adult at 4:15pm. Thank you.

Year 3 & 4 - Wednesday - Multisports - 3:00pm/3:05pm - 4:15pm - week commencing 7th March

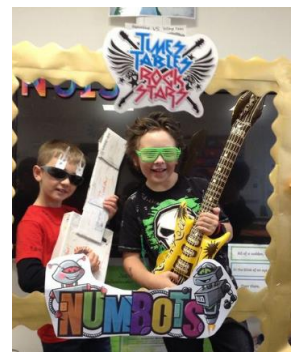
Year 5 - Wednesday - Boy and Girls Netball - 3:10pm - 4:15pm - week commencing 7th March

Year 5 & 6 - Thursday - Girls Football - 3:00pm/3:15pm - 4:15pm - week commencing 7th March

Reception - Thursday - Storycraft - 3:00pm - 4:15pm - week commencing 14th March

International Day of Maths:

We are celebrating International Day of Maths on Monday 14th March, the theme is 'Maths is Everywhere'. The children will take part in a fun maths competition in their classes with prizes to be won! To add to the maths theme, the children can come dressed as maths for the day. This could be very simple such as patterns, numbers, shapes, stripes, stars etc. on clothing they already have, or if they want to get creative, they could make something. They could even come as a Times Table Rockstar or a Numbot! For some fun ideas, [click this link](#) but please don't feel any pressure to create anything extravagant!





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Darlington Football Cup:

Well done to the Year 5 & 6 footballers who represented Whinfield at the Darlington Football Cup on Thursday. The children played amazingly winning 4 games and drawing two finishing 5th overall in the competition. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and performing their skills. You all represented Whinfield with brilliant behaviour and showed a positive attitude, well done everyone.

E-Safety:

You may have recently seen the BBC News coverage regarding a game/app called VRChat. It has caused a fair amount of interest from worried parents so we felt it would be helpful to share more details about the app. VRChat is mainly playable via the Hive and Oculus Quest VR headsets, so exposure to the app is limited as you have to own the VR headset to access it.

VRChat is basically a series of different interactive chat rooms and like all chat rooms I'm afraid children and young people can be at risk of accessing and being exposed to inappropriate behaviour, language and material. The app does feature reporting tools for users to report toxic and inappropriate behaviour and any child or young person you know who is using the app should be made aware of how to use these tools.

Parents and carers again should be encouraged to take an active role in relation to supervising what games and apps their children are playing and we strongly recommend setting parental controls on all gadgets and devices.

The following website is a great tool on how to set parental controls on the vast majority of gadgets and devices

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

While the BBC story has highlighted a great deal of concern about VR Chat and the potential risks to children using it. It's worth remembering that children and young people are still more likely to face similar risks and worse using more popular apps such as Tik-Tok, Instagram, Snapchat and even WhatsApp.

Parent Governor:

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join the Governing Body of Whinfield Primary School. We are therefore requesting nominations from parents/carers who are interested in serving on the Governing Body. A Parent Governor must be a parent/carer of a pupil at the school at the time they are elected. Please complete the form below no later than 12 noon on Friday 11th March 2022. Many thanks.

[Click here to complete the form.](#)

Continuing COVID Safety:

Please can parents/carers wear a face covering when they come into the school office. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please stay outside the green fence and wear a face covering.

Please LFD test your child regularly to help reduce the spread of Covid 19 and to keep everyone safe. If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 please isolate and book them a PCR test immediately. Thank you.

