



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

## Newsletter – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### 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/>

### Reading:

Last September we introduced the phonics scheme "Little Wandle." We purchased fantastic new home reading books that match the children's phonics level and reinforce the sounds taught in school, along with the appropriate tricky words. Reading the book through a few times aids fluency and comprehension and we encourage you to do this at home. Inside the cover of each book are the sounds that appear in the book and the tricky words and questions you can ask your child as you read - we hope you find these really helpful. The children also take home a pupil choice book. This book may be a book that your child is unable to read independently, so you can enjoy sharing and reading it together! Happy reading!

### Bikes and Scooters:

We are aware that many parents/carers are asking if children can ride bikes and scooters to school now the weather is better. We are currently looking at how we can store them as all children no longer enter school through the gates where the bike sheds/racks are located as they did pre-covid. We will inform you once a solution has been found.

### Year 4 Newham Grange Farm:

A reminder that the Year 4 children will visit Newham Grange Farm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June. The children will be able to see and learn about a range of animals, feed some of them and take a walk in a wood to see different habitats. We will be leaving school at 9.00a.m. and will return in time for normal home time. Please send your child into school with suitable footwear, comfortable clothes and a waterproof coat.

### Holiday Requests:

Please ensure all holiday requests are sent to the school office in writing, either by letter or via email BEFORE your child goes on holiday. Please ensure your request is submitted with as much notice as possible. Schools may not grant any leave of absence from school during term-time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Our full attendance policy can be found on our school website.

### A reminder about school opening times and lateness:

We want to remind all parents/carers the starting times of school as we have an increasing number of children who are regularly late.

#### Start times:

Reception - 8:50am	Year 1 - 9:00am	Year 2 - 8:50am	
Year 3 - 8:55am	Year 4 - 8:50am	Year 5 - 9:00am	Year 6 - 8:50am

- If the gate has closed you must bring your child to the main entrance and sign them into school.
- Please can parents/carers of the older children who walk to school themselves remind their child of these times.
- Attendance is a high Government priority. It is extremely important that your child comes to school every day so that they can develop the skills which will give them a lifelong love for learning and therefore the opportunity to succeed.

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### Year 6 Leavers Performance:

The Leavers Performance for parents/carers of pupils in Year 6 will take place Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July. It will start at 9:30am and will last for roughly half an hour.

### Sports Mornings:

We would like to invite parents/carers to our Sports mornings again this year. We have decided to limit it to one year group each morning to enable parents/carers to socially distance however, we are keen to give you the opportunity to come and join the school community as we did pre-Covid. Specific timings will be given nearer the date, but they will all take place during our morning session.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June - AM - Reception

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June - AM - Year 1

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June - AM - Year 2

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June - AM - Year 4

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July - AM - Year 3

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July - AM - Year 5

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July - AM - Year 6

### Continuing COVID Safety:

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, set out the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#) in England from Friday 1 April.

- If your child is unwell or has a high temperature, they **must** stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can come back to school, when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

Please be mindful when entering the school building and at drop off and pick up times. Please aim to keep your distance if you can. Thank you for your continued support.

### Parking Safety:

We cannot emphasise enough how important it is that cars park **SAFELY** on Augusta Close and in ASDA car park. Please ensure you drive at a sensible speed and be vigilant as you are driving and parking so that you are always watching where children are walking. The safety of our children is paramount.