



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

## Newsletter

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

### Welcome Back:

We hope that you have had a lovely half term and a nice break. It is lovely to see the children back in school.

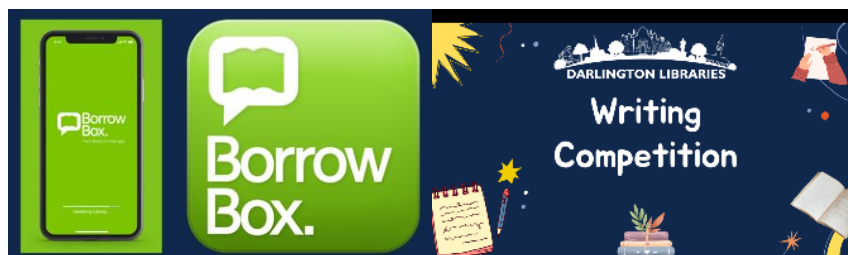
### GEMS Assembly:

The winning team for the weekly GEM Trophy was **Diamond**. Well done to everyone in Team **Diamond**! Find out about our GEM procedures here: <https://whinfield.net/parents/gems/>

### World Book Day:

The children thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day! Thank you for your support dressing the children in their Gem colours so that they could celebrate our Whinfield Gem Values through books. The children created their very own top trump cards, depicting different characters. They gave them scores for each of the different gem powers. The children impressed the teachers with their vast knowledge of characters from hundreds of different books. We were particularly impressed that the children were able to articulate how each of the characters demonstrated each of Whinfield's Gem Values. Throughout the day the children have enjoyed lots of story related activities. Some have created their own book covers in the style of Lauren Child, placing themselves as the main characters. Everyone also had the opportunity to listen to stories read by teachers from a different year. An amazing day celebrating our love for books and the magical world of stories.

We also celebrated the winners of Darlington Library's Writing Competition. We were impressed at the high standard of creative story writing which made it incredibly hard to choose the winners. Certificates and books were handed out to the winners in special assemblies, where the children listened to the fabulous stories written by our pupils. You can read the winning stories and see the winning illustrations by downloading the Borrow Box app (available in the apple store or androids play store), simply log in using your Darlington Library member information. (Please contact Darlington Library if you require support to do this)



As a follow up to yesterday's activities, each class awarded a special Top Trumps Gem Certificate during the Gem assembly this morning.

### Year 5 and 6 girls Football Cup:

Well done to the children who took part in the Girls football cup yesterday. They enjoyed playing against other Darlington Schools and all played exceptionally well.



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### Academy Consultation:

All children should have brought home the academy consultation document on Wednesday. Further information is on the school website.

### Parents Evenings:

Parents Evening is now available to book. Please visit <https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments.

### International day of Mathematics:

We are celebrating International Day of Mathematics on Tuesday 14th March, the theme is 'Maths for Everyone'. The children will take part in fun maths activities and investigations throughout the day. 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.

For some fun ideas, [click this link](#) but please don't feel any pressure to create anything extravagant!

### Afterschool Activities:

Monday - Reception and year 1 - Numbots club - 3:15pm - 4:15pm  
Monday - Year 2 - Dance - 3:15pm - 4:15pm (carried on from Spring term 1)  
Monday - Year 3 and 4 - Gardening club - 3:15pm - 4:15pm  
Monday - Year 5 and 6 Lego Club - 3:15pm - 4:15pm  
Monday - Years 5 and 6 - Netball - 3:15pm - 4:15pm  
Thursday - Years 5 and 6 boys' and Girls football - 3:15pm - 4:30pm

All activities will start week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and finish week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Children need to be collected after the club by an adult from the Asda entrance. If your child is attending a sporting activity, please send them to school in their school PE kit (no football strips).

### Parking Safety:

We cannot emphasise enough how important it is that cars park SAFELY. Please do not park across driveways or in bus lanes. You must 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.

### Vacancies:

We currently have vacancies for a Buildings Maintenance Supervisor and a cleaner. For more information and information on how to apply please visit our website. <https://whinfield.net/our-school/job-vacancies/>

### Breakfast and afterschool childcare.

Please ensure all sessions are booked and paid for 7 days in advance through School Gateway. We are no longer able to accommodate any 'ad hoc' or late bookings due to numbers. The childcare is now full most days and due to staffing ratios we have to limit places. Any children who just turn up and are not booked on will be turned away and parents contacted to collect them. We are also unable to amend or cancel any bookings that are out of the 7 days notice. Any changes you wish to make with the 7 days notice period can be done through the School Gateway app. Once you have booked your sessions, please double check all sessions are correct by clicking on manage bookings.





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## Uniform:

**School uniform should be worn in school by all children.**

The school uniform is red, white and grey:

### Winter:

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan with or without school logo (hoodies are for PE only)
- White shirt or white polo shirt with or without school logo
- Plain grey skirt (knee length) / pinafore or trousers
- Red Fleece can be worn in addition to sweatshirt Autumn / Winter 2022/23 (Covid guidance requires windows to be open to provide ventilation in classrooms)

### Summer:

- Red sweatshirt, cardigan or pullover with school logo (hoodies are for PE only)
- White shirt or white polo shirt with or without school logo
- Plain grey skirt (knee length) / pinafore or trousers / shorts
- Red and white checked dress

### Footwear

- Plain tights / socks
- Sensible black shoes without heels - no training shoes or logos
- Summer - plain flat sandals with a back support may be worn - white, black or red
- Winter - Wellingtons or plain boots may be worn but should be changed to indoor shoes
- Children may bring trainers into school for the days they participate in the 'Active mile'

If it is your child's PE day children should come to school wearing the School PE kit:

- For indoor - Black shorts and red t-shirt (with or without school logo), plimsoles NOT trainers as they damage the hall floor.
- For outdoor - Plain Black jogging bottoms & red or black hoodie (with or without school logo) , trainers (or football boots for football)
- For Year 4 and top up Swimming - Towel, swimming costume and cap (if children have long hair), waterproof bag.

## Important Dates for the Spring term:

Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Educational visit - Preston Park
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Parents Evening Please</b> visit <a href="https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk">https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk</a> to book your appointments.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening (excluding 6AB) Please visit <a href="https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk">https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk</a> to book your appointments.
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	International Day of Maths
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	6AB Parents Evening Please visit <a href="https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk">https://whinfield.schoolcloud.co.uk</a> to book your appointments.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day (more information to follow)



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Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 Easter performance - "Where the answers lie" Performances will be 10am and 2pm. More information on how to book tickets will follow.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	School closes for Easter holidays

