

# Whitchurch C of E Primary School

## School Matters

12/09/25

Dear Parents

Welcome back. What a brilliant week it has been! I would like to start my first newsletter by saying a huge thank you for the very warm welcome I have received so far. Everyone I have spoken to, both staff and parents, have said that the strength of this school is the community – and I can honestly say I agree.

I have loved getting to know the children this week and I am very proud of how well they have returned to school after the holidays and settled straight back into school life.

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey that I sent out. I have been analysing the feedback with SLT this week and will also be sharing this with governors. The overwhelming strengths that came through were that for the vast majority, you feel **your children are happy, safe and make good progress at Whitchurch**. This is fantastic, as I strongly believe that our primary aims should be to ensure our children are happy, enjoying coming to school and are passionate about learning. Equally, you felt that overall, our curriculum is engaging and offers wide range of opportunities.

However, a few consistent areas were highlighted that we will look to develop further. These included:

- Offering a wider range of extra-curricular opportunities
- Improving overall school communication
- Ensuring consistent behaviour management
- Reviewing our homework policy

Your comments have been very helpful and I have already begun conversations with staff on how we can drive improvements in these areas – particularly the first three. Homework is a tricky balance to get right though, therefore I will be sending out another survey next week to try to understand what the specific challenges are.

It was also lovely to see so many of you at the coffee morning this week, we will look to put another one on soon. I hope your children have had a great start to term. Enjoy the weekend.



**Mr D Ware**  
Headteacher

### Key Messages:

**PE Uniform** – Please ensure your child has the correct uniform, our guidance can be found here. Children should not be wearing any form of football kit or tight sport shorts (black leggings or short leggings are acceptable).

**KS2 Snacks** – All children are able to bring in a morning break healthy snack. However, these must be separate to their lunch boxes and kept in the locker. For example, fruit, bread roll, plain crackers, carrot/cucumber sticks. It should not include cereal bars, chocolate bars, cakes or crisps. The children don't have access to lunch boxes during the morning.



## Key Dates

Next Week – Lunches Week 3

Thu 25 September – Testbourne open evening 6-8pm (Open Mornings – via booking, Tue 30 September, Thu 2 October, Wed 22 October 9am)

Tue 7 October - Individual photos

Mon 13-Thu 14 October - Parent consultation week (details to follow)

Mon 20 October - Whole school flu immunisations (details to follow)

Fri 24 October - Inset day

Mon 3-Fri 7 November - Book look week (details to follow)

Wed 12 November – Whole school visit to All Hallows (helpers needed)

Thu 13 November – Open Day for Sept 26 starters – 10-11am or 6-7pm (no need to book)

Mon 24-Fri 28 November - Year 6 Calshot trip

Mon 1 December - Inset Day

Thu 11 December – KS2 panto visit to school

Mon 5 January – Inset day

Wed 21 January – Year 5 Hampton Court

Thu 12 February – Year 3 Fishbourne

Fri 17 April – Year 1 Jungle Jonathan visiting

Friday 22 May – Inset day

Mon 15-Wed 17 June – Year 4 Ufton Court

Thu 18 June – Class and group photos

[School holiday dates](#) | [Education and learning](#) | [Hamshire County Council](#)

# Celebration

## Year R Stars of the Week

Starting soon!

### Pumas News

We are excited to let you know that Mrs Woodward is pregnant and will be due to go on Maternity leave around February 2026. I am sure you will all join us in congratulating her. Mrs Kaschula will be continuing with the class so they have consistency, and we will be advertising for a maternity cover soon. We will keep you all updated as this progresses.

### Lead Learners

Seahorses – Darcy  
Turtles – Barney  
Dolphins – Harvey  
Seals – Angus  
Jaguars – Ben  
Leopards – Olive  
Pumas – Amelia  
Tigers – Harriet  
Doves – Alex  
Kingfishers – Jack  
Falcons – Isla  
Kestrels - Callum

### Roll of Honour

Seahorses - Thea  
Turtles – Matilda  
Dolphins – Eden  
Seals - Meadow  
Jaguars – Jesse  
Leopards - William  
Pumas – Violet  
Tigers – Leo  
Kingfishers - Esme  
Kestrels – Summer and Isabelle

## Focus Year – Reception (Year R)

It has been a real pleasure welcoming the new Year R's and their families into school this week. They have been learning the new routines and making new friends. We have had a great start where they have shown kindness, friendliness and super listening as well as using some lovely manners when asking for things. We are excited to begin their learning journey and see them flourish.



## Secondary School Applications

Applications for current Year 6 children to start secondary school can be submitted [online](#) now. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025.

## Prayer

Dear God, at the start of another year in the life of our school, help us to enter into the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We thank you that we do not travel life's journey alone, but together with others, and that you promise to guide and keep us along every step of the way. Amen.



## School Fundraising

FOWPS AGM - Thursday, 18th September at 8pm

Find out more about FOWPS – how we raise money, where that money is spent and vitally how you can get involved at our online AGM.

We're looking for new committee members to join us this year. Several of our current team are moving on as their children have left the school, so we need fresh faces to keep things running! And after 2.5 years, Jamie is stepping down, so we will be looking for a new Chair. Being on the committee doesn't mean committing to every event. Members choose in advance which events they can help plan or attend, so it's flexible and manageable around busy lives.

If you have any questions ahead of the AGM please message us on Facebook or email [fowpschairp@gmail.com](mailto:fowpschairp@gmail.com).

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zqi-nxrd-udd>

### Match Fundraising

Rising costs coupled with a drop in funding may lead to FOWPS spending more than they raise this year to provide the children with the events, activities and equipment that they enjoy so much throughout the year. YOU CAN HELP! Match funding can double the funds raised by FOWPS. It really helps us meet our targets. Please ask your employers if they match funds for charity fundraising. It's quick, easy and could make all the difference.

Want to keep up to date? Have any ideas for fundraising?

Find out more at our website [www.fowpswhitchurch.co.uk](http://www.fowpswhitchurch.co.uk) or follow FOWPS on Facebook FOWPS

If you would like to help with any FOWPS activities – please enter your details [HERE](#). You can do as much or as little as you like. If you can regularly donate or match fund, please see the details on our [HOW TO DONATE PAGE](#)

You can also email us at [admin@fowpswhitchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@fowpswhitchurch.co.uk)



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## We're trialling Squirrel Scouts in Whitchurch - join the adventure!



We're looking at what the interest for Squirrel Scouts would be in Whitchurch by holding four weeks of free taster sessions.


**Age 4 - 5.5?**

You are so welcome to join us and try out Squirrels! Make friends, play games and learn skills for life. Come to our taster sessions and see how much fun can be had! Adults stay for the fun.

**Can you help?**

Following the taster sessions, in order to make Squirrels a reality in Whitchurch, we need a dedicated team of adults to lead and support our Squirrel Drey. No matter your experience, if you're enthusiastic - we want you! Speak to us at the sessions to find out more.

 Thursdays 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, 9<sup>th</sup> Oct, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct & 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

 5:00pm - 5:45pm

 Testbourne School  
Sports Hall

Please let us know you'd like to  
attend by emailing-

 [ellie.selwood@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:ellie.selwood@hampshirescouts.org.uk)