

Whitecross Nursery Autumn 2 Newsletter

It has been lovely to get to know our families during this first half term. We hope you have a lovely Autumn half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back in November.

Autumn and Harvest

When the children return to school after the half term break, the nights will be darker, the weather will be cooler and we will be learning more about Autumn.

Children will be heading out on to the park behind school for Autumn walks and our thoughts turn to those less fortunate than ourselves. Each year, we open a Harvest table and welcome any donations of:

- canned goods
- toiletries
- nappies
- sanitary products
- dried foods

We send our donations after the break to the Derby Food Banks, who are very grateful for any support at this time of year. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

How you can help at home:

Give your child time to try and practice new independence skills, such as dressing, undressing, toileting, self feeding.

Share stories and nursery rhymes with your child at home.

Let your child help you with simple tasks around the home.

Applying for Reception places

Applications will open to apply for your child's place in early November. Applications must be completed by January 15th 2027. We will send out a message on Tapestry when the application window opens, with a link to the online form. It is very important that, if your child is due to start school in September 2027, you complete this form. If you need help completing the application, please contact the office. We are more than happy to support you.

Being "school ready" means being able to:

- ✓ Use the toilet independently
- ✓ Wipe after using the toilet with no support
- ✓ Wash/dry hands without support
- ✓ Independently use cutlery
- ✓ Drink from an open cup
- ✓ Put on and fasten a coat
- ✓ Independently put on hat, gloves, socks and shoes
- ✓ Blow my own nose
- ✓ Find and put away belongings
- ✓ Recognise their name
- ✓ Ask for help when needed

Winter Clothing

Caterpillars

Caterpillar children need to bring a warm waterproof coat every day. As it cools down, your child may need a hat and mittens. Please label everything!

Butterflies

Butterfly children need to bring a warm waterproof coat and a pair of elasticated waist waterproof trousers every day. As it cools down your child may need to bring a hat and gloves/mittens (please support your child to practice putting them on independently). Please label everything!

Lunch Boxes

Please can you add your child's name to the outside of their lunch bag. Please ensure there is an ice pack in the bag as the heating will be going on in school, and we don't have fridges to keep them in.

A polite reminder that we are a nut and sesame free setting. Therefore, children cannot have:

- pesto, as it contains pine nuts
- Hummus, as it contains tahini which is a sesame based product
- sweets, because they are a choking hazard and not a substantial food

Please can you not send food products in plastic bags or glass dishes, thank you.

TAPESTRY

Please make sure you check your tapestry app regularly for updates on your child's learning journey and information from school.

Scopay & Fees

- All fees are managed through Scopay
- Please notify us once payments have been made
- Ensure funding codes are up to date

A reminder that Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If you have any concerns, please call us or pop in to the office. The email address is monitored out of school hours, or you can contact the police.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

Mrs FitzPatrick
Miss Noblet
Mrs Smyth
Mrs Collins
Mrs Parker

Key Contacts

dsl@whitecross.derby.sch.uk
01332 371876 to speak to us in-person

Further information

Our [website](#), [UK Safer Internet Centre](#), [The NSPCC](#), [Gov.uk websites](#)

Mark Your Calendar

19th-23rd Oct		26th-30th Oct		2nd Nov		13th Nov
Parent Consultation Week		Half Term Break		Return to school after break		Children in Need day
2nd Dec		4th Dec		10th Dec		16th Dec
Butterflies' Christmas Concert & Fair		Caterpillars' Christmas singalong & Fair		Christmas Jumper Day		Christmas Party Day for all children
18th Dec		4th Jan		5th Jan		
Break up for Christmas Holiday		School closed to children for staff Inset day		Children return to school		

This calendar currently shows our key dates for children and families up to the end of term and includes return dates after the Christmas holidays.

Illness

Winter is the season for germs. Whilst attendance is very important, if your child is really poorly they may need time at home to recover and prevent the spread of germs to staff and to their friends. Thank you.

Funding Codes

Please double check your funding code, if you have one, is up to date. If your code runs out, you will need to pay for any sessions over and above the basic 15 hours. Any existing Working Parent codes must be renewed every term. You will get an email reminding you and it takes just a few minutes to renew. Thank you.