



Whitecross Nursery School Newsletter

Your child, your inspiration

Spring - 26th February 2024

A Happy Half Term

What a wonderful half term we have had in nursery. Our January starter children have settled in beautifully through the term and all our children are happy and thriving in the setting. We have had rain, wind, snow and ice but now the days are becoming longer and on some days we even see blue sky in the garden. The children have loved our once upon a time learning this term and are busy telling stories in their play. We have enjoyed eating porridge, spring rolls, prawn crackers and pancakes as we learn and we have had so much fun inside and out. We hope you all enjoyed a lovely half term break and that you all come back refreshed and ready to see what the new term brings.

Thank you

A huge thank you to Specsavers Opticians in Derby who have kindly donated 80 high-visibility jackets to nursery for children to wear when we are out and about in the locality and on our school trips. This fabulous generous donation will help keep our children safe and recognisable when out and about.

Nursery out and about

We will be venturing out and about in the coming terms as the weather improves and the children are more settled. All children will be invited on our school trip to Conkers shortly. Three coaches will be taking staff children and volunteers for an exciting day outdoors, more information will follow soon. We will also be going onto the park for spring walks and up to the shops on Kedleston Road and will be heading into town on the bus to explore museums in Derby city. We will be asking for family volunteers over the coming terms so if you could consider any time you or grandparents could spare we would be very grateful.

Healthy Teeth

There is a national agenda to improve the health of children's teeth. Here at Whitecross we are keen to promote good oral health with our children. We have looked at ways to reduce the amount of sugar that children consume throughout the day to promote good oral health but without reducing calories. We have an oral health pack for every child and will pop them in their pigeon hole from the week commencing 26th February. The pack contains a new tooth brush and tooth paste. All children should have their teeth brushed twice daily by an adult whilst they are under five. The recommended brushing time is two minutes. All children should be regularly visiting the dentist every six months from when their first tooth appears. Child dental checks are free to the age of 18 years. If you want any further information speak to a member of staff, your health visitor or a dental practice. Happy brushing!



Lost Property

Please name all of your child's belongings. If your child's clothes have names in them we can return them to you. If they are not named and they get lost we leave it in the green lost property box in the school entrance. This box gets very full with un-named items. Please can you check the lost property box for any missing items regularly throughout the term?

Unclaimed items are donated to charity shops during school holidays.

A huge **THANK YOU** to those who name everything their child brings. It makes everything so much easier for everyone. Also a **THANK YOU** to all families who have returned things that have accidentally gone home with the wrong child. Everyone's kindness, help and vigilance is greatly appreciated.



ClassDojo

We hope you are enjoying seeing what we do in nursery on ClassDojo. Class Dojo does have a messaging service, however we ask that parents please email the school office with information, questions or queries as staff are busy with children throughout the day and they do not always see the messages which can be important.



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Safeguarding for Families

The school designated safeguarding leads will monitor the DSL emails on dsl@whitecross.derby.sch.uk. The DSL email address is monitored on weekends and throughout the school holidays.

If you have any concerns about a child then please contact the above email address or telephone the police as Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

All school staff have undergone significant safeguarding training. The Whitecross Safeguarding team are Mrs FitzPatrick DSL, Miss Noblet and Mrs King are both Deputy DSL's. If there is anything you want to discuss with us about safeguarding or you have any concerns please call school on 01332 371876 or email on the above address. We are here to help.

Please take a look on the school website or head on to the UK Safer Internet Centre, the NSPCC or Gov.uk websites for online safety advice for families. Online safety is such an important part of keeping children safe. Feel free to speak to a member of staff for advice or signposting to further support.

Diary dates for this half term

4 th – 9 th March	World book week. Bring in one of your favourite books to be read in school.
Thurs 8 th March	Dress up as a book character for world book day
11 th – 15 th March	Bring a joke week, can all children learn a joke at home to make their teachers laugh?
Fri 15 th March	Comic relief day, dress in red
18 th - 22 nd March	Spring week, children will be heading out of Nursery on a spring walk
25 th – 28 th March	Celebration week, Eid, Holi and Easter crafts, food and activities
Thurs 28 th March	Break up for Easter holidays
Mon 15 th April	Inset Day, school closed to children for staff training
Tue 16 th April	Children return to school for the summer term



Winter illness

During a child's year at nursery, parents can expect them to catch lots of common childhood illnesses. This allows them to build antibodies and by the time they move on to school they have often built up a resistance to lots of germs. Unfortunately this means that children can often become ill at nursery. Norovirus, flu, Covid and other illnesses are on the rise again this winter alongside common illnesses such as chicken pox, coughs and colds. To keep everyone safe; children, staff, parents and grandparents then please –

- ✓ If your child has suffered from sickness and diarrhoea, they must to be kept off from school for 48 hours. The germ can remain in their body even if they feel well quickly and it can easily spread around other children and staff.
- ✓ If your child develops Covid symptoms please do not be complacent and assume it is not Covid, you never know. Please follow government guidance and keep children off school for three days or until they are better.
- ✓ If you or any other adults test positive for Covid please notify school and arrange for someone else to drop off and pick up your child.

If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office by email or phone on the first morning of their absence. Please do not telephone the school from 8.50 to 9.15am as we are unable to welcome families and answer the telephone at the same time, thank you

Thank you so much for your support in this matter.

It is crucially important that everyone follows the rules to ensure the health and safety of everyone.



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Long Hair

Please ensure that all children with longer hair wear it up in a bobble daily. Many schools and nursery are reporting that nits are very much around and we have had a few cases in nursery last term. If you forget your child's bobble, ask in the office for a spare one. Please remember to return any spare bobbles loaned. Thank you

Food and Drinks

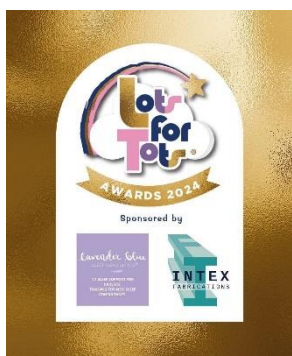
Children must **not** have any water bottles, juice bottles, sweets or snacks in their bag each day. Due to potential choking, allergies and general safety we ask all parents and carers to respect this.

All children have access to drinks throughout the day. Children are offered snacks each morning and afternoon.

Children only bring food when they have a packed lunch which is agreed with the school office. Lunch boxes are left in the school entrance during the day to stop children taking food out their bags during session times.

Pack lunches should **not contain any form of nuts** as we do have nut allergies in school and we are a nut free site. Packed lunches should offer children a balanced diet with a mixture of food groups and their contents are monitored by school staff.

Many thanks for your continued support with this



Pre-School of the Year Award

Thank you if you have already voted, if you haven't there is still time.
Please share with friends, family who can also vote for us.

We've been nominated in the Preschool Provider of the Year category in the Lots for Tots Derbyshire Awards 2024. We are very proud and would love to have your vote!

You can cast your vote at <https://lotsfortots.co.uk/awards/>
Voting closes February 29th at 5pm. Thank you for your support.

Other Reminders

- Please remember to send **named** spare clothes in your child's bag and please return any borrowed school clothes as quickly as you can, thank you.
- Please label **everything** belonging to your child and everything in your child's bag, clearly labelled with your child's name. If they are not labelled we cannot guarantee that they will come home with the right clothes. Also if it is written in, please check it regularly as they can wash out!
- Please notify us of any change of telephone number, change of address or change of family circumstance, we need to know this for your child's safety, thank you.
- If your child needs any prescribed medicine in school please download the form from the website or take one from the office. This must be completed and signed daily before we can administer any medicine. Do **NOT** put any medicine in a child's bag, please hand it to the office, thank you.
- If your child is prescribed antibiotics then they may not return to school for 24 hours after starting the medicine. This allows the medication to start working and to ensure your child does not have any reactions to their medication.

Remember you can ask any member of staff if there is anything you need to know. You can email school at admin@whitecross.derby.sch.uk or telephone on 01332 371876 to speak with staff at any time, before or after your nursery session. It is always best to check in if you are unsure about anything.

Many thanks for your continued support.