



Whitecross Nursery School Newsletter

Your child, your inspiration

Spring 2, 27th March 2024

Good bye and Welcome

A huge Good luck and Good bye to Mrs King. She is moving on to a new school and role and we wish her every success and happiness. I know she will stay in touch and remain a good friend.

A warm welcome to Mrs Naomi Smyth who will be our new teacher and also our new SENDCo at Whitecross. She is very excited to meet you all during the summer term. Mrs Smyth will be teaching for a number of sessions throughout the summer term and will begin her new role properly in September. We will pop her photograph on the school website to help children to become familiar with what she looks like. ☺ Mrs FitzPatrick will become acting SENDCo for the summer term.

Things to bring and not to bring to school

This term hopefully all children can bring their waterproof trousers daily in their bags, unless it is raining on arrival in which case please arrive in them ready to play. Fingers crossed it will soon be time for sun hats and sun cream.

Please name everything you child brings each day, our lost property box in the entrance is ever growing

We can return lost named items but not unnamed ones, thank you!

- ✓ Please do bring waterproof coat and trousers daily
- ✓ Please do NAME items in bags; hats, sun hat, gloves, jumpers etc. as appropriate
- ✓ Please do not put carrier bags inside their draw-string bags as we do not allow any plastic bags in nursery
- ✓ Please do not bring any cuddly toys or special things from home in pockets or bags, they do get lost or broken
- ✓ Please do not send any food or drinks into nursery other than food in packed lunch boxes for those who do not have a hot school lunch. All children can have a drink at any time

School places in September

Children starting school in September will find out which school they will be attending in April. Whilst this is very exciting for parents, older siblings and wider families, it can also be a time of great anxiety for our nursery children. Please consider that talking about a new school now, when they do not go until September, can be unsettling and cause worries for your child. In nursery, we do not talk about new schools until later in the summer term in June and July. Our very young children do not have a grasp of time and often think they are going straight away and as they are not prepared, it can be a scary thought. Please try not to talk about change yet with children, please let them enjoy their time in nursery without the pressure of talking about new schools, new teachers and new learning. Transitions will begin in June and July and that is the time to start to prepare for a new school.

Thank you very much for working with us on this. ☺

School Ready

We have asked all our feeder schools what is most important for children to be school ready in September. This is what they all wanted

- Independently putting on and fastening coats, hats, gloves, shoes and socks
- Recognising their own name
- Holding a pencil properly
- Being independent with toileting
- Using a knife and fork independently
- Being able to ask for help
- To remembering to say please and thank you naturally without being prompted

Please could you support us by giving your child time and support to practice these skills during the Easter holiday and summer term.

Lunchtimes

A number of children have now taken up the option bringing a packed lunch daily. Please can you ensure that there is an ice pack in their lunch box as we do not have the space to store them all in the fridge? If you would like your child to bring a packed lunch rather than have a hot lunch over the summer term, please let Mrs Chapman know in the office as soon as possible, thank you.

Please note that all children who bring a packed lunch are not allowed to bring any nut products into school. This includes Nutella, chocolate spread, cereal bars that contain nuts or any other products as we are a nut free site. Many thanks for your support and cooperation with this.

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 Deputy DSL. 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.

Social media

We have a Whitecross Facebook page and Instagram account for our families. Please follow us and look out for news on our social media pages. See you on there. We can be found on Instagram: [Whitecross_nursery_school](https://www.instagram.com/Whitecross_nursery_school) and Facebook: [facebook.com/Whitecross.nursery](https://www.facebook.com/Whitecross.nursery).



Whitecross Nursery School Newsletter

Your child, your inspiration

Other helpful reminders

- Please remember to send **named** spare clothes in your child's bag.
- Please return any borrowed school clothes, washed and dried as quickly as you can, thank you.
- Please label everything belonging to your child and everything in your child's bag. 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 a paper copy from the office. This must be completed and signed daily before we can legally administer any medicine. All medicine needs to be in the original bottle, box or packaging, it must have a pharmacist's printed label on it with your child's full name, the date and dose. Without this we cannot legally administer it.
- Please email the school office if your child is poorly or going to be absent for any reason. We need to know why children are absent for school registers for Derby City Council.
- 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 to talk to us any time, before or after your nursery session. It is always best to check if you are unsure about anything.

Many thanks for you continued support with these matters

Childhood Illness

During a child's time at nursery, parents can expect them to catch lots of common childhood illnesses. Children are very good at sharing all germs amongst themselves and staff. 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 common germs. Unfortunately this means that children can often become ill at nursery. Norovirus, flu, Covid and other illnesses are on the rise again 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 can easily spread around other children and staff.
- ✓ If your child develops a high temperature or a rash please keep them away from school until you have taken advice from your GP.

If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office by email or phone on the first morning of their absence.

Thank you so much for your support in this matter. Whilst it can be inconvenient it is crucially important to ensure the health and safety of everyone. We do have children in our Whitecross family who do have compromised immune systems and need us all to be vigilant so we can help to keep them safe and inform them if any nasty germs are spreading around.



Nursery out and about

We have had a wonderful time out of nursery on our spring walks. The children were so well behaved and interested in the changing patterns and nature growing all around them. They also loved wearing the high visibility jackets that were donated by Specsavers whilst out and about. Many thanks to Specsavers!

Dates for your diary

Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term, we break up for the Easter holidays
Monday 15 th April	INSET Day school closed to children
Tuesday 16 th April	Children return to nursery
Wednesday 24 th April	School trip to Conkers
Monday 6 th May	Bank holiday, school closed
Tuesday 14 th Wednesday 15 th & Thursday 16 th May	Stay and Play Session
Friday 24 th May	Break up for spring bank holiday half term
Monday 3 rd June	Return to school

