



Whitecross Nursery School Newsletter

Your child, your inspiration

Autumn 2, November 2024

Our Nursery

We have had a wonderful first half term in nursery. Both the Caterpillars (two year olds) and Butterflies (three/four year olds) are happy and busy spaces. All children are making wonderful progress. It was a privilege to welcome parents and carers into school to discuss how well the children have settled and their progress. This new half term is a very busy and exciting one as we celebrate harvest and head towards Christmas. Please check out the diary dates on the last page of this newsletter.

Our Harvest Table

We are very lucky to be able to offer our children so many wonderful opportunities. Yet at this time of year, we turn our attention to those less fortunate than ourselves. Harvest is a time of sharing and giving and we have a tradition of showing others we care. On Monday 11th, we will put out a harvest table in the entrance to nursery. It will be there all week. If you can, please donate any items you can spare to help families in Derby in severe food or hygiene poverty. Please ensure any food donations are dried or tinned. We cannot accept fresh goods, sorry. Soap, shampoo, deodorants, nappies and feminine hygiene items are also gratefully accepted. We will deliver our donations to the Salvation Army food bank in the city centre. We appreciate that many families are experiencing some hardships at this time, but thank you so much for anything you can spare.



Funding codes, Payments & Primary School applications for Butterfly children

Please check and renew your Working Parent Eligibility codes for January, if you have one or applying for a new one. If codes are not renewed in time then children will need either to reduce their hours or pay in full for anything above fifteen universally funded hours. All payments to Whitecross for snack etc. are completed through Scopay. You will have received a link to set up your account from the school office. Please contact us if you have any issues with this.

School admissions opened on 3rd November 2024. You must apply for your child's school place by 15th January 2025. Please look out for open days in infant or primary schools you are interested in and visit them.

ClassDojo

All parents have received links to ClassDojo. Once activated, on your account you will be able to see your child's personal learning journey at nursery and follow the school story of activities we enjoy throughout the year. Where there are two parents, both parents of each child are set up on every child's account.

Please continue to share with us photos and information about your child's achievements at home. Staff can then use the pictures to develop speech and language as well as understand more about your child's next steps and learning journey.

If you have any issues with using ClassDojo then please ask at the office and we will be happy to help you get started.

Lost Property

If your child's clothes have names in then we can return it to you. If it does not have a name and it gets lost, we leave it in the green lost property box in the school entrance. Please can you check the lost property box for any missing items throughout the term? Many thanks for naming everything your child brings. It makes everything so much easier for everyone

In addition, a huge thank you to all families for returning things that have accidentally gone home with the wrong child. Everyone's vigilance is greatly appreciated.

Safeguarding for Families

The school designated safeguarding leads will monitor the DSL emails on dsl@whitecross.derby.sch.uk 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 and 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.



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Library

All of our Butterfly children have now been given a library bag and had their first library book over the half term break. There is a name tag and card with their library day attached to the bag. Please send your child in with the library bag on their allocated day each week and a volunteer will help them to change their book. Please do not send it on other days as we do not have the capacity to change books more than once a week.

Our Caterpillar children will be starting their library sessions in the coming weeks.

A huge thank you to our amazing library volunteers! We could not run the library without you giving up your time. ☺ ☺

Please close the gates

A polite reminder to our families to please close the gates behind you when dropping off or collecting children. At drop off and collection times the doors are open. Our children are carefully monitored in nursery but we have had instances of dogs running into the waiting areas and sometimes school which can cause great anxiety for children.

Thank you very much

Waterproof trousers

A huge thank you to families for sending children in waterproof trousers ready to play as they enter nursery. In the winter months staff and children wear waterproofs through the morning and afternoon to allow them to free flow inside and outside. We appreciate that some children struggle to come in their trousers and so we will support those children to put them on in nursery each day.

Lunchtimes and Snacks

- All our children enjoy a social lunchtime together. Children can enjoy a hot lunch provided by school or bring a home packed lunch. **Packed lunches cannot contain any nuts or products containing nuts.** Due to allergies, we do not have any nuts in the building. Please check the contents of cereal bars and any other products and children cannot have Nutella, peanut butter or chocolate spreads in sandwiches.
- Lunchtimes in Whitecross are happy calm times. If there are any issues with children not eating, we will let you know. No news is good news.
- Our menu can be found on the school website and on the school notice board. Please see the website for the new autumn/winter menu starting this week.
- Children can have a drink at any time throughout the day and all children are offered a snack of fresh fruit and a carb product such as malt loaf, fruit loaf, crackers, bread sticks, etc. each morning and afternoon. Children can choose milk or water at snack times.
- Please do not send any food or drink bottles from home in bags please, many thanks.

Other Reminders

- If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office by phone on the first morning of their absence. 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 and easily spread around other children and staff.
- All clothes, bags, coats, shoes, and wellies should be 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!
- It is important that you provide school with the relevant details of who is collecting your child from school. Please inform any member of staff of any changes to the routine. We cannot send children home with adults we were not expecting to collect them. Also a reminder that if you continually late to collect your child then then you will be charged a late pick up fee.
- Please ensure children **do not** wear any jewellery to nursery. We do not permit children to wear real or toy rings, bracelets or necklaces; unless worn for religious reasons. This is because it will get lost, broken or can get caught on play equipment causing injury. Only very small stud earrings are permitted in pierced ears. Thank you.
- Please 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.

Many thanks for you continued support.



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Diary dates	
Monday 4 th November	Return to school from half term
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th November	Children out in the environment on autumn walks & Harvest table open for donations – thank you!
Wednesday 13 th November	Open Evening for prospective families
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 19 th , Wednesday 20 th , Thursday 21 st November	Stay and play sessions for parents to come into school
Wednesday 4 th December	Butterflies Christmas Concert & Mini Fair 2.00 – 3.00pm All children welcome even if it is not your normal nursery session
Thursday 5 th December	Caterpillars Christmas Crafts and Mini Fair 9.00 - 10.00am All children welcome even if it is not your normal nursery session
Wednesday 18 th December	Butterflies Christmas party with a special visitor 1.45 – 3.00pm All children welcome even if it is not your normal nursery session
Wednesday 18 th December	Caterpillars Christmas party with a special visitor 2.00 – 3.00pm All children welcome even if it is not your normal nursery session
Friday 20 th December	Last day of term
Monday 6 th January	Nursery closed to children for a staff training (INSET) day
Tuesday 7 th January	School reopens for children