



# Whitecross Nursery School Newsletter

*Your child, your inspiration*

Spring 1, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025

## Our Nursery

Welcome back to our existing children from our Christmas break, it is lovely to have you back again. Also a very warm welcome to the new families that have joined Whitecross this term, in both the Caterpillars (our two-year provision) and the Butterflies (our three and four year provision) rooms. Most children have settled in well and they love all the fun activities we have to offer. Some children are finding coming to nursery daily a little tricky. All children are different and we will continue to support all families in whatever way they need it.

## Hair bobbles and jewellery

Please can all parents of all children with longer hair ensure it is tied back daily in a bobble. Head-lice have been kept at bay recently, but are easily spread if they returns. We have noticed a high number of children coming into Nursery with hair dangling down. Hair then gets in their food, playdough, paint, mud and everything else. All children need to develop good habits with long hair, as this is also a request at school when they get older. Please tell your child that they need to keep their bobbles in rather than pull them out and we will reinforce this message in nursery. Thank you very much for working with us on this issue.



## Red gloves

Every child in Butterflies got a pair of red gloves for Christmas. Please send them in their red gloves each day. Please do not name them. We also have a number of pairs of red gloves in Nursery. If one gets lost, we will have another to give you. Hopefully then nobody loses their gloves. We have ordered more pairs of our new children who started in January. ☺



## ClassDojo

All new 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. Thank you to the families who continue to share with us photos and information about your child's achievements at home. Staff use the pictures to develop speech and language as well as to 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.

## Pushchairs

Some children arrive in a pushchair to nursery each day. Outside of the Caterpillars' room on the school car park is a large pushchair store for children attending nursery who need to arrive in one, mainly our younger children. Our older children in the butterfly room will gradually not need to travel in their pushchair this term as they begin to walk to nursery in preparation to get ready for school. Please leave pushchairs in there to protect them from the weather. Please do not leave shopping or belongings on the pushchairs.

## Car Parking

**Please do not park in front of the nursery school gates as access is required at all times.**

The gates are the emergency vehicle access for school, food deliveries arrive through those gates at various times and staff need access to the car park at all times! We have very limited parking for staff and they have different start times each day. Some staff have been unable to get into the staff car park ready to start work as cars are parking in front of the gates, blocking them when dropping off a child to nursery on a morning.

Once the nursery gates are open after 4.20pm onwards on an evening, parents are invited to use the carpark when collecting children from after-school club. Many thanks for everyone's support with this. ☺



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## **Safeguarding for Families**

The school designated safeguarding leads will monitor the DSL emails on [dsl@whitecross.derby.sch.uk](mailto: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. Alternatively, pop in to the office for a chat about any support we can give regarding keeping your children safe. We can advise on internet safety, where to go for help if you need it or just have a chat about any concerns you may have.

We are here to help.

## **Collection children**

Please can we ask that only one person comes into nursery to collect a child at the end of a session? Collection times are very busy and too many adults around can be overwhelming in our small cloakrooms. Please can any adults collecting please put away all mobile phones when entering the building. Staff will not hand over a child to anyone using a mobile phone. Please end all calls before you enter nursery. Many thanks.

## **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? 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.

## **World Book Day**

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day. To celebrate, we are inviting all children who attend on a Thursday to come wearing their pyjamas for bedtime story day! More information to follow.

## **Library**

All of our butterfly children have a red library bag and take home a new library book each week. There is a name-tag and a day label attached to each bag. Please send your child in with the library bag on their allocated day each week and a volunteer will kindly 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.

We have ordered book bags for our caterpillar children who will be starting their library sessions in the coming weeks.

Thank you very much to our amazing library volunteers! We could not run the library without you giving up your valuable time. 😊 😊

## **HELP - Please name your child's belongings**

**All** clothes, bags, coats, shoes, and wellies must 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. This includes hats, coats and shoes.

Also if it is written in, please check it regularly as they can wash out!

The only things we do **not** need labelled are your red gloves

Thank you!



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## Please close the gates

A polite reminder to our families to please close the pedestrian nursery gates behind you when dropping off or collecting children. At drop off and collection times the doors are open and keeping all gates closed after you pass through them keeps all children safe. 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 thought the morning and afternoon to allow them to free flow inside and outside. We do 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 and drink.
- **Packed lunches cannot contain any nuts or products containing nuts.** Due to significant 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.
- Children can have a drink at any time throughout the day.
- 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 as we monitor our choice of snacks very carefully for children with allergies.

## Other Reminders

- If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office by phone on the first morning of their absence explaining the reason for the 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 it can easily spread around other children and staff.
- 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.
- If there is anything you need to know, please ask any member of staff. You can email school at [admin@whitecross.derby.sch.uk](mailto: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	
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Chinese New Year
11 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent consultation week
17 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half term holiday
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET Day, school closed to children for staff training
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Story telling week
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Pancake day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day – come dressed in your pyjamas for a day of stories
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Walks
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Mother's Day
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for the Easter holidays
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Return from the Easter holidays



## 30 hour codes and payments

Please check and renew your Working Parent Eligibility codes before the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 if you have one or you are 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. Thank you for setting up your payment links and all families who are currently up to date with payments. Please contact us if you have any payment issues.

If you choose to pay through tax-free childcare, then please ensure you email the school office to notify them of your payment.

In addition, a gentle reminder that funded hours cannot be used to pay for food. Families are charged a snack fee per session booked and for hot lunches eaten.

## Nappies and pull-ups

Please ensure you send a couple of nappies for the children not yet toilet trained in the Caterpillar room, or pull-ups for those not yet toilet trained in the Butterfly room, daily for your child in their bag along with wipes. We do keep some spare products here for emergencies.

Please let staff know when you start potty training and we will support you, particularly as some of the butterfly children now head towards the summer term and starting school.

