



WHITSTONE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter Spring Term - Issue 1



MESSAGE FROM MRS MOULD

Welcome back to school!

It has been a blustery start to the new term! Thank you for your understanding and support regarding the early school closure yesterday; it is greatly appreciated. We are thrilled to report that our children have returned to school with smiles and an abundance of energy! They have dived straight into their learning, and we couldn't be prouder. Class teachers will soon share this term's topic information along with related home tasks, which will help reinforce the learning taking place in the classroom.



Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable weekend!

Mrs Mould

PE DAYS - SPRING TERM

We are pleased to be able to share PE days for this term. Here's the schedule:

- Explorers: Monday
- Voyagers: Monday
- Adventurers: Wednesday and Friday
- Trailblazers: Thursday and Friday



COLD WEATHER

As the weather continues to be chilly, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm and waterproof coat, including optional extras like hats, scarves, and gloves.



SCHOOL START TIMES



A friendly reminder that our school day begins promptly at 8:45am, with both gates opening at 8:40am. If your child arrives late, please ensure they come via the front office, where they can walk to their classrooms independently, or a staff member will be available to assist younger children.

We kindly ask that parents refrain from walking through the school after 8:45am to maintain a safe and structured environment for all children.

Punctuality is crucial for fostering responsibility and independence in our children, and it also helps them settle into their day smoothly.



TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

We would like to remind all parents that holidays taken during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances and will result in unauthorised absence. If your child is absent without authorisation, it may lead to penalties under the Education Act 1996. Unauthorised absences could result in a penalty fine issued as £80 per liable parent, per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 per liable parent, per child if paid after this but within 28 days.

Please read the statutory statement regarding unauthorised absence during term time.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days. If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.



SPRING TERM CLUBS

We are excited to offer a variety of clubs this Spring Term, providing opportunities for enrichment and social interaction outside of the classroom:

- Daily Breakfast Club
- Monday: Games Club
- Tuesday: Wellbeing Club
- Wednesday: Year 6 SATs Club
- Thursday: Computing Club
- Friday: Film Club



All clubs, except for the SATs Club, are £2 per child per session. Please book and pay through Arbor.

MISS COSTAR

We are delighted to welcome Miss Costar to our Whitstone Team! She will be working as a Teaching Assistant in Voyagers Class, supporting children across Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 in the mornings and some afternoons, as well as a lunchtime supervisor each day.

Miss Costar brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and we are excited to have her on board.

This role is vital in enhancing the educational experience for our children, and we look forward to the positive contributions she will make to our school community.

WELCOME

NURSERY PLACES

We are pleased to announce that we have spaces available in our Nursery for children aged 2 to 4 years, with funded places for up to 30 hours.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01288 341241 or email school@whitstone.cornwall.sch.uk.



SAFE PARKING

For the safety of our children and the surrounding community, we kindly ask that parents do not park on the zigzag lines outside the school or block neighbours' driveways. We have received complaints from neighbours in recent months, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment during drop-off and pick-up times.

Respecting our neighbours and ensuring safe access to the school is crucial for the well-being of our children. We encourage families to walk or cycle to school where possible. Thank you for your understanding and support in fostering a positive community spirit!

