



A FAMILY, A FOUNDATION, A FUTURE

Whitminster C of E Primary School Newsletter September 1

Welcome Back

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer holiday and enjoyed all the sunshine, we were very lucky! It has been lovely to see all the children settle back into school life so well. We have really enjoyed welcoming the new reception children and see them enjoy their new environment. Thank you all for your lovely thank you cards and gifts. We really appreciate everything, and it has been so kind of you to share such thoughtful words and gestures with us.

A message from Mrs Read

I would also like to say a huge thank you for all your kind words, cards and gifts you gave me at the end of term. I hope you have all had a lovely summer, and that the children enjoy their new year groups.

Year 6 Roles

Well Done to all our Year 6, they all will play such a vital role in school life this year.

Team Captains



Ethos



Sports, Achievement, Digital and School Helper



Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 9th September

We are pleased to invite parents and carers into their child's classroom for our Meet the Teacher evening on Wednesday 10th September. This will be a lovely opportunity to meet the class teacher and hear more about the year ahead. Teachers will talk about routines in classrooms, homework, class expectations and more, helping families feel informed and confident about the term ahead.

Please note the class times below so you can attend the session for your child's class:

- 3:30pm – Class 3
- 4:00pm – Class 4
- 4:30pm – Class 2
- 5:00pm – Class 1

PE Days

To make the most of lesson time, children should come to school in their PE kits on their allocated day. This helps the school day run smoothly and gives pupils optimal time to spend in lessons. Please also remember that earrings will need to be removed for their PE session or after-school club.

- Monday – Class R (Reception)
- Tuesday – Class 2 (Year 1 and 2) **Please note the change of day.**
- Wednesday – Class 3 (Year 3 and 4)
- Thursday – Class 4 (Year 5 and 6)

Groupcall

We will be continuing to use Groupcall as our way to contact you, this will be email or text message. If possible, please could you download the app. It will help to save the school money. Many thanks.

<https://groupcall.com/school-app/>

Contact

Each class teacher has an email that you can use to contact them directly. Please remember that teachers will not always answer immediately and may not always see messages in the mornings, so if you need to pass on a message, it is best to do this at the door.

- Mrs Pickering and Mrs Tidmarsh – class1@whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk
- Miss Gardiner – class2@whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk
- Mrs Lanceley – class3@whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk
- Mr Wright – class4@whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk

Absence

If your child is going to be absent, please ensure you let the school office know either by phone or email before 9:30am. Staff will not always be checking their emails in the mornings, so this early notification is very helpful. Thank you.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is vital for children to achieve their full potential. Every day in school supports learning, wellbeing, and social development. We value strong partnerships with families to encourage excellent attendance and ensure every child has the best opportunity to succeed.

Every day counts. Every lesson matters.

A reminder that Unauthorised absence may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by the Local Authority. A first offence can result in a fine of **£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days**. Repeat offences may lead to higher penalties or legal action.

School Council

If your child would like the chance to be on school council, they will need to complete a manifesto and return to school by **Thursday 10th September**.

Play Equipment

Children should not play on the equipment before and after school. This is because the school's insurance is not valid at these times and staff from school are not supervising. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

Curriculum in the Autumn Term

Each class will be exploring different historical periods this autumn term, giving pupils an exciting opportunity to learn about the past in a range of ways. Class letters are being sent out and will give further information, so please look out for these in the next week.

Assembly Theme

The theme for term 1 will be Wisdom. We encourage parents to spend some time exploring this value with your child using the attached home/school information worksheet. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from attendance at Religious Worship are asked to discuss this with the headteacher.

Online Safety

Please find attached the July newsletter. It has information about AI and YouTube.

They have also produced a video and this month, it is all about: **Staying safe during school holidays**.

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/09-2026-Back-to-school-and-AI-Sept-2026.mp4>

Snacks and Drinking Water

For a morning snack, children need to bring in a piece of fresh or dried fruit or vegetables only. Under the Government scheme, all infant children receive a daily free piece of fruit or veg, so please do not send anything else. No nuts please.

Children should also be sent in with a clean named water bottle and encouraged to drink water frequently during the day. This helps support their wellbeing and keeps them ready for learning.

Data Collection Forms

These will be sent out in the next couple of weeks alongside the privacy notice. Please read very carefully and check all the details are correct, change any that are incorrect and then sign and send back to the school office. If all details are correct please sign and still send back. Many thanks.

Dursley Rugby Club

Please find attached a poster about their club and different age group teams the children can join.

Dates:

Clubs letter will be sent home next week.

Wednesday 9th September

Monday 21st September

Monday 21st September

Thursday 23rd October

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Monday 2nd November

Monday 23rd November

Friday 18th December

Monday 4th January

Class Meetings

Flu Nasal Spray

Clubs start

End of Term

INSET

Start of Term

Book Fair (all week)

Clubs finish this week.

End of Term

Start of Term

Behaviour Policy 2026 – Please take note of our policy.

We set high standards for behaviour at Whitminster and we have a clear behaviour policy that we follow. The whole school, teaching staff, teaching assistants, midday supervisors and supply staff will use the 'Good to be Green' behaviour scheme. The School's behaviour policy is led by the School's Vision Statement and by the school values.

These are displayed in every classroom and in key areas in the school. They are frequently discussed and used with the children to develop each class's own more specific set of rules, and rules for conduct around the school and the playground. These guidelines are also shared with parents. They are used to reward children and also to sanction them.

These values will also be linked to our assembly themes.

At the beginning of each year every teacher in the school with responsibility for a class teaches the children the school's behaviour system.

Class Rewards

- **Normal classroom praise.** Words of praise, saying something positive that will have an impact on the child/ren. If a child has a particular target they are trying to reach reward their efforts towards this.

When a child does something the teacher feels needs more than normal classroom praise they can receive a further reward from the list below. The more special the action the greater the reward.

Each year group may have reward systems that are pertinent to their group of children.

- **Golden Time** In KS1 for a period of 30 minutes each week, in KS2 one afternoon per term children are rewarded for their good behaviour with Golden Time. The children in consultation with the teacher can choose activities to do – often a water fight in Class 3 in the summer term!
- **Team points** We have three school teams (a cup is given to the winning team, for sports day and overall team points) Final tally is given in celebration assembly. Team points are awarded in class.
- **Values award**
Each term children are awarded weekly for demonstrating the collective worship value and/or the school values. These awards change to reflect the current whole school topic.
- **Visit other members of staff** Allow the children to get positive recognition from other teachers and staff and to show them that everyone is committed to the system.
- **Certificates and Awards** Each week in Celebration Assembly the children are rewarded in front of the whole school for their efforts. It could be a piece of work, several pieces of work, good behaviour or a target they are working towards.
- **Termly Star Award** Staff nominate a pupil from their class to receive this award, pupils will be given a special gold star badge and their name written in the book to be displayed in the office and given a book token.

Sanctions

After exhausting normal classroom practice, if the child still doesn't respond then the following sanctions can be used.

A **yellow card** is issued for inappropriate behaviour and displayed by the pupil's name. This is a visual warning that their behaviour is inappropriate and should be modified. The card can be removed if the behaviour improves.

A **red card** is issued, if after the yellow card there has been a further incident of the same inappropriate behaviour or behaviour that is so severe that it requires further action.

- **Loss of Golden Time** If a pupil receives a red card then they have lost some of their 'golden time'.
KS1 – 5 minutes, KS2 – 15 minutes
- If a pupil loses all their golden time, this will result in the head teacher writing to the parents informing of their child's behaviour.
- A record of red cards will be kept in each class so that recurring patterns can be identified and if appropriate used as evidence to support further actions that may need to be taken e.g. A child being put on a pupil support programme, or involvement of outside agencies.