

Thursday 19th October 2023

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 7



I cannot believe it is half term already! It has been seven weeks of busy work, excellent learning and lots of fun too. The children are very well established in their new classes and routines and have made an excellent and happy start to this academic year.

Next half term will be equally as busy. We start the Monday back with school photographs. There are a couple of reminders and things you can do to help us run this as smoothly as possible. The morning Dragons Den session will move to the main hall on this day. Sibling groups for children already attending school will be taken during the school day. If you have a sibling not attending our school, then please come at 8.30am with all children to have photographs taken them. Unfortunately, we are unable to take wider family pictures (parents, cousins etc). Due to GDPR and safeguarding matters, we are also unable to take class photographs. It gets a little bit busy but we will get through everyone!

Thank you to those who have bought tickets for our Halloween disco in the first week back. As ever, they were very popular and sold out quickly! Whilst our present arrangement allows for a greater number of children to attend than in the past, our halls are not big enough to accommodate every child in school. It is unsafe and illegal to have more pupils than the fire regulations allow. This is because the school and halls were built for a school of 200 pupils and we now have 425 and we are unable to make them any bigger. Going forward, we will discuss this with the PTA to see if any further adjustments can be made. In the meantime, we will be holding a dress-up day on Friday 3rd November to ensure that everyone can participate in some way. Thank you for your understanding with this. A big thank you to our PTA who have worked very hard to arrange this experience for our children in their own time and for the good of the children of the school, it is much appreciated! Watch this space after half term for some exciting news for them about Christmas plans.

Wishing you all a happy half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday 30th October.

Mrs Backhouse.

Attendance

Whole School Target: 97%

Whole School Average Attendance to Date: 96.5%

This week's winning class: 2W 99.7% Super!

Harvest Assemblies 2023

Our Harvest assemblies will be led by Stuart Willis (ALM) and Rev. Jason on **Thursday 19th October**. We will be collecting Harvest donations on this day which will go to Rochdale Food Bank. A letter from the foodbank can be found at the end of this newsletter. Please send donations into school with your child.

Photographs

Individual and family photographs will be taken on Monday 30th October. All children should come to school in uniform. If your child has P.E. on this day, they may come to school in their trainers. The school will be open from 8.30am for photos with siblings who do not attend the school.

GB Athlete Visit Monday 16th October

Thank you to everyone who sponsored pupils to participate in the fitness circuits with GB athlete, Anthony Cotterill. Pupils loved completing the energetic circuit and hearing Anthony speak. Please send sponsor money into school with your child.

Half -Term Break

School will close for the half-term break on Thursday 19th October. School will re-open on Monday 30th October. We wish all our families a lovely break.

Reading

Please try to listen to your child read aloud at least 3 times a week. School does not require a long comment in their reading record book - the date and a signature will suffice. Being a fluent reader is important for access to all curriculum areas. The school subscribes to Serial Mash (accessed through your child's Purple Mash account) and Phonics Bug for KS1 and EYFS, if your child prefers a digital reading book. Pupils are awarded extra dojos for reading at least three times a week.

We thank you for your support.

Stars of The Week

Well done to the following children for winning our Star of the Week Award:

Nursery: Hashim	5M: Jackson
R1: Aleena	6W: Jacob
R2: Caleb	6M: Zara
1W: Alf	
1M: Matilda	
2W: Zayn	
2M: Josh	
3W: Daniel	
3M: Oscar	
4W: Chase	
4M: Alizah	
5W: Sophie	



Lunchtime Stars Golf Vouchers

We will be awarding up to ten vouchers per week for two free rounds of mini golf at Rochdale Putt Stars for children who display excellent behaviour at lunch times, both when they are eating and when they are playing outside. Congratulations to our winners for last week: Charlie, Maryam, Hollie, Phoebe, Annum, Hattie, Laibah, Uzair, Oscar and Mason.

Thank you to Rochdale Putt Stars for offering this scheme to the school.



Thursday 19th October 2023

School Council / Eco Council

The school council met on Monday to vote on their chosen charities for this year which are Manchester Children's Hospital and Dogs' Trust. We will be holding fundraising events for both of these charities, later in the year.

During the first two weeks back after half-term, councillors will be selling poppies and poppy-related items such as wrist bands for the Royal British Legion. Please send your child in to school with a donation if you would like to support this worthy cause.



Dojo Winners

Well done to all our dojo points winners for last week:

Nursery: Austin

R1: Darcy	5W: Ben
R2: Nelly	5M: Oliver
1W: George	6W: Eliza
1M: Teddy	6M: Madisah
2W: Lucy	
2M: Cecilia	
3W: Alfie	
3M: Olive	
4W: Stanley	
4M: Hattie	

PTA News

Non-Uniform Day Friday 13th October 2023

Thank you to everyone who supported our non-uniform day on Friday 13th October 2023. All monies raised by this event will be used to purchase prizes for the Halloween discos.

Pumpkin Carving Competition

If you would like to enter the PTA Pumpkin Carving Competition, please bring your entry into school on Monday 30^h October 2023 and leave it on the school field. Please put your child's name and class underneath it. A prize will be awarded for the best entry in each year group. Please send the £1 entry fee into class with your child. All monies raised will go to the PTA.

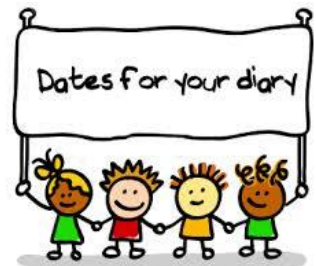
Halloween Discos

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a ticket for the PTA Halloween Discos. All tickets have now been sold. If you did not manage to purchase a ticket, all children may come to school dressed in their Halloween costume on Friday 3rd November 2023.

Please can parents with children attending the KS1 disco, be mindful that for many of our younger pupils this will be their first disco without parents. Please think about this when it comes to costumes - please don't be too scary!

Dates for the Diary Autumn Term 2023

We try to include as many useful dates as we can but suggest that you keep checking this list over the following weeks as dates may be added or amended. Please contact school if you have any queries relating to dates of events or holidays.



Thursday 19 th October 2023	Harvest Assemblies - please send in donations for Rochdale Food Bank
Thursday 19 th October 2023	School Closes for Half-Term
Monday 30 th October 2023	School Re-Opens
Monday 30 th October 2023	Annual pumpkin carving competition. £1 to enter. Please leave entries on the school field.
Monday 30 th October 2023	School Photographs from 8.30am

Thursday 2nd November 2023	Flu Vaccines Reception to Year 6
Friday 3rd November 2023	Halloween Dress Up Day & After School Discos
Monday 6th November 2023	Remembrance Assemblies
W/C 6th November 2023	Scholastic Book Fair in School
Tuesday 7th November 2023	Prospective New Parents Open Evening 6pm - 7pm
Friday 10th November 2023	Neeli Mosque Assemblies
W/C 13th November 2023	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 14th November 2023	Parents' Evening 1
Wednesday 15th November 2023	Parents' Evening 2
Friday 18th November 2023	Children in Need - non-uniform, small donation, please.
Tuesday 21st November 2023	Open morning for prospective parents 9.30am and 11am
Friday 24th November 2023	PTA used uniform sale after school
Friday 1st December 2023	Advent Assemblies
Monday 11th December 2023	PTA Christmas Event Day in school
Tuesday 12th December 2023	Reception Christmas Concert 9.30am
Wednesday 13th December 2023	Year 1 Christmas Concert 9.30am (please note change of date)
Thursday 14th December 2023	Year 2 Christmas Concert 9.30am (please note change of date)
Friday 15th December 2023	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
Tuesday 19th December 2023	Nursery Christmas Concert 10am
Tuesday 19th December 2023	KS2 Christmas Carol Service St Paul's Church 10am
Wednesday 20th December 2023	Whole School Christmas Party Day
Thursday 21st December 2023	Star of the Term Assembly
Thursday 21st December 2023	Pupils finish for the Christmas break



**ROCHDALE BOROUGH FOODBANKS
HELPING THOSE IN NEED IN OUR BOROUGH**

**Heywood Foodbank
Middleton Foodbank
Rochdale Foodbank**

13th September 2023

Dear Headteacher

September 2023

It's the start of another school year and one which will present significant challenges to you and your staff. However, as we approach the **Harvest Festival Season**, would you please consider collecting non-perishable food and toiletry items to donate to our local foodbanks in Rochdale, Middleton and Heywood.

We are very conscious that parents will be experiencing severe financial pressures due to the continuing high energy costs and the significant increase in the cost of living. Please therefore stress that even one tin or packet will be very welcome, or even a 'bag for life'.

The same pressures are causing demand for our services to continue to rise considerably. Regular donations are vital to meet this demand and the Foodbanks rely on the generosity of the people of the borough. Even so, sometimes food has had to be purchased to meet demand, which is not a sustainable situation.

So, please help! **If you want to help, please contact us by telephone or email.** The names, addresses and contact details of the foodbanks are given below. Each of our foodbanks is grateful for the support given to them by you, your staff and pupils as well as local people, community groups and Rochdale Borough Council, who see and understand the needs of families in our area and are willing to stand with them by donating food so generously.

Rochdale Foodbank: 14-16 Newgate, Rochdale OL16 1BA. Open Mon – Fri 11am- 12.30pm

Email: info@rochdale.foodbank.org.uk Phone: Cath on 07840 701428 for more Harvest information and resources

Heywood Foodbank: Heywood Baptist Church, Chapel St, Heywood. Open Monday and Friday 10am-12noon

Email: info@HeywoodFoodbank.co.uk Phone: 07396 071193 for more Harvest information and resources

Middleton Central Foodbank: The Lighthouse Project, Middleton Shopping Centre, Limetrees Rd Middleton. Open Monday and Thursday 11am – 1pm

Email: info@middletoncentral.foodbank.org.uk Phone: 0161 643 1163 for more Harvest information and resources

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Fell
Schools' Coordinator (Rochdale Foodbank)
On behalf of all the foodbanks