

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

A very warm welcome back to all our children and families, especially those new to school. It has been lovely to see the children return to school with such happy faces and settling into their new classes. Our youngest children have made a fabulous start to their time with us too. It has been lovely to share news of the holidays and also to hear all about what the children are looking forward to this year.

We welcome Mrs Meg Chapman who will be working alongside Mrs Orley in our nursery and is a very welcome addition to the Whittaker Moss team!

We will shortly be sending out our annual data collection sheets. **Please, please** fill them in and return them as soon as possible, even if your details have remained the same.

We have put some dates in the diary for this term. This includes a 'Meet the teacher' opportunity next week for the parents of KS1 and KS2 children. Children would like to show their parents their new classrooms at the start of the year, and it gives parents the opportunity to put a face to the name for teachers. The sessions are straight after school for 15 minutes and are an opportunity to say hello. We have more formal parent/teacher consultations planned for later in the term which will cover academic/settling in information. KS1 parents are welcome to pop in on Tuesday 8th September and KS2 parents on Wednesday 9th September.

This term we are due to complete the process for joining ALTUS Education Partnership. We have worked with ALTUS for a number of years and are excited for this next stage for the school. Our working date for completion is the start of December, and we are hoping to meet this target. More information can be found on our school website.

There has been much in the press over recent weeks regarding attendance and new expectations from the DfE for both schools and parents. We have reshared our information leaflet below, please take some time to familiarise yourself with the information.

We look forward to another successful and productive year at Whittaker Moss, working in partnership with our families and providing the very best for all our children.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
Mrs Backhouse.

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Attendance

Our attendance target for the year is 97%. Please ensure your child is in school, on time, every day. Please ring school and leave a message on our attendance line if your child will be absent for any reason. Please do not book holidays in term time. More information about this is at the end of the newsletter.



Reminders for the New School Term

Please remember that children are only allowed to wear simple stud ear-rings and a watch to school. On a games or PE day it would be helpful if your child does not wear their earrings to school. If they do have their ear-rings in, they need to be able to take them out themselves. If they are either unable to as they have just been pierced or cannot take them out by themselves, please send them in with some medical tape to place over the ear-rings.

P.E. Kits

Children are asked to come to school dressed in their Games kit on their P.E. days. Class teachers will inform you on what day(s) P.E. is. Please label all items of clothing, including pumps and coats. Please do not purchase P.E. kit with logos, it is an unnecessary expense - the school P.E. kit is a plain white t-shirt with plain black or navy-blue jogging bottoms / shorts, which can be purchased cheaply from supermarkets.

Parking

Please can parents/carers remember to park considerately on the car park and ensure that cars are parked in the designated bays only. Do not stop and drop off at the front of the school office. Please do not park in disabled bays unless you are a blue badge holder. Highwood car park also has a one-way clockwise system - please could you ensure that you follow this to prevent any accidents.



Parent Pay

Please can parents/carers of children new to the school activate their Parent Pay accounts. Please speak to the ladies in the office if you are having trouble accessing your account.

New data collection sheets will be sent out shortly. Please complete and send back to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. It is important that we have the most up-to-date contact information.

Uniform Appeal

A massive thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA's uniform appeal over the summer term. There is still lots of good-as-new uniform left if you would like to purchase any spares for a small donation. Please speak to one of our PTA committee members to find out more.

Thursday 3rd September 2026

Collecting After School

Please inform the office if an adult different to the adults on your named list is going to collect your child after school. Please let us know before two o'clock on the day they are collecting.

European Day of Languages

We will be celebrating European Languages Day on 25th September 2026. Please see the end of the newsletter for further information about this event.

Awards

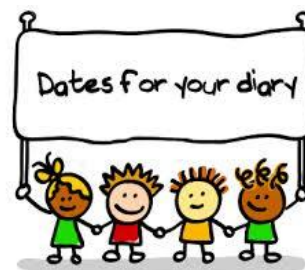
Dojo winners will be announced on the newsletter from next week. Every child in school has been assigned a virtual Dojo monster. Dojo points will be awarded for excellent effort, good manners, reading at home, great homework and super behaviour. The child with the most Dojo points each week will be awarded a certificate in class. The pupil in each class who receives the most Dojo points in a term will receive a reward. Star of the Week Certificates and Lunchtime Star Certificates will also be awarded from next week.

Year 6 Mount Cook Meeting

We will be holding a meeting for parents of children attending the Mount Cook residential in September/October at 5.30pm on Wednesday 9th September.

Dates for the Diary Autumn Term 2026

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.



Tuesday 8 th September 2026 3.30pm - 3.45pm	KS1 Meet the teacher (In classrooms straight after school)
Wednesday 9 th September 2026 3.30pm - 3.45pm	KS2 Meet the teacher (In classrooms straight after school)
Wednesday 9 th September 2026 5.00pm	Year 4 Parents Multiplication Check Meeting
Wednesday 9 th September 2026 5.30pm	Mount Cook Residential Meeting for Year 6 Parents
Thursday 10 th September 2026	Neeli Mosque Assembly
Thursday 10 th September 2026	Year 6 Football Tournament
W/C 14 th September 2026	Before and after school clubs commence
Wednesday 16 th September 2026 5.30pm	EYFS Parents' Reading Meeting
Friday 18 th September 2026	Jeans for Genes Day (non-uniform), small donation, please.
Friday 18 th September 2026	School Council and Eco Council Voting Day
Friday 22 nd September 2026	Year 3 Stone Age Workshop
Friday 25 th September 2026	European Languages Day
Friday 25 th September 2026 9.15am	Macmillan Coffee Morning in Highwood Hall
Wednesday 30 th September - Friday 2 nd October 2026	Year 6 Mount Cook Residential
Wednesday 7 th October 2026	Year 6 Crucial Crew - Rochdale Football Club
Friday 9 th October 2026	World Mental Health Day & Parent Coffee Morning
Tuesday 13 th October 2026	School Council Network Event
Monday 19 th October 2026	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 20 th October 2026	Individual & Sibling Photographs from 8.30am
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	School Closes for Half-Term
Friday 23 rd October 2026	INSET Day
Monday 2 nd November 2026	School Re-Opens
Tuesday 10 th November 2026	Parents' Evening 1 4-7pm
Wednesday 11 th November 2026	Parents' Evening 2 4-7pm
Wednesday 11 th November 2026	KS1 Visit To Cenotaph
W/C 16 th November 2026	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18 th November 2026	Prospective New Parents' Evening 5.30pm
Friday 20 th November 2026	Children in Need - non-uniform, small donation, please.
Friday 20 th November 2026	Year 2 Royal Opera House Online Workshop

Tuesday 24 th November 2026	Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am
Wednesday 25 th November 2026	Open morning for prospective Reception parents 9.30am

Christmas Activity Dates To Follow



European Day of Languages

On Friday 25th September we will be taking part in the European Day of Languages. Each year group will be focussing on a different country where they will research the language spoken, landmarks, famous/significant/inspirational people, food, music and flag etc. We will all come together via Zoom at the end of the school day to share our research with each other. The children can come into school/nursery in non-uniform on this day and, if possible, it would be great if they could wear the colours of the country flag they are researching.

Nursery/Reception - France (blue, white, red)

Years 1/2 - Germany (black, red, gold)

Years 3/4 - Spain (red and yellow)

Years 5/6 - Italy (green, white, red)

The official theme this year is 'Languages Unite!' to emphasise the role of languages in **connecting people** and **breaking down barriers**.

Thank you for your support with this event.

Mrs Orley (MFL Lead).



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing!

With the introduction of the new Department for Education National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

What is a Penalty Notice?

A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behavior they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences will result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold met – in each individual case, the school **must** consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate.

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent (even if they do not reside together) for each child that was absent.

For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

A school day has two sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Rochdale LA have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.