

Thursday 10th September 2026

Whittaker Moss Primary School Newsletter 2

As we come to the end of our first full week back in school, I am really pleased and impressed with how all of our children have settled back into school routines and wider school life. As we walk around the school, we see lots of smiles and engaged children and lots of positive talk about their work and friendships.

Lots of our children have expressed interest in putting themselves forward for some of our whole class and school roles such as House Captains, School Council and Class Librarians. Please ask class teachers and check information on this letter for details of deadlines and how to apply.

Thank you to all the parents who have attended our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions this week. It has been a chance to visit classrooms, say hello to new teachers and see where your child spends their day! We have also held parents' information meetings for Year 4 (Multiplication) and Year 6 (Residential) parents. If you were unable to attend these, please reach out to your child's class teacher so we can make sure you receive the important information that was shared.

This year we are aiming to increase our club and events participation even higher than it has already been. If your child doesn't usually attend one of our extra-curricular clubs but would like to, please encourage them to come and speak to us about taking part. It would be lovely if all children were able to attend at least one activity each week. As always, if an activity is full, we will keep children's names on a waiting list for a spare place or a priority place the following term.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.
Mrs Backhouse.

Attendance:

Please read the information at the end of the newsletter regarding attendance. Winning attendance classes will be announced from next week.



Summer Reading Challenge

If your child completed the library Summer Reading Challenge, please send them into school with their certificate for their class teacher to see. Anyone completing the challenge will receive a reward from Mrs Cadogan early next week.

Jeans for Genes Day Friday 18th September

Children may come dressed in their jeans (or non-uniform) for a silver donation on Friday 18th September. They may also wear their own top and sensible footwear. The school has supported this worthy charity for many years so please support this fundraising event.



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 earrings 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.

Clubs

To allow us time to gather pupil voice around the types of clubs pupils would like school to offer, clubs will now recommence the week beginning 21st September. Thank you for your understanding about this.

House Captains

Congratulations to Sienna, Annum, Uhyab, Finn, Harriet, Piper, Bruce, Amelia, Bobby and Oscar who are our new house captains. They all wrote excellent applications for the role. They will be responsible for announcing dojo points winners at assemblies and keeping the running totals of dojo points for our house teams.

Outstanding Medical Information

Please ensure that any asthma, allergy or health care plans are returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible so that we can ensure our medical information is up to date.

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.

Lost Uniform

School has been informed of several children losing new items of uniform. Please check that your child has brought the correct uniform home as many of the lost items are labelled. If you find your child has brought another child's uniform home, please return it to your child's class teacher.

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School Council / Eco Council

Voting for school and eco councillors will take place on Friday 18th September. A councillor will have the responsibility of taking ideas and suggestions from year one and the foundation stage to ensure that their voice is heard. Children will have the opportunity to make a speech in class or share a PowerPoint presentation during the week leading up to the voting day. Please encourage your child to put themselves forward for nomination if they are interested in being a school councillor or eco rep.

Awards

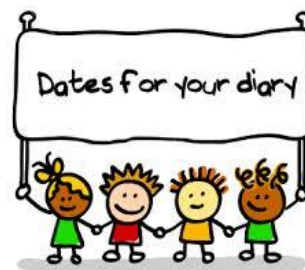
Dojo winners will be announced on the newsletter from next week. Every child in school has been assigned a virtual Dojo monster. Dojo points will be awarded for excellent effort, good manners, reading at home, great homework and super behaviour. The child with the most Dojo points each week will be awarded 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 announced from next week.

Year 6 Mount Cook / Year 4 Tables Check

Thank you to all parents who attended the meetings on Wednesday. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you were unable to attend as they will have an information pack to share with you.

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.



Thursday 10 th September 2026	Neeli Mosque Assembly
Thursday 10 th September 2026	Year 6 Football Tournament
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
W/C 21 st September 2026	Before and after school clubs commence
Tuesday 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'.