

Summer Term Update 3

Dear Parents and Carers

Sports Day

As you will all know, Sports Day is scheduled for next Tuesday, 16th July. The part of the day which you are invited to watch begins at 12.30pm (15 minutes earlier than previous years). As the pupils will be eating their lunch and getting ready, we will not be opening the pedestrian gates until **12.15pm** in order to keep the site safe. Please do not arrive before then as you will not get access to the school grounds. Thank you for your understanding.

School Gateway

We have been asked to add a link to School Gateway – the online payment website we use – on our school website. We will get the link in a prominent place but until we do, I have added a link to the Parent Info page, one click off the home page. I hope this helps.

If you have any other school related websites you think you would like access to via our school website, please do let me know and I will see what we can do.

Class Names

I mentioned in my blog a few weeks ago that we will be changing the way we name our classes. We have two classes from September which will be taught by more than one member of staff and therefore the traditional way of 'Year Group and Staff Initials' will no longer be appropriate. We also don't want to use a collection of 'objects' which don't have any relevance to the school's curriculum.

For that reason, we have asked each year group to come up with names which have a direct relevance to our curriculum which is particularly relevant given the new emphasis being placed a school's curriculum by Ofsted and the DfE. From September our classes will be known by the following names:

Year 3	Miss McGurk	Aztec Class
	Mr Lord	Mayan Class
Year 4	Mr Denney	Orville Class
	Miss Davies / Mrs Burniston	Lamarr Class
Year 5	Mrs Cornell	Voyager Class
	Mrs Small / Mrs Burniston	Apollo Class
Year 6	Mrs Bailey	Kahlo Class
	Mrs Bryan	Wilde Class

The pupils will be investigating their new class names on Thursday during transition day and will be completing work linked with them as part of their transition work. You might like to talk with your pupils after Thursday to see why their new classes are called what they are.

Until we all get to know the names, I would suggest you also refer to the teacher's names when writing to, or communicating with the school.

Dinner Money

Mrs Lanni has recently sent home reminders regarding pupils who still owe dinner money or a prediction letter to the end of term. I would be grateful if you would make sure these are settled before Thursday 18th July. From September 1st, the cost of a school meal will be £2.60 in line with all other Hitchin schools.

Year 6 Visit (September)

Parents of pupils currently in Year 5 will have recently received a letter regarding a visit to the Henry Moore Foundation on the second day of term. Could we therefore ask for your reply slips and payments to be made by 12th July. Thank you again for your support.

Polite Request

Disappointingly, there have been a few occasions recently where it has been brought to my attention that staff have been spoken to in a rude or aggressive manner. I can promise you that all my staff work tirelessly for all our pupils and I would ask you to remember this when you come into school for a meeting or informal chat. All staff deserve to be spoken to politely and with respect and I would like to thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Uniform

It is always appropriate at the end of each term to think about the school uniform policy. Details of the exact uniform can be found on the school website but can I draw your attention to one or two particular statements:

- ***Long hair should be tied back... small plain headbands may be worn.*** – I have noticed a few extremely large headbands recently and whilst very pretty, they don't really fit in with the school policy.
- ***Children need substantial footwear at all times and black shoes which have soles with a good safe grip are needed for outdoor wear.*** – There are a few pupils who have started wearing brightly coloured trainers as their regular outdoor shoe. Trainers should only be worn for PE and Games Lessons.
- ***Jewellery should not be worn... Watches may be worn, but the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage.*** – Can I remind you that if children do wear a watch to school, these must be basic watches and not 'smart' watches? Equally, pupils should not be bringing mobile phones into school.

Please also keep an eye out for our 'pre-loved' uniform sales which happen throughout the year and which may provide you with some useful items. A huge thank you to the parents who have taken this project on board.

Staff Changes for September

The only change to the staff team for September is that we will be saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Pearce. Mrs Pearce has been a Teaching Assistant at Whitehill since 2010 and she leaves us for a post much closer to her home. We wish her all the very best.

I have no doubt I will be writing to you again before the end of the term but should this not be necessary, can I thank you all for your support this year and wish you all a pleasant and peaceful summer break. To those leaving Whitehill next Friday, I would like to wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to hearing how you get on at your new schools.

Pupils will return to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2019.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills
Headteacher