

Whitelees PS & NC

Return to School August 2023

welcome
**BACK^{TO}
SCHOOL**

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely summer break. We're looking forward to another great year in Whitelees and look forward to working with you to ensure our children are getting the best possible opportunities and experiences. Below you will find a brief update with some information on routines and upcoming events.

As always, if you have anything at all you'd like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Murdoch

Morning Routine

We usually open the school gates around 8:30am as a courtesy to ensure children who are dropped off early have a safe area to wait before school starting. Please be reminded that there is no adult supervision during this time, however, Mrs Rennie is in the playground from 8:50am each morning. We ask that children are dropped off as close to 8:50am as possible, but understand this isn't always possible.



Wet Mornings

In the event of wet weather in the mornings, all school children will have access to the main hall from 8:50am onwards – children will be able to enter through the middle doors only. Again, we kindly ask that children come as close to 8:50am as possible.



enquiries-at-whitelees@northlan.org.uk



01236 794814



Meet the Teacher - Tuesday 29th August 2:00-3:00pm

Save the Date!

Over the next couple of weeks, the staff will be taking time to get to know your children and build good relationships, we will then host a Meet the Teacher event at the end of the month.



Following on from previous years, we will host an open afternoon, where parents and carers are invited into classes to hear about class and school routines. This will take place from 2pm-3pm on Tuesday 29th August, which will allow time for you to visit the class(es) of all siblings. Due to space restraints, we ask that no more than two adults attend per child.

Class Dojo

Class Dojo access codes will be issued at Meet the Teacher. When registering for Class Dojo, please ensure your email address matches the one that is on our school system, this is for safeguarding reasons. If you are unable to attend the Meet the Teacher event, we will issue the Parent code directly to parents/carers at a time that is convenient for you. Class Dojo codes **will not** be issued to children, this will avoid codes getting lost and/or being picked up and used by someone else.

Class Dojo can only be accessed on a school device so class teachers will only pick up messages during school hours, however as they will be working with the children during the school day, messages will be responded to either before the school day starts or after the school day has ended. If you have any urgent queries, please contact our school office on 01236 794814.

Absences and appointments should not be communicated through Dojo as teachers will not see these messages, therefore information will not be passed to our Clerical Team, this will result in absence calls and messages. Please report absences/appointments through email, Parent Portal or by telephoning the school office on 01236 794814.

Labels

Please ensure all items are labelled with your child's name and class.

Unfortunately, we already have some items of clothing which have been left unattended and we cannot identify who they belong to. We also have a large number of children with the same bags and packed lunch boxes, resulting in some confusion, labelling these items will help to reduce this.



iPay Impact

To minimise cash handling and ensure accurate allocation of payments we use our online system Ipay Impact for all payments to the school. This is used to top up dinner cards, pay for school trips, and to purchase show tickets, amongst other things. If you haven't already signed up please contact our school office who will be able to provide you with all the information you need to complete this.

If you are a parent of a new P1 child this information will be sent home to you in the next week or two so there is no need for you to contact the school office for this information.

School Photographs

Our photographers will be back in school to take class, individual and family photographs this year.

Class Photographs

The photographer will be in school on Monday 21st August to take class photographs.

They will be back in the school again on Tuesday 22nd August to take individual and family photographs. The arrangements for this day will be as follows:

Family Photographs

Parents wishing to include children not yet at school should be at the school office with all children for 8.30am sharp on Tuesday 22nd August. The photographer will take these family shots between 8.30am and 9.00am. All other family photographs of siblings who are at school will be taken during the school day.

Individual Photographs

These will be taken throughout the day for P1 to P7.

Nursery Photographs

As nursery children start the day after their third birthday, photographs will be taken later in the year once all children are attending nursery however, if you have a child in the nursery and the school please let us know and we can arrange for a family photograph to be taken on Tuesday 22nd August.



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School App

If you haven't already done so, please download our school app. This is a 'one stop shop' for information on classes and events. This has been in use for academic session 2022-2023 and will be our most commonly used form of communication for informal information. Any formal information will continue to be issued through GroupCall/email.



Parents Portal

At the beginning of the new school session, we ask that you sign up to our Parent's Portal as this will be used for our Data Checks this year to ensure we hold the correct contact information for your child/ren.

Parent's Portal is a platform to save time, where you can report an absence, top up your child's dinner card and sign permission slips, amongst other things.

You can sign up through your mygovscot account. If you don't already have one you can register online. If you require more information please drop us an email at enquiries-at-whitelees@northlan.org.uk or call the school office, where Mrs Mollan and Mrs Lowrie will be happy to assist.

NO NUT SCHOOL

Please be reminded that we are strictly a **no nut zone school**. We now have several children with severe nut allergies, therefore it is vitally important that nuts are not brought into school, to avoid any potential harm. This includes items such as Nutella and chocolate spreads, Kinder Buenos and Happy Hippos, as well as other Kinder products. We kindly ask that you are vigilant when providing snacks, this will help to help keep everyone safe. Your support in this is very much appreciated.



Twitter - @WhiteleesPS



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