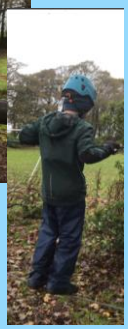
Whaley Bridge Primary School Newsletter 22/10/26

NEWS



We all had a spooktacular time at the disco last night, (photos on page 2). Thank-you so much to all the helpers who made this possible but especially to Sam Mycock, the queen of Halloween, who worked so hard to organise this event. Also this week, Ned and Alice represented school at a High Peak Kids Council event at Whitehall, where they got to know councillors from other schools locally. Mrs Walton attended a trust-wide INSET day today with True Learning Partnership, the Academy trust we will be joining in the spring. Mrs Walton went to Glossopdale school for the event, and has returned to school enthusiastic about the opportunities the trust has to offer, and with lots of ideas to share with our team. Meanwhile back in Whaley Bridge there have been some very mysterious happenings; see our Facebook post here!

Owl Homework

You should all have received your Owl homework, which is due to be returned 13th November.

At WBPS we know that rehearsal of learning at home, especially regular reading, spelling and times-tables practice has a huge impact on pupil attainment in school, and we encourage this throughout the year. We know that many families are mindful of screen use, and acknowledge that homework such as TTRS and Spelling Shed do require more screen based activity, which we generally encourage families to limit. We continue to use these platforms because they allow us to provide well tailored homework to suit each child's needs, because many of our learners are motivated to complete this style of homework, and because it is enables pupils to complete homework without as much parental input.

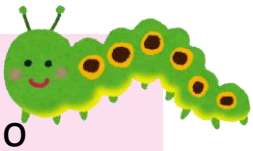
The OWL homework is a counter balance. This homework is designed to encourage children and families to work together on a creative project that appeals to them. Children then showcase this homework at a whole school assembly, taking inspiration from each others' creations, and celebrating each other's success. If you are struggling to complete this homework, please let your class teacher know and we can help provide materials, or support pupils to complete this in school – we want everyone to take part.

Donations for the foodbank

Thank-you to everyone who donated to the foodbank – the school council will be dropping our collection off during the first week back after half term, so if you still have any items to donate please bring them in after half term.

headteacher@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

PTA



Huge **THANKS** to everyone who helped at the spooky disco yesterday!

ACHIEVEMENTS

Bumblebee: Howell
Red Squirrel: Rohan
Puffin: Jasper
Otter: Kyle
Bat: Skye
Seahorse: Alex

STARS

Bumblebee: Val
Red Squirrel: Chester
Puffin: Arthur
Otter: Ciara
Bat: Jacob
Seahorse : Darcie

DIARY DATES

23/10/26 – Break for half term
2/11/26 – Return to school
4-6th /11/26 Year 5/6 Residential
13/11/26 Children in need *(non uniform & Choir to Trafford Centre)*
Owl Homework due
3/12/26 –PTA Christmas event (TBC)
Week Beg, 7th Dec – EYFS, Y1 and Y2 performances – times & days TBC
15/12/26 2pm Rocksteady
18/12/26 End of term

***info in blue is new**

Our school calendar can also be found on the website here

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you **are** hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and **never** attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are **not** toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2024

CLAWS, PAWS &FOOTPRINTS

DROP–IN SESSIONS

All welcome, under 13s must be accompanied by an adult

OCTOBER

Wednesday 28th

10am - 3pm

Whaley Bridge Transhipment Warehouse, Canal Street, SK23 7LS

Join artist Andy Comley in *Claws, Paws & Footprints* to create pebble mosaic seating and nature signage for Whaley Bridge Memorial Park.

For more info contact:
sophie@highpeakarts.org

SCAN ME

www.highpeakarts.org
@highpeakcomarts