

The Whiteoak Academies Newsletter 4

Headteacher's Message



What another lovely week we have had at Whiteoak. It has been wonderful to see our new Reception children settling so well into school life. They have already become such a happy part of our school community and we are incredibly proud of them.

Friday was **National Teaching Assistants' Day**, so I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our teaching assistants (Learning Partners). Their hard work, care, patience and commitment make such a difference to our children every single day. We genuinely couldn't do what we do without them, and I am incredibly grateful for everything they bring to our school.

Finally, there is plenty of excitement behind the scenes as we begin to unpack our new furniture and laptops for the computer suite! We are so looking forward to seeing the children making the most of this upgraded space and the opportunities it will provide for their learning.

I hope you all have a good week.

Mrs Reyes

What you need to do this week:

1. If your child is in Year 2, Year 3 or Year 4, please check you have the new **Times Tables Parent Meeting** date in your calendar - Wednesday 14th October, 6.00pm.

2. Remember to order your child's special 'Street Food' lunch for this Thursday's Census Day. There are prizes to be won!
3. Start having a clear out at home as Monday 5th October is WOWSA's next 'Rags to Riches' clothing donation event.



School Games Mark - Gold Award!

We are delighted to celebrate being awarded the **School Games Gold Award**! This is a fantastic recognition of our commitment to ensuring every child can enjoy and engage in sport and physical activity. Alongside our participation in competitions and festivals, we have worked hard to support children who may be less confident or less active, providing additional encouragement and helping them to experience success.

Staff identify pupils who may benefit from extra support through observations and discussions, with targeted lunchtime clubs, additional support in PE and extracurricular activities, and a wide range of inclusive activities helping children to develop their confidence, skills and positive attitudes towards being active. We are particularly proud to take pupils to **Give it a Try festivals** and similar events, enabling children who may not typically access competitive sport to represent our school and enjoy new experiences.

A huge well done to all of our children and staff for helping to create a sporting culture where everyone is encouraged to have a go, develop their skills, enjoy being active and experience the benefits of teamwork and participation.



Times Tables Parent Meeting - new date

Having listened to parent feedback about the date and timing of our parent times table meeting, we have rearranged the meeting for **Wednesday 14th October 18:00–18:30**.

We would really encourage parents of children in Years 2, 3 and 4 to attend if they are able to, as the meeting will be about much more than simply explaining why it is important for children to know their times tables. We will share specific, focused ways you can support your child at home, including how you can target the times table gaps we identify in school and the approaches and methods we use to teach times tables. This will help ensure that the practice children do at home complements what they are learning in school and is as effective as possible.

We hope the new date and time will make it easier for more families to attend and we apologise for any confusion this change may have caused. Please do feel free to bring your child with you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our School Council



This year, Miss Flemming will be leading our **School Council**, giving our children an important opportunity to have their voices heard and helping them play an active role in making our school an even better place. Year 6 **House Councillors** have already been elected and they will support with the running of School Council.

This week, every class in Years 1-5 will also vote for their own **Class Representative**. The School Council will meet regularly to share ideas, discuss issues that matter to the children and work together to make positive improvements across our school. We are looking forward to seeing our children take on these important roles!

Understanding Neurodivergent Children and Young People

North Somerset Council have produced an eight-part video series designed for parents and carers. The series provides practical, accessible information on topics including neurodiversity, ADHD, autism, masking, emotional regulation, everyday challenges, and parental wellbeing. Each video is accompanied by a printable one-page "fridge guide" summarising key points and practical strategies.

Topics include:

- What Do We Mean by Neurodiversity and Neurodivergence?
- How Neurodivergence Can Affect Everyday Life
- Masking: Why School and Home Can Feel So Different
- Coming to Terms with the Idea of ADHD or Autism
- Supporting Your Child While Waiting for an Assessment
- Supporting Big Emotions, Meltdowns, and Shutdowns
- Everyday Challenges: Sleep, Eating, Transitions, and Independence
- Looking After Yourself as a Parent

Click the link [here](#) to view the videos and download the printable, one-page guides.



A reminder about allergens in packed lunches and snacks

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of checking every item of food and drink that your child brings into school for allergens. The new Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) [Allergy Safety Policy](#) recognises the significant risks that allergies can pose, including the possibility of life-threatening anaphylaxis. It also recognises the importance of taking practical steps to reduce the risk of allergen exposure, including good hygiene, appropriate cleaning and consideration of allergy risks where food is involved.

As a school, we are therefore asking that there are absolutely no nuts in any food or snack brought into school by children. Please check the ingredients and allergen information on all packaging carefully, including products where nuts may not be obvious from the product name. The photograph below shows an example of an item brought into school last week. While this may appear to be an ordinary snack, it contains hazelnuts and therefore should not be brought into school.

Thank you for taking the time to check lunchboxes and snacks carefully and for helping us to maintain a safe environment for children with allergies.



Can you help us with some plants?

We are in the process of bringing a circular flower bed in the Grove 'quad' area back to life! This is a lovely space that our junior children pass through every day on their way to lunch and the area in which one of our lunch clubs takes place. We are always keen to meet the needs of all our young people and some of them really enjoy the opportunity to sit in a quieter space at lunchtime.

Our aim is to transform the area into the vibrant, bio-diverse planting space as shown in the AI-generated picture here, and we would be extremely grateful for any donations of plants you may be able to offer. The list below is our ultimate goal:

- A large bay tree (fairly well established as a centre point)
- Lavender plants x 3
- Rosemary x 2
- Lamb's ear x 3
- Creeping thyme or similar x 5
- Heuchera x 3
- Decorative mulch/bark



Local community events, clubs and opportunities



NORTH SOMERSET TENNIS ACADEMY

HALF TERM TENNIS CAMP

Just £12 Per Camp Session

15% OFF
for Siblings and Multiple Bookings

- Fun With Friends
- Lots Of Fun
- Learn a New Skill
- From Tennis Drills to Team Events
- All Players Welcome

Available To All Children From 4 – 16 Years Of Age

Week 1 – Monday 19th – Friday 23rd
Week 2 – Monday 26th – Friday 30th
9am – 12pm

All camp sessions are held at Clevedon Seafront Tennis Courts
For more information, contact Stuart
07593456869 – stuart@n-somersettennis.com

To Book Scan The QR Code



Upcoming Events



Term 1 - 'Belonging'

- 30 September - Prospective parents' tour (children starting school Sept2027), 9.15am

- 5 October - WOWSA 'Rags to Riches' clothing collection
- 7 - 10 October - Year 6 on residential camp
- 9 October - EYFS Fine Motor Skills Workshop for parents, 9.10am
- 9 October - WOWSA 'Break the Rules' Day
- 12 October - Prospective parents' tour (children starting school Sept 2027), 9.15am
- 14 October - Flu immunisations (more information to follow)
- 14 October - Times Tables meeting for parents of children in Years 2, 3 and 4, 6.00pm
- 16 October - EYFS Fine Motor Skills Workshop for parents, 9.10am
- 23 October - Uniform Sale after school
- 23 October - Last day of Term 1
- 31 October - Closing date for applications to Secondary School for pupils currently in Year 6

Term 2 - 'Courage'

- 2nd November - Children return to school
- 5 November - Prospective parents' tour (children starting school Sept 2027), 1.45pm
- 16 November - Road Safety Week
- 16 November - Anti Bullying Week
- 16 November - Odd Socks Day!
- 20 November - INSET Day (school closed to children)
- 24 November - Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 Winter Discos
- 26 November - Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Winter Discos
- 27 November - School photos (individual)
- 2 December - Wreath making (workshop for adults)
- 5 December - WOWSA Winter event
- 18 December - Hot Chocolate Friday and Uniform Sale after school
- 18 December - Last day of Term 2

Term 3 - 'Kindness'

- 4 January - Children return to school

Housepoint Celebrations



MOOREND
EAGLES



GLASSWORK
GRIZZLIES



TITHE
TIGERS



TRENDLEWOOD
WOLVES

Congratulations to Tithe Tigers who were the winning house in last week's house point totals!
Great work everyone!