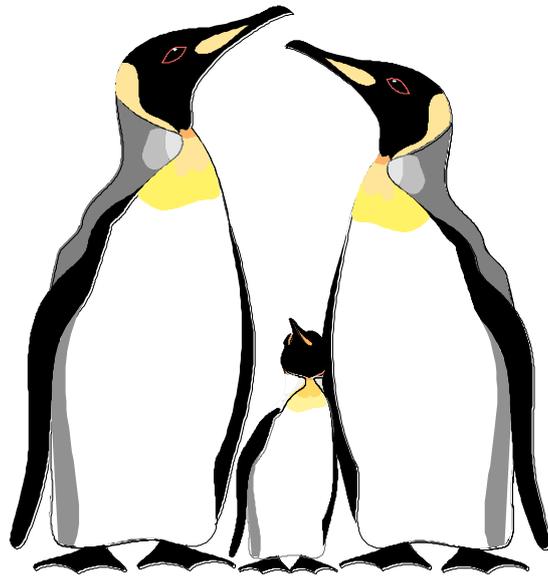


# **Whitwick St. John the Baptist CE Primary School**



## **School Prospectus**

## **Welcome to Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School**

Whitwick is in North West Leicestershire on the edge of Charnwood and within the National Forest. It is a former coal mining village close to Coalville.

The school was built in the 1950s and was extended in 1991. The building has been well looked after and developed to offer bright, well equipped classrooms and excellent facilities. We have a purpose built library, children's kitchen, kiln room and computer suite. The school is fully accessible to disabled pupils.



We are closely linked the St John the Baptist Church and members of the church come in to school to perform and assembly every week. We visit the church for various events through the year.

Outdoors there are two adventure playgrounds, an all weather ball court and two hard surfaced play areas. We have a wonderful woodland area and pond for environmental work.

In 2010 Penguin Pre-School opened. There are 24 places for children aged 3+. Four members of staff plan an exciting and stimulating curriculum and the children are able to use the facilities of the school.



Kool Kids is a breakfast club and after school club which is independently operated on the school premises offering wrap around care daily including during the school holidays.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about what we can offer. If you would like to arrange a visit or to find out more please contact the school by telephoning 01530 832116 or look at the website at [www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk](http://www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk)

## **Our Aims**

Whitwick St. John the Baptist Primary School promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with children to:

- develop a love of learning, an enquiring mind and a healthy body
- learn good manners and respect for other people and property
- have high self esteem and be confident
- become highly motivated life long learners
- be able to work independently and collaboratively
- achieve high standards in all areas of the curriculum
- have a spiritual dimension to their life
- recognise and respect similarities and differences in needs, gender, race and creed.

We believe that each child will achieve their potential through experiencing:

- a stimulating environment where learning is enjoyable and challenging
- an environment where children are safe and secure
- a broad and balanced curriculum
- an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- a rich and varied up to date range of learning resources
- an ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- partnership between school, home and the community
- high quality teaching.

We demonstrate our commitment to life long learning by:

- encouraging all members of staff to undertake further study and engage in further professional development

## **Ethos**

Our school is an important part of the whole community of Whitwick, and we welcome children of all faiths and beliefs. We are a Church of England primary school therefore our daily Act of Worship is a simple Christian service and we have close links with St. John the Baptist Church. Children learn from everything they see and hear around them, and the Christian nature of our school is woven into the fabric of everything we do.

### **School Mission Statement**

**We aim for all children to achieve their full potential in a caring community, where everyone is valued**

## **The Curriculum**

All children follow the National Curriculum. This covers the following subjects:

English; Maths; Science; ICT; RE; History; Geography; Music; PE; Art; Design/Technology; Personal, Social and Health Education.

We believe that allowing pupils to contribute to their learning encourages them to be active learners. Our pupils have been involved in choosing the themes and topics that are taught. We are constantly reviewing our provision to keep interest levels high. We like to involve parents and regularly invite them in to share in their children's learning. Some of the themes covered include:



**Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot – a whole school project**

**The Sea**

**The Dark Side (Space)**

**Rainforests**

**Victorians**

**Go Wild**

**The Seaside**

Because of the way we teach some themes are covered by all classes.

We also enjoy promoting reading during 'Book Week' and actively use storytelling to develop children's language and writing skills.



Our subject leaders ensure that the curriculum is broad and balanced and covers all aspects necessary. Regular monitoring and evaluation of work ensures standards and expectations are high.

## **Behaviour**

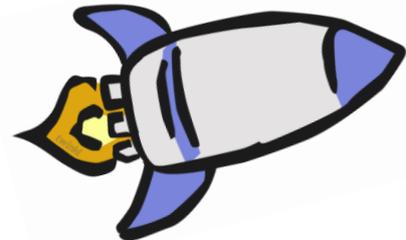
We are very proud of the way our children behave. They are polite and well mannered and regularly praised on visits and by visitors, but all children need guidelines. We have a clear behaviour policy based on rewards and sanctions. We believe in allowing children to make choices about their behaviour and rewarding them for the right decision.

A home – school agreement is issued when children start at school. We expect parents to support us if behaviour becomes a problem.

All children are placed in a team. We have 4 teams Mars, Jupiter, Neptune and Saturn. Children earn team points and gain stars. Children also earn Golden Time each week. If they misbehave or do not work to expectation they receive a strike. 3 strikes in a week means no Golden Time. More details can be found in our behaviour policy which can be found on our website.

We like to celebrate the children's achievements in and out of school so each Friday we hold a Celebration Assembly to which parents are invited. This is when children bring in medals, awards and certificates that they have received from extra curricular clubs and organisations.

They also receive and Rocket Reward certificates for achievement in school.



## **Homework**

Homework should be purposeful and enhance the children's learning. Each year group sets homework appropriate for the age of the children. It is expected that all children will read at home and spend time learning their multiplication tables, both of which are important basic skills. We actively promote further learning about the theme being studied and to help with this we send home a copy of the objectives.

## **Special Educational Needs and More Able Children**

We have a Special Education Needs co-ordinator who is able to help with identification of any individual needs at an early stage. She is able to offer support in the classroom and access help from different external agencies as appropriate. We have a school nurse who is available on a regular basis. All teachers offer differentiated activities to ensure all children access work at the right level so our gifted and talent children are also catered for.

## **Residential Visits**

Children in Year 2 are given the opportunity to spend 2 nights at Beaumanor Hall. This is an excellent place about 5 miles away where the children gain experience of being away from home and getting along together. They enjoy a variety of environmental activities.

Year 6 children spend a week in Wales, at an activity centre called Min y Don. This is a Christian run centre near Fairbourne. Accommodation is in dormitories and the children are well cared for by highly qualified staff. The children challenge themselves with adventurous activities such as rock climbing, kayaking, abseiling and mountain walking. They learn about team work and co-operation which help them prepare for the next stage of their education.

All our visits follow careful guidelines and are fully risk assessed. The staff who organise the visits have been trained as Education Visit Co-ordinators and they have visited the venues before the visit takes place.

In addition to residential visits many day trips are organised to support the curriculum. We also have visitors to the school such as theatre groups, Zoolab and The Whitwick Historical Society.



## **Charging Policy**

Many of the topics and work that the children study are enhanced by visits to museums and other places of educational interest. Additionally we may organise performances in school with theatre or drama groups which may involve the children. These may involve some additional cost and we ask parents to make voluntary contributions.

There may be other occasions or circumstances when the cost of these activities is difficult for families - in these cases parents are encouraged to talk to the Headteacher in confidence. The subsidy for a residential visit is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

## **Visiting the School**

We are very proud of our school and always very happy to show parents/carers of new or prospective pupils around. Please telephone and make arrangements for your visit and the Headteacher or another member of staff will be available to talk to you.

## **Keeping Safe**

All visitors to school, including parents, are required to sign in at Reception where they are issued with a sticker that everyone in school recognises. All adults in school know it is their duty to politely ask anyone in school without a sticker their business and to direct them to Reception.

It is impossible to enter the school building through any door except the main entrance when the children are in school, although of course, all doors can be opened from the inside to allow children and adults to go outside if they need to.

When the children are playing outside they are closely supervised, and all adults know that if they see anyone in the school grounds they do not recognise then they should inform the Headteacher or Premises Officer.

The mobile classroom is fitted with a telephone link to the main office. The school is fully alarmed and CCTV cameras allow us to monitor the grounds. The alarm system has been upgraded and records images from all over the school and grounds 24 hours a day. We are grateful to our good neighbours who keep a watchful eye out for us.

As part of the curriculum we teach the children about how to keep safe when using the internet. Parents are invited to join us for information sessions about this. We also try to educate the children and parents about anti bullying in all its forms. Any reports of bullying are taken seriously and fully investigated. Years 5 and 6 also take part in lessons about drug and alcohol issues.

All adults employed by the school receive Child Protection training which is renewed every 3 years. There are 2 Designated Senior Persons in school and we follow safe recruitment procedures when appointing staff. Anybody working in school even on a voluntary basis must have a current CRB check.

## **Health and Safety**

All of our staff have received basic first aid training and adhere to our health and safety policy at all times. All of the school is non-smoking and this includes the school grounds and we do ask for parents' co-operation. The school operates a "nut free" policy and we ask all parents to support this. We welcome guide dogs, but ask that all other dogs are kept off the school premises.

We ask all parents not to park on the school drive, the pavement, the yellow lines or opposite the school gates and bus waiting area.

## **Admissions**

If you would like your child to come to our school, please contact the school office for details of how to apply for a place. You will be required to make an official application through the Local Authority, either using their website or submitting a paper copy. The school cannot guarantee places as there is an agreed Admissions Policy. For first time admissions to the Foundation Stage, the Local Authority will publish a deadline for applications for places the following year. For further details please see the Local Authority Website [www.leics.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.leics.gov.uk/admissions)

## **Communication**

Our school website is:

[www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk](http://www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk)

We will try to communicate information to you as effectively as we can. Our school website is regularly updated with diary dates, events as well as other aspects of school life. Where possible we will publish photographs of children enjoying various activities for you to view. Our safeguarding procedures ensure this is done with your consent and we will never publish their names alongside photographs.



### **Newsletters**

Regular newsletters will keep you up-to-date with important information and are published on our website. Paper copies are available if requested.

### **Texting Service**

We will text important messages to you if we feel you need to know something urgently – for instance an unexpected school closure, or the cancellation of a club. You will be asked if you want us to contact you in this way.

### **Email/phone**

Our email address is: [whitwick@whitwickce.leics.sch.uk](mailto:whitwick@whitwickce.leics.sch.uk)

If your child is ill or we need to contact you in the event of an accident or other urgent matter, we will telephone you. For safeguarding reasons it is important for you to phone or email us before the start of the day if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.

### **Parents Evenings/Annual Reports**

Parents evening will be held in the Autumn and Spring Terms. An Annual Report of your child's progress will be sent to you at the end of the Summer Term.

### **Open Days and Celebrations**

Parents are invited to share their child's learning and achievements both in and out of school by joining us from time to time for open days, assemblies and seasonal events.

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

We try to offer a broad range of extra curricular activities. Some of these activities are run by our staff or volunteers. Occasionally there may be a small charge for children to take part. We will keep you informed of which clubs are running via the school website.

## Wrap-around Care

Kool Kids Club is open from 7.30 am until the start of the school day and is available after school until 6.00 pm and all day during school holidays. This is a privately run provision which is Ofsted registered, run by qualified and experienced staff. Details are available from the office.

## Penguin Pre-School

We are able to offer 15 hours of funded places for children from the age of 3 years. Parents may pay for additional hours and lunchtime supervision. Further details can be obtained from the office.



## School Meals

School meals are cooked on the premises. Menus are published on the website and copies are available from the office. We ask that meals are paid for in advance, preferably at the start of the week. Dinner money should be sent to school in a sealed envelope, clearly named with details of when meals are required.

We encourage children who prefer a packed lunch to bring 'healthy food'. They may bring a drink in a plastic or paper container – no fizzy drinks. Please support our 'nut free' policy.



Children may bring a mid-morning snack, however we ask you to send fruit or plain biscuits – no chocolate or crisps in support of our Healthy Eating Policy. Children can purchase a carton of milk. Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 all receive a piece of fruit daily.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is important that your child attends school punctually and regularly as this may affect their progress. Pre-planned absences, unless for medical reasons, are discouraged and may not be authorised unless it is an exceptional circumstance. If this is the case, you may obtain an application form from the office or online from the website. Where possible we ask you to make routine medical or dental appointments out of school time.

## **Collective Worship**

The school holds an Act of Worship each day. The clergy and members of the congregation from the parish church lead the Act of Worship once a week on a Wednesday and teachers and children take turns to lead other days. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from The Act of Worship for religious reasons. This should be discussed with the headteacher.

During our act of worship, we use our school prayer:

*This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
Let the room be full of contentment,  
Let love abide here.  
Love of one another,  
Love of mankind,  
Love of life itself,  
And love of God.  
Let us remember  
That, as many hands build a house,  
So many hearts make our school.  
Amen*

## **School Council**

Our school council is supervised by one of our teaching assistants. Children from year 2 - year 6 are elected. Issues which have been discussed include energy savings and lunchtimes.

## **Our Staff**

All our staff regularly undertake professional development to enhance their skills to ensure that your child receives the best possible education. A full list of staff can be found on the school website.

## Uniform

It is our expectation that children will wear school uniform. The following items can be purchased from the office or from our suppliers online at [www.schoolwearforless.com](http://www.schoolwearforless.com):

Sweatshirts, Cardigans, Fleece, White or Blue polo shirts, PE Kit, Waterproof jackets

Trousers and skirts should be either black or grey. Summer dresses should be blue check (these items are not available from school)

The school does have a small selection of second hand uniforms. We keep all items of uniform in school if you need to try something on your child for size.

## **Shoes**

We request that children wear appropriate black shoes for school. High heeled shoes are not suitable for wearing in school, under any circumstances.

## Lost Property

We do try and unite children with their lost property. To help us do this, we ask that all parents clearly name items of clothing.

## Jewellery

Children are encouraged to wear watches to school, but all other items of jewellery should be left at home. To comply with our Health and Safety Policy, no jewellery is to be worn during PE and Swimming.



## **The School and the Community**

Children are encouraged to be involved in the community. The school regularly attends St John the Baptist Church for various events throughout the year and members of the church visit the school to lead assemblies once a week. The school also contributes towards to the church magazine.

### **Concerns and Complaints**

If you have a concern or complaint, then the first person to contact will be your child's class teacher. If the matter is not resolved then the complaint will be raised and a meeting held with the headteacher. Most complaints can be dealt with at this level. If matters have not been settled, the next step is to raise a formal complaint with the Chair of Governors. A copy of the complaints policy is available from the office.

### **Contacts**

Mrs Christine Killip - Headteacher

Telephone Number: 01530 832116

Fax Number: 01530 810526

Email Address: [Whitwick@whitwickce.leics.sch.uk](mailto:Whitwick@whitwickce.leics.sch.uk)

Website: [www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk](http://www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk)