



## Welcome Back

Welcome back and a very happy new year. We hope you've had a good and restful break. We are looking forward to an exciting new year of learning and activities ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your child.

## Wonders of the World



## Curriculum Areas

Through our termly cross-curricular themes, we aim to make links in all areas of learning to make sure there is cohesion across the whole curriculum. The aim is to make the children's learning vivid, real, engaging and memorable, and to provide challenges and adaptations to encourage their development in all areas. We strive to embed social, emotional and independent life skills holistically across all areas of curriculum.

### English

Through adapted Read, Write Inc Phonics Programme, we will revisit and develop our reading and writing skills. In our extended writing, we will plan, write and edit descriptions. There will be direct emphasis on developing spelling, grammar, punctuation, adventurous vocabulary and improving handwriting.

### Maths

The principal focus of mathematics teaching and learning in Year 8/9 will be to ensure that pupils develop confidence and mental fluency with whole numbers, counting, and place value. In addition, we will focus on developing multiplication and division strategies as well as recognising multiplication and division as related operations. We will continue to solve real life problems.

### PSHCE and Life Skills

The PSHCE Curriculum will develop knowledge and awareness of physical changes during puberty as well as everyday relationships.

### RE

In line with The Milton Keynes Agreed Syllabus for wellbeing Religious Education, we will learn through enquiry led approach about Hinduism and Sikhism. The focus will be on main beliefs and worship. We will consider key questions including believing, belonging, behaving and reflecting.

### Humanities

In history, we will explore world history through focusing on the 'wonders of the world'. The pupils will make comparisons between ancient and the modern world. In Geography, we will investigate location of continents, oceans, and countries of wonders of the world as well as comparing and contrasting physical geography.

### Science

Through enquiry and investigation, we will examine materials and their properties including their uses.

### Computing

We will use Information Technology to learn about digital footprint and its impact. We will also explore programming.

### ART

We will develop our skills in drawing, printing and painting. Using various artists, pupils will create their own pieces of art including sculptures.

### Food

We will develop our vital skills and knowledge in cooking and nutrition through preparing and tasting everyday dishes.

### Performing Arts

In Performing Arts, we will develop our skills in singing and dancing inspired by the theme of 'wonders of the world'.

### PE

The curriculum will include taking part in a variety of individual and team sports activities.

## Free School Meals Online Application



If you think your child may be entitled for free school meals, you can register and find out if your child is eligible by visiting a quick and easy system: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>

**Our school menu and order form can be downloaded from the website:**

[https://www.whitespireschool.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/Lunch\\_Order\\_Form.pdf](https://www.whitespireschool.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/Lunch_Order_Form.pdf)

### Uniform

Please ensure your child wears correct school uniform and each item is labelled with your child's name.



### Attendance

We believe regular school attendance is essential to achievement. Please help us by ensuring your child attends school every day.

### Term dates

Spring half term	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
School reopens	26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
School closes for Easter	28 <sup>th</sup> March
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	INSET Day
School reopens for Summer term	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024

Coffee Morning: TBC  
 Parent's Evening: 29<sup>th</sup> February  
 Parent Engagement Day: TBC  
 World Book day: 7<sup>th</sup> March  
***Please check the planner daily for updates.***

## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### Break and Lunchtime clubs

- Library
- Sports
- Board games
- Arts and Crafts
- Music:
- Singing, guitars, keyboards



Breakfast Club is open daily from 8am to 8.30am.  
 After School Club offers a variety of activities.  
**Advance booking is required, please contact the school office or your child's teacher.**

### Equipment



Please note children will not need to bring in their own pencil cases or resources. Please help us by not sending in any toys or soothers.

### Daily Home School Communication



***Please ensure the school diary is sent into school every day and check it for regular updates.***

Our School Website is updated regularly for key updates, term dates, events and other useful information. Follow the link below:

<https://whitespireschool.org.uk/school-calendar>