



Brightholmlee Lane
Wharnccliffe Side
Sheffield
S35 0DD
Tel: 0114 2862379

Email: enquiries@wharncliffeside.sheffield.sch.uk
Website: www.wharncliffeside.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Gaughan
Chair of Governors: Mr D Chinchin
Admin Officer: Mrs T Dalglish



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Weekly Newsletter: wb 14th September 2026

Welcome to a bumper edition of our weekly newsletter. There is so much going on in school at the moment, I couldn't fit it all on 2 pages. As ever, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Dates

- Our latest 'What's On?' calendar for the year ahead is now available to view / download from the website here: <https://www.wharncliffeside.org.uk/calendar> (for convenience, it has also been sent out alongside this newsletter). This features dates such as parents' evenings, Christmas plays, egg rolling and sports day. Please note that any of these dates are liable to change and more information about individual events will be sent out closer to the time.
- Also on the above page are our term dates for this academic year. Please, please bear this in mind whilst booking holidays etc. Under the latest government guidance, we cannot authorise term-time holidays at any time and you may be fined by the local authority for any holidays taken without prior authorisation. Thank you for supporting your child's education.

Sumdog

We have just purchased access to 'Sumdog'; a new virtual learning platform for KS2 children (following a successful trial). Sumdog uses fun, interactive games to boost engagement and fluency in maths. The activities are tailored to an individual's level and provide feedback to teachers; enabling them to plan lessons more effectively. I have heard a real buzz from the children and they can't wait to get started. Sumdog can be accessed here: www.play.sumdog.com and students will get their log-in details over the coming days (if they haven't already).

Y7 Open Days

I know we have only just returned to school but Y6 parents should have already received letters about applying for secondary school! The deadline for this is the **31st October** (or 16th October if applying online) and many schools have open days planned. The majority of our Y6 children go to either Bradfield or Stocksbridge and details about their open days are below, alongside a link to find the dates / times of any other schools you may be interested in:

- Bradfield:** Wednesday 23rd September, 4pm – 7pm (see website here <https://bradfield.school/joining-our-school/admissions>)
- Stocksbridge:** Thursday 24th September, 4pm – 7pm (see flyer attached)
- Other schools click [here](#)

Dinners

- Reminder: our dinners are provided by Taylor Shaw and menus are on a 3-week cycle (this week is 'week 2') and the full menu can be found on our website: <https://www.wharncliffeside.org.uk/lunch-menus-and-more>
- Whilst meals are free for ALL children in Reception, Y1 and Y2; they are chargeable in KS2 (and Nursery) unless you qualify for means-tested free school meals. From the 1st September, prices are now £3 per day (or £2.30 for Nursery children) and payable through ParentPay.
- For useful advice about healthy eating (including tips about packed lunches), take a look at the latest 'Eat Smart' newsletter [here](#).

Healthy Minds Worry Support Group

Jen from Healthy Minds (our Mental Health Support Teacher) will soon be running a 'Worry Support' programme for parents of children who struggle with anxiety; offering practical, evidence-based strategies you can use at home. This will take place on Thursday afternoons from the **8th October** (for more details, see attached flyer or get in touch). This is an excellent opportunity and places are limited – so do not delay!

Mr Gaughan

Music Lessons

In addition to the many FREE musical opportunities we offer in school, you can also book private lessons (in school time) with our chosen suppliers. As we are at the start of the new school year, places are currently available – but they do get booked up!

- **Guitar lessons** with Paul Hawksworth; with bursaries available for children with SEND or in receipt of free school meals (see attached flyer or contact Paul directly on paul@paulhawksworth.com)
- **Piano lessons** with Linda Doherty (other instruments available upon request). Lessons cost £90 per term for 11 lessons and Linda can be contacted on linda.doherty@hotmail.com.
- **Rocksteady** work with small groups of children to create their own rock bands (with performances at the end of each term). Sign up here: <https://booking.rocksteadymusicschool.com>. Note for anyone already signed up: Alex was ill last week so this year's lessons have not started yet. We are hopeful he will be back in this week and this will not affect your child's total number of lessons.

If you have any questions about the above, please get in touch with our music leader, Mrs Harrison, on charrison@wharnciffeside.sheffield.sch.uk.

Parent Voice (SEND & Sleep)

- As part of the local area partnership, Sheffield Parent Carer Forum will be holding a Sheffield SEND reforms parent workshop this week. This will take place from 9:30am – 12:30pm on **Wednesday 16th September** at St. Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane. See the attached flyer for more information or book your place here: <https://sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk/events>
- The Sleep Clinic at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust would like to carry out a survey of children's sleep in all primary schools in Sheffield. See attached letter for more information or complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/k1ALVDLxiX73nk3AA>

Dodgeball

Final item! Does your child like dodgeball? Steel City Dodgeball run training sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays at Stocksbridge High School (see attached flyer for more information). *Please note that whenever we share information about local events / opportunities like this; we are not necessarily endorsing them – we are just helping their adverts reach a wider (targeted) audience. Whilst we hope they will be good for the children; we take no responsibility for this.*

Mr Gaughan



Celebrating Achievement



Well done to the following children:

- ★ Our first **Bronze** winners of the year were: **Albie-Grey** (Ash); **Mila, Violet, Jack** (Willow); **Kye, Tommy PD, Harry** (Rowan); **Darcy, Vinnie, Penny, Savannah, Fearne** (Sycamore); **Theo, Poppy, Seth** (Oak)
- ★ **EVERYONE** in **Reception** got a special certificate to celebrate a great first week in school!
- ★ **Nursery Stars of the Week:** **Edie & Isla** (Seedlings); **Giovanni & Rory** (Saplings)
- ★ **Attendance winners:** Our overall attendance was **96.7%** last week and the winning classes were Willow (**97.4%**) and Rowan (**98.6%**). **116** children were here all week and get a raffle ticket for our end of half-term draw!
- ★ **House Point winners:** 3 teams got over 200 points last week but the winners were **Africa** with 216.
- ★ Well done to all the children who completed the **Stocksbridge Library Reading Challenge** over the summer.

PTO



- ★ **Iris** & **Willow H** had their work displayed in Sheffield's Botanical Gardens at the weekend as part of the 'Art in the Gardens' exhibition.
- ★ Meanwhile, **Holly** & **Iris** have been helping keep the school clean by doing litter picking on the yard - thank you girls (though I am disappointed they've had to do this).

Nurturing confidence, nurturing potential, nurturing success.



This week's birthdays:

Caspian (5), **Millie-Rose** (5), **Lucas B** (5), **Willow B** (3), **Maze** (9)

This week's '**School Standard**' is: Be ready

What's Happening?

Little Seedlings will be talking about their bodies.

Saplings will be working on their new book: 'Little Fella Superhero' by Sarah McConnell.

Ash will be starting their phonics lessons this week (we use a scheme called 'Little Wandle' for anyone who doesn't know!). Also, look out for Mrs Wellum's weekly updates via Tapestry!

Willow & **Rowan** classes had some whole-class sessions with Jen (our Mental Health Support Teacher) last week; focusing on emotional regulation. The other classes will have their sessions in the coming weeks!

Children in **The Learning Zone** welcomed some new 'Zoners' this week.

Meanwhile, they will be reading the story 'Be Quiet!' in their 'Communication' sessions.

Sycamore will this week be starting their weekly music lessons with the Sheffield Music Hub. Rather than doing violins this year, we have switched to the cornet (a medium-sized brass instrument that looks like a trumpet!).

Oak have been learning what it is like to be a Muslim in Britain today.

As part of their RSHE lessons, **Y5 children** will start learning about puberty soon. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Finally, our Y6s will be doing their 'Bikeability' lessons this week!

