

WHITTLE-LE-WOO

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

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Hello Everyone!

What a year it has been in Whittle-le-Woods. It's a busy thriving village which continues to grow in size but fortunately never loses its charm and community feel, shown daily by acts of kindness, such as litter picking by dog walkers, people finding lost bus passes, ties, sunglasses etc and putting it on the Whittle-le-Woods Facebook page to locate their owner. This in itself shows what a wonderful place we live in!



We have had the fantastic additions of new benches, and signage around the village which enhance our surroundings and give it that village feel, this is thanks to ClIr Chris Briscoe. Waterhouse Green will soon have a village clock and areas continue to be maintained and improved, for example the hedges, hanging baskets and floral areas.

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council has funded a youth event and donated funds to local groups and schools, such as the Scout group, St Chad's and Whittle-le-Woods CE school and more, through CIL money. We have seen the introduction of SPIDs by the hard work of Cllr Colin Evans, to try and make our area a safer place. We will soon be enjoying a Christmas Tree light switch on with mulled wine and mince pies thanks to Cllrs Peter and Barbara Higham, which is proving to be a massively popular event.

Finally, it has to be mentioned that we lost two members of our community this year, former Cllr John Walker, who was an integral part and dedicated member of our village and also Cllr Eric Bell, many called him Mr Whittle. Eric was a real jewel in the crown and worked so hard to make this village what it is today.

We would like to say thanks to John Wood for our cover image and on that note let's all enjoy and look after our village!

Cllr Wendy McDonald, Chairman of Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council



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Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Monies

In the financial year 2023 to 2024 the Parish Council have funded the following projects:

St Chads Primary School - Running Track / Nature Trail

Whittle-Le-Woods Primary School - Outdoor Area

Village Phone Box Restoration

Whittle SpID Project

Maintenance Of Football Pitch - Playing Field Trust

Over £60,700 Has Been Provided

The Parish Council are committed to spending the following in this financial year, 2024 to 2025:

Maintenance Of Pitch - Playing Field Trust

Outdoor Village Clock For Waterhouse Green

Local Scouts Group Mess Tent

Benches And Signs For Village Benches On Lea Road / Spring Crescent / Cross Keys

Sign Posts For Water House Green And Public Footpaths

Replacement Defibrillators - Waterhouse Green / Hillside Crescent

Over £15,000 Has Been Committed To Ongoing Projects For This Year

We are proud to carry out these activities across Whittle-le-Woods.























Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council receives CIL Monies from certain developments taking place within the Parish Boundary.

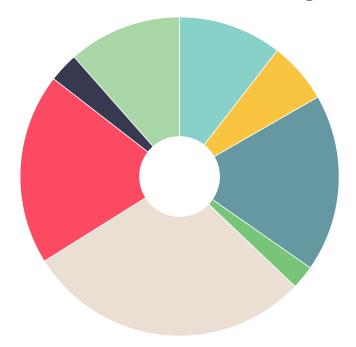
Since the end of 2015 the Parish Council has received £270,000.

The Parish Council are very proud to have supported a number of local projects including those on the left.

The Parish Council are always looking for further projects and welcome suggestions from the local Community.

2024/2025

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council Budget

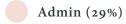














Take A Seat

On Our New Benches With More To Come

Throughout 2024, your Parish Council has taken strides to enhance local amenities, fostering a sense of community and providing welcoming rest spots around the village.

The new cast iron and timber bench on Preston Road, situated at the top of Lea Road, has been warmly received, offering a place for residents and walkers to pause, rest, and chat.

In addition, the newly installed bench on Springs Crescent, near the walkway to Blackburn Road, encourages friendly connections, creating a relaxed area to pass the time with neighbours.

A further addition on Carwood Lane footpath, accessible through the passageway from Cross Keys Drive, presents a scenic resting spot with views over the beautiful open fields to the east.

The Parish Council has also planted daffodil bulbs around these seating areas, adding a burst of colour for spring 2025 to bring seasonal cheer.

The Parish Council is committed to making Whittle-le-Woods an inviting place for everyone. These benches offer spots to unwind and enjoy local scenery while helping residents connect with each other.

Plans are already being considered for additional seating, creating spaces where community members can come together and appreciate the village's natural beauty.

Do reach out with your suggestions through our website - your input is always valued in shaping the future of our village.









Whittle's Community Garden

We had a great year last year in the community garden, but this year has been rather different due to poor weather conditions.

Nothing grew particularly well except the lavender, which always provides a lovely crop of flowers. We also enjoyed a couple of days with children joining in with planting, especially for the sunflower competition.

Last year's judges for "It's Your Neighbourhood" suggested a water feature, so Lisa Brown, who will manage the garden next year, planted up a boat with a small pond, which impressed this year's judges.

They also encouraged more community events, so we're planning an open day next year to coincide with the youth fun day on Polo Park, as well as a barbecue in May, weather permitting.

Lisa, Frank, and I attended the presentation on 30th October at Bolton Football Club, where the RHS awarded us a Level 4 certificate, a standard we've maintained for three years. We hope to reach Level 5 next year.

We are looking for volunteers, please contact us on Facebook at Whittle Community Garden, or ring me, Cllr Dedrah Moss, on 07812 818 997.







Whittle Wanderers Journey In Sunday League

We began the season with our open-age team in the Lancashire Sunday League, our first season in the adult league. We knew it would be challenging with a relatively young team moving up from the under-18s.

We reached the Cup quarter-final and finished mid-table.

This season, we're mid-table again and expect another tough year as we keep a core team of local lads together for 5 years. While we have a full squad, we're always open to new local players. We're seeking sponsorship from local businesses; please contact 07909187534 if interested. Thank you to the Playing Fields Trust and the Parish Council for supporting us.

lan Curwen - Manager and Coach

Speed Indicator Devices

Have You Seen The Green Smile Yet?

We have probably all now seen the signs throughout Whittle le Woods with a green smiley face or a red angry face. Some of us have thought: What use are they? People will ignore them, the signs don't have a camera, so they can't catch anyone.

Well, what their intention is, is to remind the majority of drivers and riders of how fast they are travelling and, if necessary, warn them to SLOW DOWN. The tiny minority of drivers and riders will ignore them and try to 'beat' the top speed; well, no, they will fail, as these machines are cleverer than that: they cut out after a certain speed is reached, so there is no point in trying to race them!

And don't think they will not 'catch' anyone because what they do is record every speed of every vehicle, be it car, lorry or bike, and a written report is presented every three or

four months with highlights of top speeds, when these speeds have been reached and which SpID has recorded it. The 'hotspots' are then passed to the Police who will then carry out a spot check with a camera.

Hopefully, when we all realise that the purpose of these machines is to reduce the inattention we all (or most of us) pay to our speedometers, the result will greatly improve the road safety of our village.





Whittle & Clayton CC

A Rainy Yet Resilient Season

If I had to describe the 2024 season in one word it would be "wet". In between the constant rain, we call a British Summer we actually managed to play a bit of cricket - even though the start of the season was delayed by - you've guessed it - rain.

This season saw two new skippers take the helm - Jake in charge of the Saturday X1 and Harrison in charge of our Sunday Development X1. It's great to see that both of these lads who started their cricket careers in our Juniors now taking the reins and leading our senior sides. Our Saturday X1 finished 5th in the league this year and played good competitive cricket throughout the campaign whilst our Sunday Development X1 finished 6th in a very strong division.

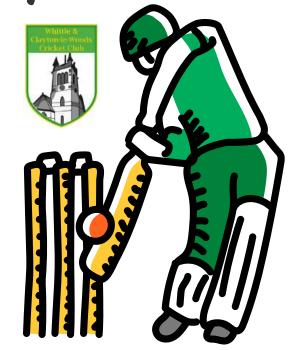
The purpose of our Sunday team is to provide a pathway for our younger players to progress through to senior cricket and this season we've done just that. Every Sunday side has been made up of at least 5 or 6 juniors and every one of them has contributed with either bat, ball or in the field.

Noticeable performances this season came from Anas who hit 97 against New Longton in the final game of the season, narrowly missing on

reaching his 100 and Andy who finished runnerup in the Palace Shield Div 4 batting averages - a deserved reward for someone who put in some big performances throughout the year.

2024 also saw the return of the Village 6 a side competition which proved to be a great success on and off the field.

For once we were blessed with glorious sunshine and the day was a mix of some great cricket, some really average cricket and some complete comedy gold before the trophy was deservedly won by The Unicorns.



As a club, we're always on the lookout for new players, whatever age, sex or standard to both bolster our ranks and expand our numbers. If you fancy playing or even practising as a way of keeping fit - give it a go.

Follow the club on Facebook or get in touch via: www.wclewoods.play-cricket.com/home

All the best for the festive season and here's to a successful (and hopefully less wet) 2025!



Remembering Eric Bell

A Man Who Will Never Be Forgotten 1933 - 2024

I am writing these notes with mixed emotions as I think of my great friend, Eric Bell. Eric had been unwell for several weeks and died at home on Sun 20th October 2024, at the age of 91. My deepest sympathies go to his family, especially Pat, as they also lost their son Ian a few days afterwards.

I'm very proud to have known Eric as a close friend and an incredible worker for the betterment of the Whittle-le-Woods community and the Chorley area.

I have been a Whittle resident for over 50 years, and for most of that time, we were friends. It all started when Eric knocked on my door and asked for help with a local community project. His enthusiasm was infectious, and I was soon on board. This is where his skills lay: involving people in all kinds of good works and providing the drive and enthusiasm to keep things going to completion. Along the way, we worked on the Ox-Roast Centenary, the Village Hall, many community clean-ups, canal clearing, the Carwood footpath wall, and many others. There isn't a part of Whittle that hasn't benefited from Eric's work.



In his youth, Eric had been a long-distance fell runner, but in his 60s, he changed to hill walking. After our first meeting, we soon realised we had many things in common, including fell walking. We would explore the moors and hills far and wide. From the Anglezarke moors, we moved further afield to the high hills of Cumbria, exploring abandoned quarries and mine workings. When the weather was bad, we would usually find an old mine entrance to shelter and eat our butties.

Eric became the Mayor of Chorley in 2003, and in that year, he celebrated his 70th birthday. He used the occasion to organise a sponsored walk for charity over Helvellyn in Cumbria on Thursday 28th August 2003. It is the third-highest summit in England at 950m (3,116 ft), and 10 hardy trekkers joined us. Several other charity events followed, including a walk around Rivington and



Great Hill. We returned to Helvellyn on Wednesday 28th August 2013, to celebrate Eric's 80th birthday, though it was just the two of us that time.



He was always good company, and during our chats, we would "put the world to rights." Eric's skills were many, but map reading wasn't one of them. Eric wanted to learn, so we wandered the fields by Kem Mill Lane as he practiced reading the map and compass bearings.

He soon realised he would be more useful as a trek supporter rather than a leader.

He spent many hours tending his allotment at the bottom of Church Hill, and his vegetables were frequent winners at the annual Whittle Flower, Craft & Vegetable Show. His homemade jams were also winners.



Eric's passion for local history and the Whittle folk who shaped it was well documented in his book 'Whittle As

It Was', published in 1984. Another book followed in 2006, 'Whittle Walks', featuring more local history and historical walks. It was a team effort. but Eric wrote most of the text.

His work on the council was legendary, and if he couldn't sort out a problem that someone had, he knew someone who could. I was always amazed at his phenomenal memory for people's names - he seemed to know everyone.



His legacy is all around us, and though he may no longer be here in person, his memory and good works will live on.

Boyd Harris. Whittle-le-Woods

Remembering John Walker

Honouring A Lifetime Of Service 1939 - 2024

John initially served on Chorley Council when the ward was Whittle and Clayton-le-Woods. At the time he lived in Rowan Croft in Clayton-le Woods and this was a perfect fit as Eric was a well known and dedicated councillor in Whittle with John serving the Clayton electorate. John served on both Clayton and Whittle parish councils and on the War Memorial Committee. John was also honoured to be Mayor of Chorley from 2013 to 2014.



John loved all sports having played cricket, badminton, squash and was a runner, having run the London Marathon. He always felt that children benefitted from being out playing in the open air and championed many play areas in both parishes.

He fought many battles trying to preserve the green fields in the area.

However, in many cases, this was a lost cause, and the big property developers often won.

John worked tirelessly on the governors at several local

primary schools, most notably as Chair of Whittle St Johns Primary for over 20 years and welcomed new families into the area, trying to involve them in local activities.

He was diligent in attending all meetings, and never missed a full council meeting or governor's meeting, having a 100% attendance record.

Many knew John from his walks with his little dog, Leo and this helped him keep in touch with any local concerns. Latterly, the ward boundaries changed to Whittle and Buckshaw, but both John and Eric worked well together serving the local area well into their 80s. In the last few years John was chair of Chorley Council's Overview and Scrutiny meetings and was well-respected by all members of the council, whatever their political persuasion.

Sadly, John had Macular Degeneration, which greatly impeded him reading minutes and agendas and he retired from the Council in 2022 and from the governors in 2023. It also made it difficult for him to watch sports on TV. However, he still spent many hours in the garden managing to keep it looking as well as possible and still attended the ex-servicemen's meetings and lunches, always directing proceedings on Remembrance Sunday.





I doubt very much if Whittle will see such long serving and dedicated councillors as John and Eric.

Marie Walker, Whittle-le-Woods

Have You Ever Considered Joining Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council?

Meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Monday of every month, at the Village Hall on Union Street, Whittle-le-Woods, PR6 7LN.

All residents are welcome to attend meetings and contribute to discussions about the local community.

All of the Parish Council documents can be accessed on

the Parish Council website: www. whittlelewoods-pc.gov.uk.

You will also find lots more information about the Parish Council, including details of upcoming projects, news updates, and contact information for councillors.



Life Living With Dyslexia

Learn About My Ability, Not My Disability

I hit the big 5-0 last year but was only diagnosed with dyslexia four years ago. During lockdown, I took part in an online family 'murder mystery'. We all dressed up in character, and everyone was excited - except me. I was incredibly anxious about having to read aloud without preparation.

My anxiety turned to stress. My lines started to blur, jumble, and I repeatedly stumbled. I couldn't process what was being said and literally lost the plot! Memories of being called stupid in school flooded in ("It's Roger Redhat, not Redhurt, you stupid boy!"). The stress built, 'flight or fight' kicked in, and off I fled in tears.

I'd been with my then fiancée, now wife, Abbey, an English teacher, for around a year. She was brilliant about what had happened, then said, to my surprise, that she thought I was dyslexic. How could I have got this far without knowing? I quickly dismissed it, but Abbey didn't listen and arranged for a dyslexia assessment after lockdown. After three hours of tests, I got the feedback: I was indeed dyslexic - and severely so.

In addition to struggling with reading new text aloud, there were other signs. I've always been slow at reading and writing. I can only read blocks of three words at a time. I can't skim read and find reading something quickly and providing a synopsis very stressful.

My short-term memory has always been poor. It was described to me as a "shorter shelf" than most people's; I can only store so much information before something falls off! My long-term memory is decent, but I need prompts to 'download' information.

As a result, I've always struggled with exams. I failed my eleven plus and did so poorly in my maths A-Level mock exam that my school didn't want to enter me for the real thing because they feared it would lower their statistics. My parents kicked up a fuss, and I managed to scrape a C. I also had panic attacks during my first round of final exams at university and had to see a stress management counsellor.

Spelling has always been a challenge. I often miss words in sentences or flip their order. I've felt ashamed of my spelling when writing on flip charts or filling out handwritten forms. In fact, I handwrite in block capitals, which is a key indicator of dyslexia.

To manage these struggles, I developed positive coping strategies, like colour-coded notes and mind maps. The Microsoft Word 'Read Aloud' feature (in the 'review' tab) has been a game-changer, as it helps me spot spelling and grammar errors.

However, I also developed negative coping strategies. I avoided exams or interviews requiring detailed recall, stopping me from applying for certain jobs and accreditations. I often put in extra hours to meet deadlines, which led to an unhealthy work/life balance.

Line managers frequently said I worked too many hours, but I felt it was

necessary just to keep up.

When I discovered I was dyslexic, I initially felt frustrated not to have been diagnosed earlier. Schools now are light years ahead in identifying and supporting dyslexic students.

My daughter, diagnosed at primary school, has thrived with the support she's received.

The more I read about dyslexia, the more I realised it has also given me useful skills. I think in pictures, not words, and can visualise my thoughts. This helps me solve problems, as I can picture how things fit and work together. Apparently, this is why dyslexic people often make good engineers! So if you see me staring out the window and think I'm daydreaming, I'm visualising a problem!

Dyslexia often comes with other strengths, like reasoning skills, seeing the big picture, and finding patterns. Dyslexics are typically good communicators and use stories to help others understand issues. They are creative and skilled at simplifying complex problems.

Knowing I have dyslexia has been a positive revelation. It has allowed me to seek support and ditch negative coping mechanisms. There is a wealth of helpful information online; good starting points are the British Dyslexia Association: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk & Made By Dyslexia: www.madebydyslexia.org

One thing I can't stress enough: if you know or suspect you're dyslexic, let your teacher, manager, and HR know. They should work with you to make reasonable adjustments.

View it as an ability, not a disability. Given the choice, I'd choose dyslexia every time!

That little lad who was told by his junior schoolteacher that he would "struggle to get a good job in later life" has done alright!

Cllr Russ Green

Keeping Our Central Island Tidy & Maintained

The central island on Waterhouse Green is planted with flowers and regularly maintained by our contractor David Hull. We appreciate this, and all the other work that David carries out for the parish council over the year.

When there is an event on the Roebuck car park, like the Christmas tree lights switch on, your children must not play on the cobbles or planted area. We need to avoid any accidents or injuries.





Whittle & Clayton Scouts

Community, Adventure And Lifelong Memories

Whittle and Clayton Scout Troop

We re-opened our doors in January 2022 to the first recruit since the Covid pandemic. Our Scout Leadership Team strives to support all its Scouts in a programme that offers a fantastic range of creative seasonal activities, land and water sports activities like climbing, archery and canoeing plus adventures from hiking and survival skills to nights away camping locally and internationally too!



Very Grateful Scouts

This year we were very excited about the decision to join over 2000 Scouts at RedRose 2024 International Scout Camp. We fundraised for over 12 months to raise monies to pay for essential equipment and resources to be to attend. Unfortunately, our faithful mess tent had also seen hard times and due to slightly damp storage over the months we were closed meant that the soiled canvass was not fit for purpose.

This was devastating.





We applied for urgent funding from both Whittle and Clayton Parish Councils. They collectively agreed to fund the cost to replace it in time for our camp.

Red Rose was a fantastic opportunity and a memorable experience for us all, not only due to the array of activities, days on the water, trips out to the city and high adrenaline adventures, plus, evenings filled with all kinds of fun and entertainment but also, the opportunity to make new friends from all over the world, learn new skills and take on new challenges.

We had a great time. This for some was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Thank you very much for your overwhelming support.

Scouts Giving Back to the Community

In August, Whittle Parish Council generously provided FREE Bungee Trampolines and a Giant Inflatable Slide at their Annual Youth Event on Polo Park. To support this event,

we opened our Scout Premises to provide hot/cold refreshments and snacks plus toilet facilities...

We also provided FREE sessions to include archery, mini golf, indoor games, crafts and face painting.

Everyone that came to this fabulous event said they had a great

time. We even recruited children to each of our sections.



Come And Join Us

If you are aged 10.5 to 14 years, come and join us our meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7pm we are based at The Scout Headquarters Chorley Old Road, Whittle le woods. (Beavers and Cubs take place on Mondays). Find us on Facebook Whittle and Clayton Scout Troop.



Our Hall Continues To Thrive

The Village Hall continues to thrive and provide a useful community space for the village.

The annual Duck Race and Flower Show proved to be the usual success this year and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 4th December.

All the usual classes attract many people and this year we have had some additional new classes.

All can be seen on our website www.whittlelewoods.com

Signposts Around Our Footpaths

New signposts have been installed this year to identify public footpaths between Chorley Old Road and Preston Road.

These can be seen at the ZIG ZAG, BREWERY FIELDS, and SMITHY FIELDS footpaths.

The new signposts were funded by a Public Right of Way grant from Lancashire County Council.

If you have suggestions for identifying other public footpaths, please contact us through our Parish Council website.





Thank You For Coming Along To Our Youth Event

Well, after the awful event of covid and all the previous bouts of bad weather since then, the youth event was finally back on!



On Saturday 31st August , the young people of the village were treated to a huge Slide Bouncy castle and a Bungee trampoline, courtesy of Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council and the added bonus of being totally free! Whittle and Clayton Scouts also turned out to support the event, providing Face painting, indoor archery and other activities, with the added bonus of juice and biscuits all once again free!

A fantastic time was had by all and the weather was unbelievably kind to us. Here's to more events in the future.

Cllr Wendy McDonald Chairman, Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council

Promote Your Community Events With Us

What's happening? Do you want us to help you share?

We welcome any local residents who are interested in organising or helping with community events.

Contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk, Lisa Burton by emailing, clerk@whittlelewoods-pc.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS PUZZIES

From Everyone At Whittle-Le-Woods Parish Council, We Would Like To Wish You And Your Loved Ones A Very Merry Christmas!

N	U	В	J	K	D	Q	U	M	R	S	C	G
F	F	J	H	1	1	L	1	J	A	N	N	1
Н	0	L	L	Υ	N	S	c	N	X	0	S	N
L	0	R	A	C	T	G	T	R	G	W	В	G
H	G	1	E	L	S	A	L	E	1	F	S	E
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M	T	T	H	E	F	N	P	D	T	A	L	В
T	0	A	S	P	1	T	C	N	S	K	E	R
E	L	N	E	K	L	Q	N	1	C	E	В	E
V	-1	N	C	R	В	0	C	E	W	c	U	A
T	E	0	C	A	W	N	D	R	A	K	A	D
U	T	N	0	E	L	D	N	U	X	H	L	0
S	F	R	0	S	T	Y	V	P	R	W	L	A

Bells Noel Carol Reindeer Elves Rudolph Santa Frosty Gifts Sleigh Snowflake Gingerbread Holly Stocking Tinsel Jingle Mistletoe Wreath







Try Our Sudoku Puzzle

7

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			1	4		6		
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What Life Is Like At

St. Chad's Catholic Primary School

As autumn turns to winter, we shift our attention from autumnal colours to the beauty of a frosty morning.

We are fortunate to work with children who remind us to pause in awe at a glistening spider's web or icy crystals, rather than complaining about defrosting cars. Perhaps we could all benefit from rediscovering our inner child.

Here at St. Chad's, we are blessed with a wonderful natural environment. Last week, I found 2 minutes to enjoy the sunrise from our school grounds.



It can be challenging to create infrastructure for year-round access, with heavy rain and marshy land proving difficult. We are grateful to Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council for approving a CIL grant application.

We used this to install a running track/path, creating access to areas like the pond, seating areas, prayer circle, tipi, denbuilding area, and mud kitchen.

Since the installation, classes have regularly used the track for the 'Daily Mile', benefiting children's physical and mental health. It has also allowed us to plan weekly Forest School sessions with Wildwood Days.

These sessions improve confidence, social skills, communication, collaboration, motivation, resilience, physical skills, and respect for nature. This wouldn't be possible without infrastructure to access our site in all weathers.

In September, we welcomed new Reception children and their families into our community. They settled in well and enjoyed their first half-term. Fr. Mark held a special Mass of Welcome, and our weekly children's liturgy, 'Little Church', continues to be a blessing for our parish.

Whittle-le-Woods Parish Council



Contact us on: 01772 304 841 clerk@whittlelewoods-pc.gov.uk 309 Brownedge Road, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6UU

Stay up-to-date via our website: www.whittlelewoods-pc.gov.uk

This edition of the Whittle-le-Woods, Winter 2024 Parish Newsletter has been designed, printed and delivered by Green Man Marketing. All children and staff have worked hard, with every class making great progress. It's important to celebrate each child's uniqueness, fostering resilience and a



love for learning, a cornerstone of our mission. This will be reaffirmed in our new Mission Statement launching in January 2025.

We've enjoyed showing prospective families around our school. For those considering primary places, applications are due in January. Details are on our website or available via the school office.

Finally, our hall hosts community groups such as the Women's Institute, Guides, dance classes, and pilates. We have availability for new bookings - contact the school office on 01257 264480 for details.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy winter.

Mr J Riley, Headteacher

Does your daughter want to join a Brownie Unit?



Limited Number Of Spaces Available

Meet on Tuesday evening's from 6.30pm - 8pm in Whittle-le-Woods

Brownies have incredible experiences together and make new friends. Every time they meet up, they learn new skills and take on challenges.

Contact us now to arrange a visit!





2nd Whittle-le-Woods Group

Email: whittlebrownies@hotmail.com Call Dawn on: 07977 048 605