



Dear Parents/Carers,

Since our last whole school newsletter we have had lots of amazing learning going on around school. I have been particularly impressed with the learning in Y6 in both maths and science recently and it is great to see the children retain their learning over time. There has also been some fantastic learning in Hummingbird Class and I have been lucky enough to read some great writing and see some brilliant maths from learners in that class.

We have had a really productive week with the children teaching about the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' to coincide with World Mental Health Day- Ask the children how they are able to manage to do this? The children know that being active is one of the best forms of improving mental health and it would be great to hear about anything they have done this weekend to be active with their family.

Thank you to all those parents who were able to attend the meetings we have held to discuss expectations and curriculum in each year group. For those who were unable to attend, your curriculum overview for the term was sent out with class newsletters. If you have any queries or questions, please contact the teacher and remember we have parent teacher meetings in the last week of this half term.

SOMETHING ELSE TO CELEBRATE... Unbeknown to us, our school was nominated by Wade Deacon Trust for a National Schools Award for the work we do at Whiston Willis. The nomination was considered by an independent panel and we have been shortlisted from all nominations into the final five schools in the 'School of The Year' category. The final judging takes place in December. We are really proud of all we achieve as a school and the relationships between home and school are key to our successes-so please keep working with us.

Our Parent/ Teacher group met this week to begin to plan some Christmas events for the children to enjoy and they are holding a further meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October @2.00pm to plan further. We really do need more volunteers to help with this group and if you are available and willing to help, then please contact the school office to say that you would like to attend.

Our Y6 children are making me very proud with the example they are setting around school. They are fulfilling their responsibilities with maturity and pride. We have also developed a Y5 volunteer programme to ensure our Y5 pupils have the opportunity to make a difference to our school too and over 30 children have volunteered some of their time to help other children and staff and make a positive difference to our school community. It is great to see that they have such strong social intelligence and willingness to make a difference.

I have set the children in Y6 a challenge this year to support a number of charities. The challenge is to raise a minimum of £1000 over the full year and contribute really well as good citizens in our community. To start their fundraising, they have decided to support Macmillan Cancer Research and have arranged 3 coffee events for you to support (See separate letter issued) There is a limit to the number of people who can attend each event so please do send in your reply slips to confirm your place. The children need donations of prepacked cakes/biscuits and it would be fantastic if you could support with this by sending offerings into school next week.

I would like to offer thanks to all families who have shared Harvest donations in recent weeks. Reverend Telfer spoke to the children in assembly about Harvest and he was really appreciative of the donations we made. Many people in our local community will benefit from your generosity and that is something that we should be proud of- Thank you!



## Harvest Donations.....



## 5 ways to Wellbeing.....



The children in 3 classes received a talk for The Dog’s Trust this week to enable them to recognise the dangers of unknown dogs. Knowsley is reported as an area with one of the highest numbers of dog attacks on children in the country and we believe the workshops provided a useful opportunity to help children to keep themselves safe around dogs. The other classes in KS2 will have the same workshop after half term.

### PARKING CONCERNS:

We all know how busy it can be around the school site at the start and end of the day, especially when it has been raining. If you have to drive to collect your children please take care not to park over dropped kerbs, driveways or zigzag lines as this can hinder access for residents and parents with mobility issues as well as endanger our pupils and other pedestrians. If there are no suitable spaces near school we would ask that you - **SHOW YOU CARE AND PARK ELSEWHERE.**

### Attendance League Table (2<sup>nd</sup> October – 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023)

Position	Class	Percentage	LEAGUE POINTS	<p>Please arrange appointments out of school time or if that isn't possible bring your child in first thing to get their mark and return them after any appointment.</p> <p>Look out for further attendance challenges in the upcoming weeks. <b>'In to win' raffle 2 days next week- Prize in every year group!</b></p> <p>Every two weeks we will have a winner in each year group or phase- these will be recorded and end of term prize time will go to the winners</p>
1st	Lion	96.3%	YEAR 4 WINNERS	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Shark	96.1%		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Penguin	95.1%	YEAR 3 WINNERS	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Hummingbird	95%	YEAR 2 WINNERS	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wolf	94.7%	UKS2 WINNERS	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	94.4%	EYFS WINNERS	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Owl	93.8%		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Cheetah	93.5%		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Koala	93.3%		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Zebra	93.2%		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jaguar	92.7%	YEAR 1 WINNERS	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tiger	91.6%		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Pangolin	89.6%		
14 <sup>th</sup>	Squirrel	85.2%		





Attendance is crucial for us as a school and we want everyone in our school community to recognise the value of being in school.

Some things to consider....

- Our curriculum is designed to build on learning day after day, week after week, term after term and year after year. Missing learning is like taking away Jenga blocks and learning becomes wobbly and not secure. It is like building a house on sand or leaving some bricks out altogether! Every lesson matters!
- Having time off school can impact negatively on friendships and relationships with peers.
- Developing good habits in attendance and punctuality sets the children up for later life.
- Unauthorised absences will lead to warning letters and potential fines- if your child is ill let us know.
- Keeping children absent without valid reason can be categorised as educational neglect.
- We will be undertaking home visits working with Knowsley School Attendance Service to complete attendance welfare calls over the remainder of the term to monitor absences. – We have a duty of care

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

MacMillian Coffee: 23<sup>rd</sup> October (9.15am-10.00am), 24<sup>th</sup> October (2.15pm-3.00pm), 25<sup>th</sup> October (9.15am-10.00am) (Please see separate letter to confirm attendance)

Parent/Teacher meeting: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October or phone call that week

Staff Training Day (SCHOOL CLOSED): Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Half term break: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October-Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

September 2024- Open evening: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October

## Special mentions for positively standing out this week.....

CLASS	PUPIL	
Squirrel	Darla N and Alfie G	To follow what is going on in your child's class, please join Twitter and follow the class page. It is a great way to see all the learning and fun that goes on in classes.
Owl	Nilen and Olive	
Hedgehog	Ava A and Harrison T	
Jaguar	Dougie M and Harper P	
Tiger	Lily F and Penny F	
Pangolin	Finley D and Caleb N	
Hummingbird	Thomas S and Harry F	
Zebra	Scott H and Ricci L	
Penguin	Antonia and	
Lion	Alex O and Sabrina T	
Shark	Toby and Lily A	<b>Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school Isaac Lideth</b>
Koala	Mila and Isabel	<b>Mr Cooper's special award for amazing effort in handwriting and presentation Joseph Parry</b>
Wolf	Tony T and Isla D	
Cheetah	Sophia Q and Sonny S	



## EXPECTATIONS OF ADULTS:

We work in school to ensure our values are evident in all we do with the children.

**BEING RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE** are the expectations of we place on the children and we believe that all adults who are part of our school community should model this behaviour too when they are on our school grounds or communicating with school staff.

Any adults who do not model this behaviour will be asked to leave the school grounds and if required, school has the right to ban parents from the grounds.

We really do not want this to be the case as our community is important to us but we have a duty of care to all pupils and aggressive behaviour, abusive language and any other behaviour that we believe is not appropriate will not be allowed.

Have a lovely weekend and see you all on Monday.

Ian Cooper