



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have very nearly reached the end of another term and I can't believe how quickly the time has gone since September! Next week will be another lovely week in school, with Christmas Nativities, party time and general Christmas fun.

Since the last newsletter, we seem to have been busier than ever in school with Christmas movie nights, nursery and reception Christmas performances amongst other things!

The children have been fantastic and have continued to be focused and learn well. I have been really impressed with the Y6 pupils in school in the last week for their maturity and attitudes to learning they really are fantastic role models for all the pupils in our school.

We had a lovely 'Connect' afternoon in school as part of our mental wellbeing work and the children enjoyed sharing some time and books with children in classes that they wouldn't normally. I really felt so positive when I saw pupils in Koala Class reading with children in Tiger Class- It was great!

The Y5/6 Sports hall athletics team represented the school so well recently and there were some fantastic individual performances. As a team they worked well together, gave so much encouragement to each other and did their very best- The values we share with the children were really evident so a big well done to all those pupils who took part.

As you may be aware from previous newsletters, we were nominated and shortlisted as 'School of the Year' at the National Schools Awards 2023. Myself, Mrs Askew and Miss Boyd along with Gary Kelly (Wade Deacon Trust CEO) and Juliet Brown also from Wade Deacon Trust were invited to attend the awards ceremony at The House of Lords last week. Amazingly, we were chosen as the overall winner of the award and our work to offer a high quality education and more, to the pupils was acknowledged by the judging panel.

As the Principal of the school, I am so proud of our whole school community and this recognition is a testament to our pupils and their families, our staff and wider community partners. It is something to celebrate and in the new year we plan on celebrating this achievement with the pupils.

We all should be proud to be part of our school community and recognise that by our collaborative work, support and drive to ensure the children have the best possible start in life, we are successful! Those who know me well realise that I always believe we can improve and this doesn't change a thing- we will continue to strive to be even better and I am sure that we will!

Connect afternoon in Penguin Class.....

Christmas Jumper day and Santa Dash in Shark Class.....



Learning for Life



PTA: I want to express my thanks to the PTA who along with school staff arranged the movie night. It was a great success and they managed to raise £500 profit from the night. This will be used to offer the pupils in school access to an opportunity that they may not have previously had without this fund raising.

The next event is a Valentine disco – look out for the PTA newsletter for more information and again a plea, if you can help in any way that would be amazing! They are only a small group and it would be fantastic if more people could support them in their work in the future. The next meeting to be held is on 11th January at 2:45pm at school- please feel free to turn up and you will be warmly welcomed!

Well done to our Y4 children who have run the Mission Christmas toy/gift collection this December. I love the enthusiasm they have shown to make a difference to other children who may not be as lucky as they are.

Attendance: Attendance at school continues to be something that we really do need your support with. We understand that we all can get ill, but we are seeing a number of children with too many broken weeks in the last term which means having random single days off in the week. We will be issuing a separate attendance letter outlining some key points that are essential for January and to ensure that all parents understand the procedures that we have within our policy and how we work with the local authority school attendance service.

The number of children who are currently classed as persistently absent with attendance below 90% is much too high- we need to reduce this dramatically and the only way this can be done is 100% attendance for weeks on end. 1 day absent reduces your child’s attendance by over 1% which then takes 3 weeks of full attendance to recover.

All holidays in term time are classed as unauthorised absences and Educational Penalty Notice letters are issued automatically as part of our policy which is in line with the LA guidance.

Attendance League Table (1st December- 15th December)

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>Please do call the school office if your child is going to be absent or if you need any further advice.</p> <p>If we are not informed of any reason for absence, either Mr Nixon or Mr Cooper will have to complete a home visit as part of our safeguarding procedures.</p>
1 st	Lion	95.71%	YEAR 4 WINNERS	
2 nd	Wolf	95.58%	UKS 2 WINNERS	
3 rd	Jaguar	95.37%	YEAR 1 WINNERS	
4 th	Hummingbird	95.18%	YEAR 2 WINNERS	
5 th	Shark	94.85%		
6 th	Owl	94.62%	EYFS WINNERS	
7 th	Tiger	94.35%		
8 th	Cheetah	93.98%		
9 th	Penguin	93.96%	YEAR 3 WINNERS	
10 th	Koala	93.14%		
11 th	Zebra	93%		
12 th	Pangolin	92.75%		
13 th	Hedgehog	92.22%		
14 th	Squirrel	89.2%		

We have issued a number of attendance letters to families this week regarding attendance and concerns that exist. We must emphasise the importance of excellent attendance as this builds consistency in learning and in friendships. Regular absences have a massive impact on pupils that is sometimes not recognised. Please support us in a last push for excellent attendance in the last few weeks of term.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 18th December/Tuesday 19th December- Y2 Nativity

Monday 18th December/Tuesday 19th December- Y1 Nativity

Thursday 21st December- Break up for Christmas Holiday

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

CLASS	PUPIL	
Squirrel	Isobel T and Kobe D	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. Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school by following our school values- Evelyn Young Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school by following our school values- Jude McMullan
Owl	Theo J and Zara	
Hedgehog	Nellie M and Bobby A	
Tiger	Ben M and Sai Sri	
Jaguar	Sophia N and Lenny S	
Pangolin	Emilia Jane C and Freya L	
Hummingbird	Leo M and Thomas B	
Zebra	Teddie Mae G and Ruby P	
Penguin	Vinnie A and Oliver F	
Lion	Hafsat S and Sabrina T	
Shark	Charlie F and Demi Y	
Koala	Cara J and Scarlett L	
Wolf	Layla B and Bethany Mc	
Cheetah	Esme J and Millie S	

KITCHEN:

Our school kitchen team have had their annual hygiene inspection and I am happy to report that they received a 5 star rating. They provide lovely meals and the Christmas dinner was fantastic- Thank you to them for their work this year.

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.

Ian Cooper



WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

Learning for Life

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