



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a really busy two weeks since we returned from half term. There has been so much great learning going in all areas of the curriculum and in our wider school work that has made me feel really proud of our pupils.

The personal development of our pupils continues to be so important to us and we have offered the pupils many opportunities recently including the chance to watch a theatre production of 'Beauty and The Beast' to try and provide them with a real-life experience of theatre albeit in our school. They loved it!

We had a visit this week from a STEM ambassador and a pilot instructor from the RAF and they arrived in style via helicopter and the pupils were able to watch their landing and take off. This was an amazing experience for the pupils as they saw up close the helicopter. The pupils in Y5/6 took part in a STEM workshop and the pupils in Y6 a question and answer session about careers in the RAF. A special thanks to Mr Wong for organising this. Many now have the aspiration to fly and be a pilot. (Some great video clips on class twitter pages!)

We have also celebrated 'Interfaith Week' this week and across the school pupils have learned about a new faith or revisited their RE learning about other faiths. This is so important so that pupils have an understanding of a range of religions in modern day Britain.

It has also been Anti Bullying week this week and we began with 'Odd Socks Day'. This promotes the understanding that being different is ok and that we should not prejudice or have stereotypes about anybody who may be different to ourselves. The children recognise what bullying is and know what to do if they witness or are subject to any inappropriate behaviours from others. As a school, we won't accept any bullying and will challenge any behaviour we see or is reported. We also have Altru Drama visiting school to share a performance around anti bullying and also to complete some workshops with pupils in Y3-Y6 later in November.

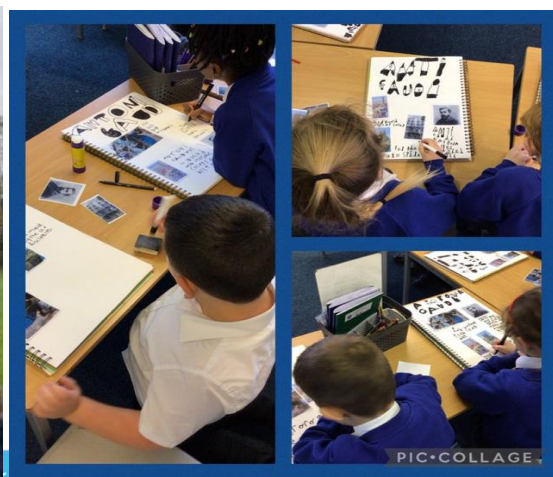
As a school, we are working with our children to recognise the value of helping other people. Our Y6 children are leading the way with this. Our Pupil Leadership Team have promoted our support of Children in Need today with an own clothes day too. Thank you for your support.

The children in Y4 have followed the lead and they want to make a difference too. They have decided to sign up to Mission Christmas and they will be collecting any donations of new and unwrapped toys. Our school has been registered as a collection point and now Lion and Shark Class ask for any donations to be sent to school by 15<sup>th</sup> December so they can be collected and be distributed ready for children to have at Christmas. Further information will be shared over the next week.

### RAF helicopter visit.....



### Antoni Gaudi Art in Y2.....





# WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

We took a team of Y3 pupils to represent the school in a football tournament at Finch Farm this week and I am very proud of how well they represented the school. We have a number of other sports competitions coming up in the next few weeks including, Y4 football, athletics for Y3/4 and Y5/6 and Kurling. I am sure all pupils who represent our school will be fantastic examples of our school values.

Our Reception Classes enjoyed a fantastic stay and play afternoon with their parents and family members. It was really well attended and thank you for this support. The children get so much from these sessions and love having the opportunity to show their family their learning in their classrooms.

I have been impressed by learning across school over the last two weeks and I love how the pupils are so interested when they start new units of learning. This has been especially evident in some of the art learning that has been going on around school. Our art curriculum introduces children to a range of artists including currently; Antoni Gaudi (Y2), Henry Moore (Y4) and Ben Moseley (Y6). It is also great to see that our Photography Club is well attended and is allowing pupils to build on previous learning in the curriculum.

## Year 3 Football at Finch Farm.....



## Hedgehog Class Stay and Play.....



## PTA:

We now have a small number of dedicated volunteers who are redeveloping our Parents, Teachers and Friends Association. The purpose of this is to arrange events for the children and their families to raise funds for the school which will be used to directly impact on the pupils in school. A Christmas Movie night has been planned for December and this is hopefully the first of a growing number of events for our school community to enjoy. The group will only succeed if the numbers of parents involved grows and we are desperate for anyone who can spare a little time to offer help and become part of the group. If you are interested please contact the school office and let them know and we will add you to the list for the next meeting which is 29<sup>th</sup> November at 2:15pm and finished by the end of the school day.

## ONLINE SAFETY:

Can we please ask for your support in managing the access your children have to online platforms. Please be aware of age restrictions and if you want any further information our school website offers lots of advice about different platforms. We as a school, work hard to educate pupils about online safety, but we do still have occasions when we have to address the fall out and upset caused when pupils use social media platforms inappropriately. Please carefully monitor your child's internet use.

Learning for Life





## Attendance League Table (13<sup>th</sup> October – 26<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.</p> <p><b>SPOT RAFFLE PRIZE ON FRIDAY NEXT WEEK £10 VOUCHER TO RANDOMLY SELECTED PUPIL</b></p> <p>Please do call the school office if your child is going to be absent or if you need any further advice. If we are not informed of any absence either Mr Nixon or Mr Cooper will have to complete a home visit as part of our safeguarding procedures.</p>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Shark	98.4%	YEAR 4 WINNERS	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wolf	98.1%	UKS2 WINNERS	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Zebra	97.3%	YEAR 3 WINNERS	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Hummingbird	96.5%	YEAR 2 WINNERS	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Tiger	96.4%	YEAR 1 WINNERS	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Jaguar	95.5%		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Cheetah	95%		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Owl	94.7%	EYFS WINNERS	
9 <sup>th</sup>	Lion	94.1%		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Koala	92.5%		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Penguin	92.1%		
12 <sup>th</sup>	Pangolin	91.9%		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Rabbit	91.5%		
14 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	88.9%		

Brilliant to see a number of classes in GREEN in the last two weeks!!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2:40pm- Read, write INC parents meeting (Reception Classes)

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November Altru Drama performance for the pupils.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Jumper Day

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

CLASS	PUPIL	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school Elle Myers</b></p> <p><b>Mr Cooper's special award for amazing effort in reading Lenny Sinclair</b></p> <p><b>Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school Sonny Wilson</b></p>
Squirrel	Lola D and Koby G	
Owl	Theo F and Lottie H	
Hedgehog	Lyra B and Bobby C	
Jaguar	Joseph D and Lee T	
Tiger	Dotty W and Joseph W	
Pangolin	Joshua Mc and Emilia D	
Hummingbird	Evelyn C and Ellie M	
Zebra	Noah J and Simon K	
Penguin	Vinnie A and Lennon R	
Lion	Jonnie N and Florin T	
Shark	Toby S and Lilly Rose C	
Koala	Scarlett L and Mark M	
Wolf	Jake F and Victoria K	
Cheetah	Thomas C and Debbie O	



## **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.

## **ATTENDANCE**

We really do need your help reporting absence. If we have children who are not accounted for each day, we have a staged process of response that involves, text messages, telephone calls and home visits.

Undertaking home visits is an expectation of schools when children are absent from school and the absence is unexplained after other forms of communication have been explored.

We complete these visits to ensure the safety not only of the children but also of the family. The time this takes could be reduced if all absences are reported and Mr Nixon would then be able to focus his time on working with children in school.

We as a school are held to account over school attendance and we really do need your support to get the children into school every day. We understand and appreciate illness and that this can lead to period of absence- our bigger concern is when children have large numbers of broken weeks (this means random days absence frequently to break the attendance that week)

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Ian Cooper