



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term break and enjoyed some quality family time despite the typical weather for the time of year!

The children have returned to school in a very positive frame of mind and have been focused on their learning well this week. Even in just four days back at school, I have had a number of visits from children with their learning and the progress they have made since September is fantastic to see.

We are now into the second half of this academic year and this is such a key time for all the children to deepen their learning of their current curriculum so that they are well prepared for the next academic year.

I do really need to raise the issue of punctuality with you all as parents. The school day begins at 8:40am and the children do start the day with maths immediately. This is a planned teaching and learning time and an opportunity for children to deepen their mathematical fluency.

It may seem crazy but that time every day the children are in school equates to nearly **50 HOURS OF MATHS**.

Being regularly late may not seem important but when you actually consider this as the teaching time it is- then please ensure that your children attend on time. Is this why your children may be struggling with maths?

As you are aware, we had a full graded inspection from OFSTED at the end of January. We are expecting the report to be available to our school community in the next week or so. This will be emailed directly to you, available via the school website and through a published link on our school Twitter page.

PTA- I want to thank our PTA members who helped prepare for the Valentine's discos that proved to be a great success with the children. We are so happy that this group is growing and this fundraising will offer our children with more experiences and opportunities in school that will be subsidised with money raised.

The PTA will be running an Easter Raffle in the coming weeks. To support with this we will be holding **two non-uniform days on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** when we will ask if you could send a bar of chocolate to school in return for wearing own clothes- this will allow us to make chocolate hampers as prizes.

#### Disco fun in KS1.....



#### Maths work in Zebra Class....



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**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 have seen far too many children with too many broken weeks in the last term which means having random single days off in any week.

In line with our attendance policy and Knowsley School Attendance Service advice, we will be asking for medical evidence to enable us to authorise absences for children who have attendance below 95%.

Unauthorised absences can lead to referral to Knowsley attendance service, warning letters and ultimately prosecution.

I hope you will work with us this term to reduce the number of broken weeks across school for all our children. They all have one chance at school so attending every day really does matter!

### Attendance League Table (20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> February)

Position	Class	Percentage	LEAGUE POINTS	<p><b>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.</b></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 <sup>st</sup>	Hummingbird	98.86%	YEAR 2 WINNERS	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wolf	98.28%	UKS2 WINNERS	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Zebra	97.92%	YEAR 3 WINNERS	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Koala	97.5%		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Cheetah	97.41%		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Shark	96.43%	YEAR 4 WINNERS	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	96.35%	EYFS WINNERS	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Owl	96.15%		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Squirrel	95.12%		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Penguin	93.75%		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jaguar	93.75%	Y1 WINNERS	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Tiger	92.5%		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Lion	90.34%		
14 <sup>th</sup>	Pangolin	86.46%		

### 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>Well done to all our pupils who have been recognised by staff this week for their hard work and in following our school values and The Whiston Willis Way.</b></p>
Squirrel	Louis H	
Owl	Eliyanah	
Hedgehog	Nancy C	
Tiger	Noah C	
Jaguar	Harry G	
Pangolin	Caleb N	
Hummingbird	Ellie M	
Zebra	Ryan J	
Penguin	Aiden T	
Lion	Jonnie N	
Shark	Tosin	
Koala	Alice G	
Wolf	Max D	
Cheetah	Thomas	



# WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

**Sports News:** This week, Year 6 Football team played in the final league fixtures of the Prescot Football League. It all came down to the final fixture with 5 teams fighting to be crowned champions and progress to the Knowsley finals. It all came down to the last game, unfortunately, we narrowly missed out on progressing to the finals with a close defeat. Well done to the Year 6 children that have represented the school in an excellent manner over the different fixture dates. Thanks to Mr Wong for the update!

**MP visit:** Today we have had a visit from our local MP Marie Rimmer. She asked to visit school following our recent award and she was really impressed with our children and the work we are completing as a school.

**Road Safety:** As you are aware, road safety is such an important life skill for our children and to support with this we have been working with external agencies to support our children to keep safe on the road. Another group of our Y6 pupils have completed their 'Bikeability' training this week and Knowsley Road safety team have worked with our Y1 and Y6 children which is so important in ensuring they follow road safety rules. The team will be working with the children in Y2 over the next few weeks.

**Merseyside Police:** The children in Y5/6 have listened to a talk today about the Rule of Law and how they can contribute in a positive way to our local community by following the law now and in the future. The children really appreciate the ongoing work we complete with Merseyside Police.

**Parking:** Please can we ensure that we are parking with care to avoid any accidents and with consideration for local residents. Please do not block driveways or pavements due to unthoughtful and dangerous parking.

Have a great weekend,

Ian Cooper

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