



Dear Parents,

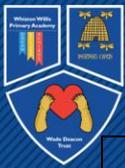
It has been fantastic to have the children return to school this week and to welcome our new starters in Owl and Hedgehog Classes and Mrs Martin (Learning Mentor/Pastoral Team) and Mrs Young (Jaguar Class support) as new staff members.

We really hope that we are able to enjoy a year that isn't disrupted in the way the last two years have been. Whilst we are now working with new guidance as schools we still have recommendations to follow that will reduce the potential spread of COVID 19. Hand hygiene and good ventilation is key to this and we will be encouraging this at all times. Public Health England and government guidance has changed when there is a suspected/confirmed case of COVID 19 at home or in school and we will follow this guidance accordingly. We have sent a letter out earlier this week with some advice from Knowsley Council and we would ask you all to read and follow the advice given to help us have minimal disruption this year.

Our school vision is to develop every child so that they achieve well academically and also develop their social and moral intelligence so that they can flourish in their lives now and in the future. A key part to this is that home and school work together in partnership. We recognise that the limitations that we have faced in the last two years have made this more difficult and now is the time for us to refocus and take another step forward together to support and challenge our children to develop in every way.

This year, we have a number of priorities as a school that we believe will make our school even better and ensure every child does well academically and in their personal development. An overview is shown in the table below.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK	PRIORITIES LINKED TO THE FOCUS
QUALITY OF EDUCATION COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve early language development in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2• Improve spoken language and oracy across all year groups• Improve the quality of teaching and learning of early reading and phonics• Ensure all pupils are a minimum fluent, age appropriate readers.
QUALITY OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To improve provision across the curriculum for all pupils with SEND• Improve pupil outcomes in maths• Develop the wider curriculum with a focus on specifically improving teaching and learning in Design Technology and Music.• All leaders in school drive curriculum improvements to improve the quality of education across the curriculum.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, VALUES AND WELL BEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fully meet all fundamental elements of promoting good health including PSHE, healthy eating and physical health• To further develop whole school approach to wellbeing and emotional mental health• To further prepare all learners for life in modern Britain by developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of diversity, tolerance and equality.



WHISTON WILLIS PRIMARY ACADEMY

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further improve attendance so that overall attendance is at a minimum in line with national averages and children with historically lower attendance improved rapidly.
ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY AND ATTITUDES TO LEARNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ensure attitudes to learning of all children are developed to make them 'ready to learn' and subsequently make academic gains.
PUPIL AND FAMILY SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To re-establish post COVID strong home school relationships that promote engagement with school and involvement in learning

HOME SCHOOL LINKS

This year we will be reintroducing welcome meetings to new classes and we plan to hold open afternoons each term and parent workshops linked to a number of topics that should enable you to support your children in their learning. You will also receive a whole school newsletter every two weeks and a class newsletter on alternate weeks.

Welcome meetings will take place over the coming weeks and will last no more than 30 minutes starting at 2.30pm. dates for these meetings will be provided next week via text message so please ensure you have up to date contact details with the office.

We are also hoping that our PTA group is able to restart its work and support us in fundraising that we can directly invest back into the school for the children. If anyone is interested in supporting school be being a member of the PTA, please contact the school office.

The best source of information about life at school is through the class Twitter pages. Please download the Twitter APP to your phones and access some great information and photographs about the experiences and learning the children have each week. We also have a whole school twitter page @whistonwillis1 that we encourage you to follow if possible

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Next week, we will be having Scootfit workshops on Monday and Tuesday in school. (see separate letter) Children in KS2 will complete this on Monday and children in EYFS and KS1 on Tuesday.

Please can I also ask for your support in ensuring that the children have one snack at playtime. This should be of an appropriate size and ideally a healthy option. Fruit is available in school for children to have as their snack. Please also ensure that packed lunches are appropriate in size and again offer the children a balanced meal. Fizzy drinks should not be part of a packed lunch. Children are allowed to have water in class and water machines are available in school to refill water bottles sent into school with the children.

UNIFORM

Thank you for your efforts to start the new year with correct uniform- the children look great!

Please note hooped earrings should not be worn to school.

Learning for Life





AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After/before school clubs will be restarting this half term and we will be facilitating some of these sessions ourselves and some will be delivered by external providers. Specialist sessions that are offered by external coaches/ specialists will need a payment for participation. We will aim to keep costs of these sessions to a minimum and will supplement costs from school as far as possible. Information on clubs we will be providing over the coming weeks will be shared next week.

INFORMATION NEEDED

Please ensure that all contact details, emergency contact details including mobile phone numbers and email addresses are up to date with us at school- If you have changed any details please contact the school office ASAP.

If your child has any newly diagnosed medical conditions, please let us know. Inhalers are checked in school and some are approaching renewal dates. Please do not delay changing this medication if it is required by your child.

SCHOOL DINNERS

The menu for school dinners is available on the school website. Please note the cost of dinners is £2.10 and should be paid via Parent Pay. If you need login details please contact the school office.

Thank you for your support,

Ian Cooper