



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



We have finally reached the end of term and the last two weeks have seen some fantastic performances from our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children in their Christmas nativity stories. It was wonderful to see the confidence in all of the children to perform to a hall full of adults and speak so clearly, sing so beautifully and act so professionally! I would like to offer my thanks to all the staff for their hard work and effort to bring the performances together so well.

Breakfast with Santa proved to be extremely popular this year with nearly 240 of our children attending. This would not have been possible without the preparation behind the scenes of Mrs Myring, Miss Lee and Mrs Salkeld in addition to the support of the school staff this morning so a huge thank you to them all. The children really seemed to enjoy their morning!

Myself and the staff have noticed that a number of children are not wearing ties in recent weeks. If your child has lost their school tie, please note that we do have extra ties that can be bought from the school office. It would be great to start the new year with the same high standards of uniform that we saw in September.

It has been an extremely busy term and the children have as normal been a credit to themselves and their families. The quality of learning, effort and determination to succeed we see from our children day in day out is amazing to see and I hope that continues into next year. Throughout the year, many visitors have commented on how the attitudes and behavior that the children show in their classrooms enable them to learn well and make very good progress. They also always comment on how well mannered, polite and friendly the children are and these are values that are so important to us. I am very proud of all the children and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Attendance:

Our attendance for this term overall is better than the last two years at the corresponding time and that is a positive. We are in line with national attendance in primary schools overall and we are aiming to improve further in the next two terms.

78 children have 100% attendance this term and that is brilliant. We do have a number of children who have attendance below 90% which is a trigger point for the LA attendance service to review attendance patterns and it is vitally important that children who currently have attendance below or just above 90% work hard to improve this in spring term.

We will be sending out attendance information for all children in the first week of January to enable you to keep a track on the attendance of your own children.

ATTENDANCE FOR WEEK BEGINNING THE WHOLE OF AUTUMN TERM

Position	Class	Percentage	Position	Class	Percentage
1 st	Koala	96.91%	6 th	Wolf	96%
2 nd	Zebra	96.82%	7 th	Owl	95.90%
3 rd	Kangaroo	96.72%	8 th	Panda	95.30%
4 th	Lion	96.70%	9 th	Hedgehog	95.15%
5 th	Falcon	96.68%	10 th	Parrot	94.22%
			11 th	Shark	94.97%

Every pupil should be aiming for a minimum of 97% attendance for a full academic year!

Attending for half a day is better than not attending at all! Well done to the classes who exceeded 97% last week!

SHOE BOX APPEAL:

The Shoe Box Appeal that the school council and Mrs Halsall organised this year has been a great success. Mrs Halsall and Mr Peel delivered our shoe boxes this week to the Whitechapel Centre and the thanks they received was special. It is fantastic to see the impact of what we may see as a small donation has for people who are in desperate need at this time of year. Well done!

CHRISTMAS BINGO:

Christmas Bingo was a wonderful success and the support we received from our families for this event was great to see. We were able to raise nearly £600 from the event which we will be using to buy extra resources and equipment for the children in school. Thank you for all families who donated a prize and who supported on the night.

MRS LYONS:

Mrs Lyons is sadly leaving us today after 14 years of working at Whiston Willis. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Lyons for all her hard work and commitment to all the children at Whiston Willis in the time she has been here and I am sure you will all wish her well in the future.

JANUARY:

I look forward to seeing you all return on January 7th and once again wish you a merry Christmas and hope that you really enjoy some brilliant family time.