



30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't quite believe that January has come to an end already and that this week we are actually half way through the academic year. The pupils have settled well this half term and we are starting to see some real progress made by individual pupils in many areas of their learning.

I have been particularly impressed with how pupils in Reception are making great progress with their phonics and reading and a big thank you to all those parents who consistently practice with their children at home- those few minutes daily really do help pupils progress through the reading programme and achieve reading success more quickly. If you want any advice on reading with your children at home, please initially contact your child's class teacher.

Can we ask parents of children in Year 4 for your support with helping your children learn their times tables over the next months. The pupils will complete the national Multiplication Tables Check along with all Y4 pupils nationally in the summer term. Please get them to learn tables facts and practice using Times Tables Rockstar. If they don't have log in details, the class teacher will be able to help with this. There is a clear link between knowing times tables and achievement in maths so this really is lifelong knowledge for the pupils to have.

I am also extremely proud of many of our Y6 pupils who have shown so much maturity and responsibility in actively joining our Y6 Sats preparation breakfasts. The pupils in Y6 are determined to do their best, they are completing homework consistently and giving themselves the best opportunity to succeed. Again, another example of these pupils taking control of things and having high ambition to succeed!

**Pupil Survey.** As part of our work around pupil engagement, all pupils in Y3-Y6 completed a pupil survey last term. The children are asked a series of questions about many topics and then the data is collated and compares our pupils' views about our school to those of other pupils nationally. Our pupil outcomes are well above national benchmark figures and actually in 4 areas we received badges for the positive views expressed by our pupils about life at Whiston Willis for them.

We are really pleased particularly with the fact that pupils feel we are a highly inclusive school (top 10% nationally), they enjoy school and would recommend it (top 10% nationally) and as a result our pupils' effort in school score places us in the top 5% nationally. Pupil voice and pupil views are so important and this is a great insight into this for us.



Our school football team represented Knowsley Schools in The Merseyside Football finals this week. There was some really tough opposition and the team enjoyed some mixed results but played really well and represented the school and area exceptionally well. We hope that the final round of fixtures that are upcoming will lead to them winning the league this year. Well done!



WHISTON WILLIS  
PRIMARY ACADEMY



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**Mr I Cooper** B.Ed (Hons)  
Executive Principal

Next week, we will be sending a link to parents of pupils with SEND in school to complete a survey for us. We are looking to enhance our work between home and school and will be planning half termly coffee mornings moving forward. We will be looking to source external speakers to offer advice around key areas and as part of this survey we would be keen to know what you as parents feel would help you. Please do take time as this will really help us with our school improvement work in this area.

I do want to once again want to direct you towards our updated Home School Agreement that is accessible to you via the school website. A link was sent to you via email in recent weeks. As a school, relationships with our families are so important and we wanted to share how we believe this will work best and the responsibilities of all of us as stakeholders. Working together will always have the most positive impact for our pupils. Please do refer to this to understand all of our individual roles.

Finally, can I ask that anyone who has not been able to have a parent/ teacher meeting during Autumn term makes contact with either the class teacher or school office to arrange this before half term. This is vital in ensuring you are fully knowledgeable about the progress your child is making in all aspects of school life.

#### **Allergen Aware School:**

We as a school community have an increasing number of pupils with allergies that include nuts and eggs and we want to make sure that pupils with allergies are safe at school so we are asking all of us in our school community to help us all to be allergen aware.

Some key things we need you to do to help...

- Let us know if your child has an allergy
- Talk to your child about allergies and the importance of:
- Taking allergies seriously
- Washing their hands before eating
- Not sharing food with their friends
- Being supportive of their friends who have allergies (being an allergy ally)
- Label your child's water bottle and lunch box with their name, to avoid any confusion
- Avoid sending in food that contains nuts for your child's packed lunch or snack

**Your help and support with this would be most appreciated!**





## Attendance:

It is vital for all pupils to have strong attendance to give themselves the very best opportunities to build and maintain relationships with their peers and to ensure they have consistency in their learning so that they achieve well. Learning in school takes place from 8.50am until the end of the school day so punctuality and completing the school day every day is also vital to reduce lost learning.

The winter months are always difficult for attendance but Spring and summer gives us a real opportunity to make every day count for your children – PLEASE SUPPORT US WITH THIS!

We would love all our children to be in the 96% club with attendance above this figure.

## Attendance League Table (Year to date)

Position	Class	Percentage		<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>Last year our school attendance was below both national and Local Authority figures and must improve. Please support us by arranging appointments outside of school time and getting the children into school regularly this year.</p>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jaguar	96%	Y1 WINNERS	
2nd	Penguin	95.8%	Y3 WINNERS	
3rd	Owl	95.7%	EY WINNERS	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Pangolin	95.7%	Y2 WINNERS	
5th	Tiger	95.6%		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wolf	95.5%	Y6 WINNERS	
7th	Shark	95.3%	Y4 WINNERS	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Hummingbird	95.2%		
9th	Cheetah	94.1%		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Leopard	93.8%		
11 <sup>th</sup>	Koala	93.7%		
12 <sup>th</sup>	Zebra	93%		
13th	Hedgehog	92.3%		
14th	Lion	92.2%		
15th	Squirrel	88%		

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

CLASS	PUPIL	<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> <p><b>I have seen some fantastic work this week as children have brought their learning to my office.</b></p>
Squirrel	Zayah C and Joel K	
Owl	Isobel M and Thivyan T	
Hedgehog	Clayton M and Elora D	
Tiger	Lily Rose B and Kobe D	
Jaguar	Mya B and Isabel	
Pangolin	Harrison and Jake	
Hummingbird	Caleb S and Lily B	
Zebra	Isaac Mc and Noah C	
Penguin	Jamie Lee and Harry	
Lion	Freya L and Lilah B	
Shark	Nyla H and Bobby H	
Koala	Teddy- Mae and Ruby	
Leopard	Aaron and Una	
Wolf	Lottie and Shayaan	
Cheetah	Ellis H and Jorgie L	

Kind Regards,

**MEMBER OF THE WADE DEACON TRUST**  
Ian Cooper

**LEARNING FOR LIFE**