

Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

6th January 2023



'Excellence in a Caring Community'

Welcome back and happy New Year!

You will have seen yesterday, a letter was sent home about our whole school trip to Chester Zoo on Tuesday 24th January. This will be a fantastic opportunity for all children across the school to experience: a trip as a whole school community. Further work linked to the trip will then be followed up by a whole school poetry fortnight at the end of the half term - something to really look forward to!



Well done to all of our Shining Superstars this week:



Oak Class - Bobbie W
Elm Class - Elodie E
Ash Class - Isaac R
Beech Class - Tilly C
Fir Class - Eadie R
Cherry Class - Holly N
Poplar Class - Ella H
Rowan Class - Maddison S
Cedar Class - Eray Y
Holly Class - Erin McD
Sycamore Class - Oliver Y
Willow Class - Oliver D
Birch Class - Olivia-Louise P
Maple Class - George L

Congratulations to you all!

This week's Top Three classes for attendance are:

First: Willow 98%
Second: Sycamore 97%
Third: Beech 96%



Whole school attendance: 90%

Well done for the attendance percentages for our winning classes for the last week of the term. Unfortunately, our whole school attendance for the final week of the term wasn't at our target of 96%. We do however, know that there were lots of bugs going around at the end of year so hopefully, this will improve as we move into the Spring term.

Hopefully, you were able to read our attendance newsletter for the Autumn term which was sent out earlier on this week. We thank you for your continued support with attendance.

School Attendance, including Persistent Absences and Holidays during Term Time

The government has a persistence absence threshold of 10%. The absence threshold of 10% means that if a pupil is absent for 38 sessions (19 days) of school, they are classified as persistently

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absent. Schools are urged to inform parents of this threshold and to advise parents that fines will be made for persistent absence, unless there is evidence of a justifiable reason for such absence, for

example, significant illness. Failure to make payment will result in legal action for failure to ensure regular attendance at school under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996.

After the summer break we are eager to help children on the next steps to learning success. Guidance concerning holidays taken in school term time is clear - **holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances** and both schools and Local Authorities are expected to ensure that such circumstances are not that holidays are cheaper during term time.

Timeline	Penalty Charges
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent per child
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent per child
After 28 days	The parent will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrate's Court on the grounds of having failed to secure their child/ children's regular attendance

As you are aware, school is unable to grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is usually a one-off, unique situation that is of significant emotional, educational or spiritual value which outweighs the loss of teaching time.

Therefore, in line with guidance, requests for holidays during term time will not usually be authorised.

It is my duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time. In addition, it is important that I advise you that under the legislation there is an expectation that schools will issue a Penalty Notice to those parents who take their children on an unauthorised leave of absence in term time.

Please bear this guidance in mind when making bookings for any holidays.

Communication

If you would like to contact your teachers directly, please use their class email address and/or catch them on the playground at 8.45am or at 3pm (after dismissal). They will be more than happy to talk through any messages you may have. We also have staff on the both the main playground and at the Year 1 entrance on Clydesdale each morning and afternoon. They are also able to take any messages to pass onto class teachers, as needed.

Alternatively, you are able to contact the main office on: 0151 3551781 or via email:

admin@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk or help@whitbyheath.cheshire.sch.uk

Communication between school and parents/carers is always a high priority. We do ask, however, that when communicating with our staff, parents/carers remain respectful in doing so.



Character Pledges

Well done to all those children who achieved their Bronze, Silver or Gold awards for the Character Pledges last half term. Find below the new pledges for Spring 1. Please remember to submit further pledge work evidence, which we will not see in school, via Seesaw or your child's class email.

EYFS and KS1

Patience and Perseverance - Spring 1	
Bronze	Try your best not to give up and keep trying hard on a task.
Silver	Try to improve in a skill that you need to work on.
Gold	Learn a new skill.

KS2

Patience and Perseverance - Spring 1	
Bronze	Help teach a friend something that you know is challenging to achieve.
Silver	Aim to improve your academic performance.
Gold	Learn a new musical instrument or try a new sport.

Operation Encompass

A reminder that, in conjunction with Cheshire Police, our school is involved in an initiative called Operation Encompass. The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in, heard or witnessed a domestic abuse incident. Following such an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset, worried and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included. This is a valuable initiative that means we can continue to support and help children and families within our school community when they need it the most. You can find out more by visiting www.operationencompass.org.

Cinderella

Please see the poster below for the new Cinderella pantomime showing at The Civic Hall from 19th to 22nd January. We are excited to share as some of our children are taking part in this!



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Finally

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the New Year! We hope all of our families had a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mrs E Williams