

Whitehill News



September 2015

Welcome

A very big welcome back to all our families and a special welcome to all those who have joined us this September. After a very busy summer term, I am delighted to write to you as the new Headteacher of Whitehill. I would like to thank all the parents and carers who have welcomed me to the school community so far and look forward to continuing to build good relationships with you over the years to come.

I have seen first-hand that Whitehill is a very caring community and the commitment it has in developing the whole child; with a host of clubs on offer, music tuition and the fantastic drama production by last year's Year 6! Whilst the school has a lot of work to do in order to deliver the new, more challenging National Curriculum and ensuring the school's readiness for Ofsted's return, I do not want us to lose what makes us so special.

It is my personal belief that every child is entitled to a first-class education and with the right start in their education, can continue to become highly successful in life. This is something I have looked for in others during the recruitment cycle last term—ensuring that we secured the best people for your children. And I'm pleased to say that we have a great team this September, with a good mixture of experienced and new to the school. With this strive for excellence, you and your child will see many changes throughout the year. I would just like to assure you that any changes that are made are in the best interest of your child's education.

For those who have not met me yet, I'm sure that you will quickly learn that I am a very approachable person. I am often outside at the beginning and end of each day for you to come and have a chat! If you have any concerns, do not hesitate to speak with me before a situation escalates.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your continued support to Whitehill through a difficult period and I look forward to working with you as the school enters its new chapter.



Mr Hall

Meet the teachers

Good relations between you and our teachers are crucial in moving the school forward. Without your support, our job would be very difficult. I know that sometimes it can be difficult for some parents to come into school, so **we have a meet the teacher event this Thursday at 4:30pm for all parents and carers in Years 1 to 6.** The aim of the session is to formally introduce you to the new members of staff and for you to have an opportunity to visit your child's classroom to find out more about the things we do in school. All parents/carers are asked to meet in the school hall at 4:30pm.

In the meantime, I would like to introduce you to our teaching team:



I'm sure you will already know Mr Donbavand. We are pleased to have Mr Donbavand working as our Deputy Headteacher and supporting the school's development. Mr Donbavand teaches Year 6 Wednesday afternoon to Friday.



Mrs Gregg has worked at Whitehill for many, many years! She is currently teaching Year 6 Monday to Wednesday.



Mrs Stevens has taught here at Whitehill for 14 years. She knows all the children well and has taught many families. Mrs Stevens now teaches Year 5, has responsibility for Special Educational Needs teachers and leads Upper School.



Miss Wells has worked at the school for a number of years, but started teaching in April. Miss Wells teaches Year 4 and has a keen interest in languages; she has already started a language club!



Mr Higson-Guy has taught at Whitehill for a year now. He has a keen interest in Maths and Sports. Mr Higson-Guy teaches in Year 3 and leads our Lower School.



Miss Evans has joined us this September from another Stockport school. She teaches Year 2 and has experience of the Year 2 tests. Miss Evans has a dance background and is committed to an Eco-School.



Miss Shaw has also joined us this September. This is Miss Shaw's first year of teaching and has already built a wonderful relationship with her class. She teaches Year 1.



Mrs Mughl is currently working in our Reception class until October, where our new teacher will start. Mrs Mughl is very experienced in Early Years and has settled the children in well.



Miss Hampson joined us this September and this is also her first class of teaching, although she has a lot of experience in Stockport Nurseries. You will notice that Miss Hampson is very bubbly and an asset to our team!



Mrs Milnes joins us in November and will be teaching our Reception class. She has a lot of experience leading the Early Years and will become our Early Years Leader.



Miss Howie has taught many classes across school over the years. This year, Miss Howie will be covering all class teachers during their time out of class - ensuring that the children have a familiar face.



Mrs Vaughan works every Monday delivering music to our children. She is very enthusiastic towards music and singing, which is infectious across the school.

Retirement

In addition to our new staff, it is very sad that we say goodbye to two long-serving members of staff this October:

Mr Mahon, our school site manager, has informed us of his intentions to retire. Mr Mahon has worked at the school for many years; looking after our building and grounds. We are very grateful for the work that he has done and, at the age of 65, wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement together. An advert has already gone onto the council website to try and find somebody who will continue to look after our site in the years to come.



Mrs Cooper, having worked for over 20 years at Whitehill has decided to fully retire. Having retired a few years ago, she has continued to work two days a week. Her commitment to the school has been great and kindly agreed to work up to the October holidays in order to settle the new children into school. She is busy completing the new assessments required for all Reception children. On behalf of all the team and all our families, we wish Mrs Cooper a wonderful, peaceful retirement. We hope that she comes back to visit us from time to time.

Reminders

Whilst we are all focussed on the positive start to the year, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the hard work that is required by all to make Whitehill a better place for our children now and future generations. Below are a few ways in which you can help our school environment:



Attendance and punctuality remains a big focus for us this year. Lessons start immediately after registration, so I please ask that you ensure that your child is in school every day and on time. We have put some exciting rewards in place to encourage the children to be in school; including non-uniform days and a trip to Gulliver's World!



For the health and safety of our children, Whitehill operates a no smoking policy anywhere on the school site; this includes electronic cigarettes. It has been brought to my attention that a number of parents gather and smoke at the school gates. For the safety and comfort of our children, I ask that you please only smoke once you are away from the school grounds.



Again, for the safety of all our children, please do not park outside the school on the yellow zig-zag lines. This is incredibly dangerous for our children and will inevitably lead to an accident. The local traffic wardens have informed me that they conduct random checks and issue tickets to anyone found parking in these areas.



A small number of parents have been heard using inappropriate language whilst on the school playground. It is very distressing to our children and some parents to hear this language. In our aim to move this school forward, we kindly ask that you refrain from using this language whilst on school grounds. We take violent or aggressive behaviours towards our staff very seriously. These behaviours do not enable us to deal with your concerns effectively. If you have an issue that you would like to discuss, please speak with us before the situations escalates—we are always here to talk.



A little reminder that dogs should not be brought onto the school grounds, unless they are registered guide dogs.

Most importantly, we are here for one common goal; to give your child the best education and the best chance to a happy and successful life. This is something that we want to share with you and work in partnership to achieve. The teachers, Mr Donbavand and myself are always here to talk to parents; not just the negatives, but to celebrate the successes too! I hope to see you all on Thursday, but please feel free to say a quick 'Hello!' on the playground too.