

# Whitehill News



## October 2015

### Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the Whitehill Newsletter; I can not believe that we are already nearing the end of the first half-term! We have seen many changes over the last 8 weeks in order to improve the learning experiences of our children; some have proven very successful whilst others have a little more way to go.



### Perfect Attendance!



I am delighted to see that so many of our children and families are working hard to improve their attendance. It is always a pleasure to see the children excited during the Friday assembly; waiting to see if they have won the non-uniform day! It is this time of

year when coughs and sneezes start to spread, but I hope we can keep up the great effort! As a reminder, school starts at 8:50am: all children should be in school at this point as this is when registration opens. After 9am, children must enter through the front doors as registration is closed at this time.

You will hopefully be aware that we are using a system called 'Class Dojo', where children can earn points for positive behaviours. This includes being kind, helpful, actively engaged in class and answering questions. The children have responded to this well and I would like to ask, if you haven't already done so, that you log onto the parent's section (using the code sent out by your child's class teacher) so that you can share with your child's successes.



This term, we introduced 'academy time' on a Friday afternoon. The children were offered a variety of clubs to choose between; including gardening, sports, cooking and art. Not every child got their first choice, but not to worry, we will all be choosing our next half-term academies in the first week back!

I would like to finally wish you and all your family a relaxing and safe holiday. I look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday 3rd November for another busy half-term!

*Mr Hall*

## Staffing changes

Mrs Milnes will be joining us as planned after the holidays. Mrs Milnes has been teaching in the North of Manchester for the last 6 years; she is a highly experienced early years teacher and will be leading our early years unit.

Mrs Milnes has a keen interest in cheerleading and will be setting up a cheer-leading club after the holidays!



Mr Ogden was due to join us after Christmas, but we have managed to secure his start date after the half-term holiday. Mr Ogden is a highly experienced and successful Year 6 teacher and will take over teaching our year 6 class full time.

Mr Ogden is a keen sports man, who is particularly interested in football, tennis and badminton. He is keen to set up an after-school club straight away!

Craig, who has been a sports coach at Whitehill for many years, will be leaving us at the end of the week. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing him all the best in the future and thank him for all the hard work and dedication he has given Whitehill over the years.

From November, class teachers will teach sports to their classes.



## Changes to PE days



Please find your child's new PE days starting in November:

Reception—Thursday

Year 1— Monday (indoor) & Tuesday (sports)

Year 2— Monday (indoor) & Tuesday (sports)

Year 3— Tuesday (sports) & Wednesday (indoor)

Year 4—Monday (swimming) & Friday (indoor)

Year 5—Wednesday (sports) & Thursday (indoor)

Year 6—Wednesday (sports) & Thursday (indoor)

## Baby News!



I would like to offer our congratulations, on behalf of all the staff and children, to Mr and Mrs Donbavand; who gave birth to a health girl on Thursday evening. The whole family are doing well and we look forward to seeing Mr Donbavand return to school on Friday 6th November.



During the first half-term, years 1 to 6 elected their school councillors for the year. I am delighted to announce that the elected school councillors are:

**Year 1**

Caitlin E & Caleb M

**Year 2**

Lily B & Jayden M

**Year 3**

Tyler C & Grace R

**Year 4**

Kimberley N & Finlay Mc

**Year 5**

Connor R & Freya S

**Year 6**

Hanna K & Ted F

They will hold regular meetings in school to discuss future improvements and projects

## School Dinners

A number of children have changed between dinners and packed-lunches, or vice-versa, during this half-term. Please can all parents and carers ensure that the office staff are made aware of any changes in advance so that the kitchen staff can prepare the correct number of meals.

Many thanks.



## Health and Safety Updates:

Over the holidays, we will be having a buzzer system installed on the two external gates. This will make it much easier for parents to enter school during the school day, but also allow us to keep our children safe by controlling who accesses the site.

These gates will be unlocked at the start and end of the school day.

Please help us to keep our site secure by ensuring that the gate closes behind you.

Also over the holidays, we are having new carpets fitted in the upstairs classrooms, as they are becoming a trip hazard for our children.

Lastly, we are having our phone system updated, so that we will have more than one line coming in and out of the school. This should help parents who need to contact us during the school day. Please remember to inform us if your child is absent.

## Snack Time

After the holidays we will be making changes to snack time. Instead of serving toast, we will be returning to a tuck shop where the following can be bought:

Two bread sticks for 10p

A Snack a Jack for 10p

A fruity breakfast bar for 20p



Children in Early Years will continue to have fruit and a variety of snacks.

## Key dates for your diary:

Monday 2nd November—**School INSET day**—school will be closed to all children.

Tuesday 3rd November—**School reopens.**

Friday 13th November—**Children in Need** (dress as your hero day).

Week beginning Monday 16th November—**Anti-bullying week.**

Tuesday 17th November—**School Photographs.**

Thursday 10th December—**Reddish Vale to perform at school.**

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd December—**Parental Conversations**—appointments will be sent out in the coming weeks.



### Christmas Arrangements



It is that time of year again when we start busily preparing for our Christmas productions. In order to give you advance notice; I have included all the dates for our festive celebrations.

Wednesday 9th December—**Christmas dinner**—Any children on packed lunches will be offered a school dinner nearer to the time.

#### **Early Years productions:**

Monday 7th December at 2pm and Tuesday 8th December at 9:30am.

#### **Lower School nativity:**

Thursday 10th December at 2pm and Friday 11th December at 9:30am.

#### **Carol concert:**

Tuesday 15th December at 2pm and Wednesday 16th December at 9:30am.

#### **Upper and Lower School class parties:**

Thursday 17th December in the afternoon (party clothes can be worn all day).

**Friday 18th December**—school closes for the holidays at the normal time (3:15pm).