

# Whitehill News



December 2015

## Welcome

Welcome to the 3rd Edition of our Newsletter. It has been a very busy term and there have been lots of exciting events at Whitehill Primary. There continue to be many changes aimed at improving the school and it gives us pleasure to see those changes being embraced by our staff, pupils and families. Thank you for your feedback during our very positive parental consultation evenings. Parents who left feedback reported that the school feels safer and that they are pleased with the way behaviour is being improved.

### Perfect Attendance!



Lots of our pupils are trying hard to improve their attendance and the children are really enjoying the non-uniform days which school are offering as a reward for classes achieving over 97% during a school week.

Although we have had sickness bugs preventing lots of children attending school over the past couple of weeks, Year 4 have maintained a good record and have lifted the attendance trophy the most times. They have an average of 95.7%. Well done to year 4 and let's see if another class can beat that record during the coming Spring Term.

Many parents have given us positive feedback on our use of Class Dojo as a means of keeping you informed about their child's behaviour and achievements. For many of you who have connected to the App on your Smartphones, it is an invaluable form of communication with your child's teacher.



If you are yet to sign up, you are really missing out! If you would like an invite/login to your child's Class Dojo, please request one from your child's teacher.

Friday 'Academies' have been a real success with the pupils and they relish the opportunities on offer. Whether it be cooking, paper-craft, tennis, board games, choir eco-club, we are seeing the children developing new skills and trying new things.

*Mr Doubavand*

## Staffing changes

Mrs Farrell will be retiring at the end of this term after 25 wonderful years of service at Whitehill Primary School! She has been a member of the Nursery teaching team for the whole of this time, ensuring that children have had a happy transition into school life. I'm sure you all agree that this is quite a commitment and the children and staff all wish Mrs Farrell a very long and happy retirement.



Mrs Gregg will be leaving Whitehill at Christmas after 17 years of service to the school. She is an experienced member of staff who is known to many parents as she has worked in many classes across the school. Again it is a great length of time to be committed to our school and I'm sure you join the staff and children in wishing her every success in the future.

## Children in Need

Many thanks to all of you who supported our Children in Need 'Heroes' Day. The children made a donation and had the chance to dress as their hero for the day. We had lots of fantastic costumes on show in school and we raised £155.85 for a very worthy cause.



## Book / Toy Sale

Many thanks to the Friends of Whitehill for organising a successful Book and Toy sale to raise valuable funds for school. The sale raised £126 which will be put to good use to fund resources to support our pupils across school. The Friends of Whitehill were also in attendance at our Christmas performances, serving tea and coffee to our visitors. We appreciate the work the friends of Whitehill do and I would like to take this opportunity to request that any of you who are in a position to help or join the Friends of Whitehill please make this known to the school office.

## Timetable changes

Year 1 PE Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Year 2 PE Mondays and Tuesdays

Year 3 PE Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Year 4 PE Mondays and Fridays

Year 5 PE Mondays (Swimming) and Thursdays

Year 6 PE Tuesdays and Thursdays

As the Spring Term usually starts off with chilly weather, please ensure your child has a plain, warm, outdoor kit.



## Whitehill Primary Eco-Council

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

### Year 1

Noah Robinson and Holly-Jay Smith

### Year 2

Scarlett Burton and Yasin Sowe

### Year 3

Ollie Farry and Jessica Porter

### Year 4

Kian Wright and Natalie Zuzanikova

### Year 5

Caitlyn Vickers and Kian Quainoo-Gavan

### Year 6

Jake Robson-Jones and Morgan Healey

They will hold regular meetings in school to discuss future improvements and initiatives, with the aim of making our school more sustainable.



## Health and Safety Updates:

The children are now required to line up in the playground in the morning, ready to be collected by their class teacher at 8.50am. The children have responded well to this new procedure and we have seen a much calmer and safer start to the day around school.

Staff are directed to close any other entrances at 8.50am, at which point children and parents are requested to enter school through the front entrance. This way we can ensure that every child is registered correctly and accounted for.

## School Dinners

A number of parents came and tasted dishes from our new school dinner menus during the parental consultation evenings. The tasting sessions were a great success with many parents commenting positively on the quality of the meals and choices the school kitchen offer. It gave parents a chance to sample the school meals which their children receive or make the decision for their child to move over from packed lunches to school dinners.



## Reddish Vale Road Show

Every year the pupils from Reddish Vale High School visit Whitehill and perform a musical. Last year we had an amazing performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This year they performed 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' which had the children enthralled!

## Christmas Raffle:

Thank you all for supporting our events over the past few weeks. If you bought tickets for our Christmas Raffle, we appreciate your support in raising valuable school funds.

Our three biggest winners in the Raffle were;

1st Prize : Children's Bike: The Scambler Family

2nd Prize: Frozen Scooter: The Seddon Family

3rd Prize: 'Brown's' Preserves Hamper: The Burton Family



Special thanks must go to all of those who donated prizes for our raffle and in particular, Hill's Bakery on Mauldeth Road, Withington, who donated the children's bike. In total the raffle raised £180.00 which will be put to great use around school.

## Key dates for your diary:

Thursday 17th December: Class Christmas Parties

Friday 18th December: Christmas Jumper and bring a toy day (School closes 3.15pm)

Monday 4th January: INSET Teacher Training Day

Tuesday 5th January: School Opens for Spring Term

From all the staff at Whitehill, we wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2016.

