



# Whitehorse Manor Junior School

## Newsletter 12th February 2016



It feels like this half-term has just flown by and it's been packed full of exciting learning experiences for all our children. Ms Ehiemua, our new music teacher, took over from Mrs Matthews at the beginning of term and very kindly agreed to take the choir to the O2 for the Young Voices concert. This was quite a big ask in her third week with us and the trip would not have gone ahead had she declined. The evening was a great success and I'd also like to thank Mrs Vanner and Ms Hayn who had a very late night ensuring that our children were safe on this trip. Our swimming team did very well under Mrs Dyer's careful tutelage in the Croydon Swimming Gala at South Norwood pool and our indoor athletics team came 4th overall in the Croydon leg of the Sportshall athletics competition. Year 3 visited the London Transport Museum, taking the train to London and then the tube to Covent Garden, which was an adventure in itself, whilst Year 5 spent some time huddling in tents, re-living Ernest Shackleton's doomed expedition to Antarctica. Meanwhile, Year 4 have spent some time re-enacting the last days of Pompeii and Year 6 are busy working hard to meet the new standards expected for the end of Key Stage 2 nationally, and I have to praise their good humour and resolve in this. Finally, everyone has been preparing for our annual Museum Day and I hope that you took the opportunity to visit the school and see the fantastic work that's been going on in our thematic curriculum. Our assembly focus this half term has been: 'We have good manners' and I hope that the children will be demonstrating these at home and that you enjoy your week.

**There will be a mayoral election on Thursday, May 5th 2016 and the school, which is a polling station, will be closed to children on this day.** I hope this gives you enough time to make the necessary child care arrangements.

**Uniform:** We have a new **LOST PROPERTY BOX** by the lift in the Library. Mr Gadd has affixed an easy-to-use handle to it and parents and children are welcome to have a rummage through to find anything that has been lost. **Remember: If it has a name label in it we can return it without you having to search for it!** Ms Smythe is again having to spend some time in the mornings explaining the school's policy on pupils wearing boots, which often happens when the weather turns colder (and it hasn't been that cold yet!) So, repeating a message from last year's newsletter: Boots and trainers are not part of our school uniform and children should not come to school wearing them. Children's school shoes should be robust enough to deal with rain, the walk to school and playtimes. In times of really adverse weather, such as snow or torrential rain, children can wear suitable boots to school, but are expected to change out of them and into their normal school shoes once at school. 'Kickers', in the classic style, have been classified as a school shoe (not a boot!) since I was at school and are fine to wear. If your child has an orthopaedic medical condition that requires them to wear supportive, lace-up boots in order to correct this, please give a copy of the letter from their specialist to their class teacher and we will make an exception, based on their medical need.

**School car park:** The school car park is not open to parents or the public and should not be used to drop pupils off or to collect pupils. Four parents have permission to use the car park due to medical reasons. Unfortunately, some other parents have been caught 'tailgating' them into the car park or taking the open gate as a sign that they can walk up the non-pedestrian drive. This is dangerous and unfair. If you have to drive to collect or deliver your child, please find a safe place to park on the roads around the school.

Ms. N Achenbach - Head of School

Monday 22nd February: Children return to school  
Tuesday 8th/Wednesday 9th March: Parents' Evening  
Friday 18th March: Sports Relief  
Thursday 24th March: Last day of term

**Check the website for news and dates**