



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 14 February 2014



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are ending the first half of the spring term on something of a high, following our very successful 'Museum Day' on Tuesday this week. Museum Day was an opportunity for parents to see their children's 'thematic' work, and a trusted group of costumed curators led groups of parents around the museum during morning and afternoon sessions. The children also got to tour the museum and see work from classes across both the infant and junior sites. Some of the work on display included thematic homework that many of you have supported your children with, and we owe you many thanks for continuing to support your children's learning at home. Although we all understand the importance of learning English and maths at school, there is a great deal of good in offering children an enriched curriculum which allows them the chance to learn independently about things that they find interesting. For me, particular highlights included Year 4's willow and tissue Tudor galleon and the models and artefacts produced as homework in Year 5. I will be uploading photos to the website for those of you who couldn't make it, and there is a book of photos in the front entrance hall.

The Internet and social media: Tuesday was also national 'Safer Internet Day' and as I'm sure you are aware, the issue of staying safe on the internet is something that is a growing concern for schools. This is no longer an issue just for older children as many primary children are increasingly knowledgeable about how to access material on the internet or through social media, that is not suitable. Please take some time to speak to your child about staying safe online and be aware of what they are using the internet for. Likewise, if your child has access to social media, please make them aware of the consequences of writing things or sharing pictures in what is essentially a public forum. Unsupervised access at home has already led to issues in school that we then have to spend time addressing. A good site for information is www.thinkuknow.co.uk/Parentsold/

Parental questionnaire: A big thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete the parental questionnaire. It provides us with important feedback on how to improve the school further and we had over 80 responses, which is a good number to be working with.

Lunch: Our hot school dinners are proving very popular, however, we do apologise that lunchtime does not always seem long enough for the children to eat at a relaxed pace. We are currently trying to get 300 children through a gym set up for 108 diners. Our plans to improve lunch service depend on the completion of access to the junior hall. In the meantime, we endeavour to make things fair by varying which year groups go in first and last. Mrs Vanner and Mrs Caesar have also been lending a hand to lunchtime supervisors in the gym to keep the children moving smoothly through. For advice on what constitutes a healthy lunch box have a look at the children's food trust website where there are lots of hints and recipes for a healthy packed lunch. Alternatively follow this link www.letsgetcookingathome.org.uk/get-cooking/perfect-packed-lunches. Please can I also remind parents that nuts should be avoided in lunchboxes as we have a number of children in school who have severe nut allergies. Thank you for your cooperation in

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'N Achenbach', written in a cursive style.

Ms. N Achenbach - Head of School
Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Other events in the coming weeks

Monday 24th February: Children return from half term

Thursday 6th March: World Book Day

Friday 21st March: Sport Relief

Friday 4th April: Children break for Easter

Don't forget to check the website on
www.pegasusacademytrust.org