

Newsletter 8th January 2010

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this is the first newsletter of 2010 let me wish you all a happy new year. We had a very successful Christmas period with our rescheduled performances of 'A Christmas Carol' being a tremendous success. Particular congratulations must go to Edward and Shadene who both played Scrooge at different performances and had to learn many hundreds of lines, although all who took part were excellent. Many parents and family members attended and our high standards were maintained despite the last minute changes. On our website we have a 'galleries' section and I have uploaded 6 photos of the production for parents and families to see in the 'activities and events' section here.

Obviously, the start of this calendar year has been rather difficult with the very cold period of weather we have been experiencing. Both Whitehorse schools have only been closed for 1 day during this period and I want to reassure parents and carers that we do our utmost to open if we can. However, yesterday's conditions were too dangerous to open safely and the closure meant that Mr Gadd was able to ensure that the school grounds were safe when we reopened today. When the school is open, we ask for your support in getting your children into school if we see another period of bad weather this winter.

1. Communications

As you will be aware we have a text messaging system for keeping parents informed about the school and for quick communication in situations such as the difficult weather we have seen this week. However, this system is only as good as the information we have from parents and carers. If we do not have your correct telephone numbers you will not get crucial updates from the school. If you change your mobile number please make sure that the school are the first to know. The school website—www.whitehorse.croydon.sch.uk had 160 hits yesterday so I know that people are using this as a source of information and updates are quickly posted there in the event of bad weather. Please add our website to the favourites on your browser.

2. Top table

We have a 'good news' assembly every Friday and as part of this invite children to 'top table' which means they get to go first to lunch and be looked after by a member of staff, as well as having some additional food items. The teaching assistants decide who will be invited to join top table and this week invited **Priscilla, Jordan, Babatunde, Olivia, Luke, Stephanie, Omid and Lawrence**. Well done to them.

3. Swimming

Swimming lessons will begin next Thursday 14th January. **4T, 5S** and **6K** will be swimming this half term. May we remind parents that 'board shorts' for boys are not allowed. Boys swimming costumes should be above the knee and not have any pockets.

4. Clubs

Clubs this term are by invitation only and are aimed at children who would benefit

from some extra support in certain subjects. Clubs will be arranged shortly. Last year over 85 took part in these clubs and we expect those who are invited to be regular attendees during each week of this term.

5. Dates for your diary

Week beginning Monday 15th February—Half term

Wednesday 24th March and Thursday 25th March—Parents' evenings

Best wishes