

Whitehorse Manor Infant School

Newsletter October 2015



Dear parents and carers

As we break up today for the half term holiday we reflect on what a busy start we have had to the school year. The first half term has flown by. It is great to welcome so many new reception and nursery children and their families to our school. They have settled in very well. Year two have been on their first educational trip of the year, when they visited the environmental centre at Morden Hall, as part of their science work. As part of our learning about Black History we have had a vibrant steel pan workshop for years one and two and Anansi storytelling workshops for all year groups. We look forward to more trips and exciting events throughout the year. Please check newsletters that are sent home or look at our website www.pegasusacademytrust.org to keep up to date with news and events.

Parent representatives on the Academy Council

Following our recent election for two new parent representatives on our Academy Council, I would like to inform you that Riccardo Carlucci, who has a child in reception, and Joanne Davis, who has a child in year one, were the successful candidates. Thank you to all candidates who stood for election.

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Jeans for Genes Day

We have had two charity fundraising events across the Whitehorse Schools. We raised £380 for Macmillan and £580 for Jeans for Genes. Thank you for all your donations and support. The funds raised will be greatly appreciated by these two very worthwhile charities.

Harvest

It was great to receive so many generous donations for Harvest. The contributions were collected by The Salvation Army to distribute among families in need in Croydon.

PE kits and school uniform

Please ensure your children have plimsolls, a white tee shirt and black shorts for PE lessons and these, along with all items of school uniform, **are named**. If uniform is named and goes missing it usually makes its way back to the owner. As the weather becomes colder, children can wear tracksuits when doing PE outside. **Stud earrings** are the only jewellery which can be worn at any time in school. Please make sure that coats and sweatshirts are also clearly named.

Punctuality and attendance

The school opens at 8:45am to allow children to filter in from this time. Any child who arrives after **9:00am** is late for school and must be brought to the office where the lateness can be recorded. Children should be collected promptly at 3:15pm by an adult who is known to us. If anyone different is going to collect your child please let us know. We will not let a child leave school with an adult we do not know. If your child is absent from school please inform the office as soon as possible and provide a written note of the reason for the absence when your child returns to school.

A birthday book

Although we are a healthy school, I accept that parents sometimes like to send in a 'sweet treat' to mark their child's birthday. Treats are always sent home, so that individual parents/carers can decide if they want their child to eat them. However, we are trying to promote a far better idea. It's called 'A Birthday Book'. If you want to mark your child's birthday in school, in a special way, send in a children's book for the class book corner instead of sweets/cake. The whole class can sign it and then your child's birthday is remembered throughout the year when children borrow the book. This also has the bonus of being a cheaper option for parents/carers too! We also ask that you do not send in party poppers or balloons as part of party bag treats for the children.

Goodbye

You might be aware that Mrs Soggee will be leaving us after the half-term. She has been a longstanding and well-respected member of our Whitehorse staff team for a long time and we are sorry to see her go, but happy that she is moving on to work with the fantastic charity 'Values vs Violence' in a senior role. Thank you so much for all your hard work.

Dates for your diaries for the remainder of the autumn term are:

Monday 2nd November- **First day back**

Tuesday 15th December- **EYFS Family Celebration**- Willow class 2:15pm

Thursday 17th December- **Christmas Production for year one and two**-1:45pm

Friday 18th December- Last day of term

Tuesday 5th January- First day back for children

Thank you for your continued support

Sharon Russell
Head of School