



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter 11th December 2020



It has been a busy run up to the end of term. We have been working hard to keep the children safe, but also to add some of our usual festive spirit to the last weeks of term. Each class has been busy working on a Christmas themed assembly: 'What Really Matters' which will be shared with you via their class blog - a text home will tell you when this is available to watch using your child's log in details next week on Tuesday. I'd like to thank the teachers and Mrs E for all her hard work getting the assemblies organised and demonstrating their tech savvy. I wish you all a restful festive break and hope that we will see you all safe and sound in 2021.

PARENT MACs needed: Further to my last appeal, the MACs (Members of the Academy Council) form our governing body. We are looking for at least one more parent to become a MAC. If you are interested in how the school is run and can attend 4 evening meetings per year to discuss how the school is doing, please come and see me to find out what is involved.

We are a nut free school: Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to potentially life-threatening allergies amongst some of our pupils. We also promote healthy lunch boxes and ask that if you choose to provide your child with a packed lunch, it does not contain sweets or fizzy drinks. Children are also welcome to bring in a piece for fruit for break times and we also sell apples for a cost of 20p at break.

Keeping us all safe: Since the start of term we have worked hard to set up systems to keep all members of our school community safe. At the end of the school day the period between 3.15pm and 3.30pm is the most crowded, with some parents still coming in, whilst others are leaving - **if you are exiting at this time please use the lower path from the canopy area** - there are stairs down from the canopy or the new astroturf slope for prams. We are working on making the two remaining white paths less slippery, although this is not such a problem when using them up-hill. Using the bottom path to exit will help to maintain safe distances and prevent congestion on the top path when people try to enter and exit at the same time. **Please wear masks when on the playground,** as there are times when it is not much different to a supermarket with regard to distance. If anyone in a household has symptoms of coronavirus, the whole household must self-isolate for 14 days or until the person with symptoms has tested negative. We did have a few incidents when children have still come to school whilst a family member is being tested. This puts the whole school community at risk.

Finally...Can I ask that we all remember to be polite as I have been made aware of some impolite comments being made at congestion points both inside and outside of school and towards staff asking parents to follow exit routes or to abide by our risk assessment. Please consider the example that this type of behaviour sets - the saying goes that 'it takes a village to raise a child' and we are all in the same village, so must set a good example for all our children.

Ms. N Achenbach - Head of School

Some key dates next year

Monday 4th January: INSET day (school closed for children)

Tuesday 5th January: Children return to school

Friday 15th February: Half term break

Thank you for supporting our Christmas Raffle which raised £500 for the school. Prizes were drawn by Mrs Sampson and Mrs Marshall today and winners have been notified.

