



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 17th January 2020



Welcome to the new decade! I hope that you all had a restful festive season. We are all looking forward to the spring term. You might have noticed that the council has begun cutting down the large horse chestnut tree at the front of the school. Although this was a protected tree, it had developed a disease and the council decided that it needed to come down. We will wait to see if they plan to replant something within the fencing, but are happy that the problem was discovered before the tree became unstable and dangerous. We have fenced off the field for some grass replanting and our gardeners are working to repair some historic damage to the field so that it will be in the best shape ever come the summer term. We are still allowing children to use the track during the repair work, although the incredible amount of rain that we have had means that we do, on occasion, have to close the all weather track to avoid long term damage. We have also been gifted a number of logs and have been able to set up our outside 'Forest School' seating area, which I'm sure will be widely used as the weather improves. We are all looking forward to a great term of learning. I include below a list of spring and summer dates. This is NOT a definitive list as staff are still firming up dates for visitors and visits and Year Group leaders will send dates out on their newsletters, but I hope that it helps you with some forward planning. I apologise in advance if any dates change for reasons beyond our control. Any changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible (on the website, in newsletters, by text if we have a correct mobile number for you).

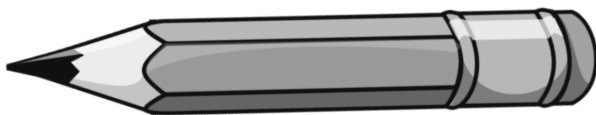
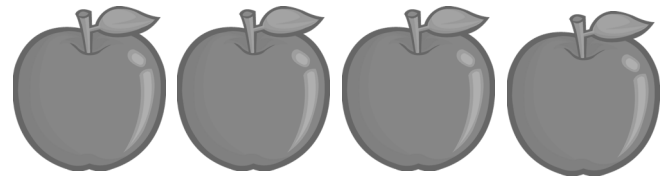
Reading Makes All The Difference! A reminder that, at Whitehorse, we celebrate reading and always encourage children (and parents) to read regularly. Mr Powell is putting the final touches to our Reference Library and has begun recruiting Librarians to allow pupils to use this facility at lunchtimes, offering a great opportunity for some non-fiction reading and fact finding. We have 'Reading Breakfasts' planned on Monday 27th January for Years 3&4 and on Wednesday 29th January for Years 5&6, which are a perfect opportunity for you to come and read with your child whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a biscuit. Staff will also be on hand to discuss ways that you can help develop your child's reading skills and Ms Tye has uploaded her presentation on how parents can support reading to the website for you to read at your leisure. Finally, remind your child to fill in their reading diary as regular reading builds up the fluency that we count on when teaching comprehension skills.

Uniform reminders: Please remember that trainers and boots are not part of our school uniform and children need to wear school shoes. Although children can change into trainers for play-time, school shoes should be robust enough to allow the majority of types of play. In the event of heavy rain or snow, pupils may wear boots to walk to school and change into their school shoes when they arrive. In preparation for secondary school, we expect hairstyles to be neat, without shaved markings and long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons. We are already accumulating a great deal of lost property, so please ensure that all uniform is marked with your child's name. Can I also thank Ms Jones who organised our last second-hand uniform sale, raising money for the school which has been invested back into books for the library.

Attendance and punctuality: Unfortunately our attendance levels dipped this autumn which is a concern as this data is used to judge how well the school is doing. There seems to have been particularly poor attendance in the week leading up to the end of term due to unauthorised holidays. Leave is only granted in exceptional circumstances. I will now need to be more vigilant about attendance and if leave taken is unauthorised, this will be referred to our EWO and may be followed by a penalty notice. Please be aware that the school does not profit from penalty notices and the fine is paid directly to the council as maintaining good levels of attendance is a government initiative. I'm sorry that it has come to this, but all the research shows that regular attendance at school has a big impact on learning outcomes and the staff work hard to ensure that every day is a learning day. The school doors open at 8.45am and aiming to get your children in at this time ensures that they will always be on time for registration.

Date	Event	Details
Fri 24th Jan	3H (Exmoor) class assembly	11.00-11.15 am. All welcome
Mon 27th Jan	Year 3&4 Reading Breakfast	9am. All welcome
Wed 29th Jan	Year 5&6 Reading Breakfast	9am. All welcome
Fri 31st Jan	5TS (Percheron) class assembly	11.00-11.15am. All welcome.
WB 3rd Feb	Thematic Week	Classwork and activities related to thematic work.
Fri 7th Feb	Museum Day	Visit the school to see your child's thematic work.
Fri 14th Feb	Last day of term	Children return to school on Monday 24th Feb
WB 2nd Mar	Book Week	Look out for the book tokens! Traditional Tales theme.
Thurs 5th Mar	World Book Day	Event letter to follow.
Fri 13th Mar	Sports Relief	Look out for charity event details.
Tues 17th Mar	Parents' Evening	Appointment letter and details to follow.
Weds 18th Mar	Parents' Evening	Appointment letter and details to follow.
Fri 20th Mar	4P (Morgan)class assembly	11.00-11.15am. All welcome.
Fri 27th Mar	3C (New Forest) class assembly	11.00-11.15am. All welcome.
Fri 3rd April	Last day of term	Children return to school on Monday 20th April 2020.

Children are welcome to bring in fresh fruit as a snack at break time. Any fresh fruit is allowed. We also sell apples for 20p and only ask that children bring the right change to speed up the process for our apple



Our Junior School Shop is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 8.45 to 9.00am, for all your stationery needs. It also sells recorders, table tennis bats (and balls), school bags and water bottles at non-profit prices.

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

Well done to the children, staff and parents of The Pegasus Academy Trust for raising £965 for SAMARITANS (Croydon & Sutton) through fundraising over the Christmas season.