



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 21st October 2022



Dear Parents and Carers, it's been a busy half-term, with lots of exciting learning going on. We welcomed Banji Alexander, an exciting new author, to speak to the children about his book 'Lockdown Looms', with children able to purchase signed copies after the event. Numerous trips have taken place, including Year 4's trip to our local Sikh temple and Year 6's visit to the Natural History Museum. Have a great break and stay safe.

Charity and giving: A big thank you to everyone who has supported our charity events this half-term. Across the Whitehorse schools we raised £220 with our raffle and cake sale for the Macmillan Cancer charity. Despite the cost of living crisis, we received many donations for Harvest Festival and these donations have been passed to Fr Sean Gilbert at St Albans' Church for their food bank at the church, just down the road from the school in Thornton Heath.

Lunch Charges: Unfortunately, the office inform me that a lot of time is still spent chasing parents to pay for school lunches. School dinners need to be pre-booked on Magic Booking and paid for IN ADVANCE. A reminder is sent out to parents on Sunday evening reminding them to pay for the week ahead. Not paying in advance causes all kinds of problems for the system and confusion when late charges are added to accounts; this then requires a lot of admin time, including calling parents to remind them. Please book in advance, as requested.

House and vice captains: As usual, there were some very strong contenders for the roles of House Captain and Vice Captain this year. To be honest, there were no losers in this contest, as all the children who stood for office presented themselves exceedingly well and we now have a great student leadership group, comprising house and vice-captains and monitors, all of whom are members of our school council. The House Captains and Vice Captains are: Khaleel © and Jaiyana (VC) for Olympia; Coco (C) and Cruz (VC) for Corinth; Rafaella (C) and Dario (VC) for Sparta; Oskar (C) and Zile (VC) for Athens. Very well done to all.

Time keeping: The school opens at 8.45am and children should aim to be in on time to benefit from early work. We try to get the children out on time at the end of the school day and children need to be collected promptly at 3.15pm. Let the office know if something unforeseen has occurred to delay you, but please remember that staff have other commitments after school and shouldn't be expected to wait with children.

Break-time snacks and Breakfast bagels: Children are welcome to bring a piece of fresh fruit as a snack at break-time and apples are on sale at a cost of 20p. This half-term we have also introduced the National Breakfast Scheme which provides half a plain bagel with dairy free spread every morning if children want it. I know that most of our children eat breakfast at home, but this is a 'safety net' to ensure that there is something available for those that don't.

Homework: Mathletics is our expected weekly maths homework, although there are still some children who do not regularly earn their 1000 points each week. Mathletics still works during the holidays, so encourage your child to spend some time on this over the break. Mathletics 'Live' is particularly good at building mental maths skills. If your child has any problems accessing Mathletics, please let their class teacher know so we can see if this is an admin issue that we can fix. Also, don't forget to get your children to READ, READ, READ - reading regularly is still the best homework for primary-aged pupils and linked to better outcomes in learning.

Ms N Achenbach
Head of School

Weds. 2nd November: Return to school
Fri. 11th November @11 am: Remembrance Day at our memorial
WB 7th November: Road Safety Week - themed work in class
WB 14th November: Friendship Week/Children in Need
Weds. 16th November: Individual school photos
Mon. 5th December 2pm & 6pm: Year 3 & 5 Christmas Production
Wed. 7th December 2pm & 6pm: Year 4 & 6 Christmas Production
Fri. 9th December: Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day
Tues. 13th December: Crafts and Carols
Fri. 16th December: Last day of term