



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 26th May 2023



Dear parents and carers,

Many thanks to the 24 parents who took part in our parental questionnaire. I'm pleased to report that the results were overwhelmingly positive with lots of lovely feedback. Whilst it is nice to hear that people are happy with the school and the work that we do, we are always focused on what we could do better.

In response to parental suggestions that communication could improve, and to update to an easy to use 'app', we have been rolling out a new way of communicating with parents and carers – through a system called 'Studybugs'. This app offers a way to quickly report your child's absence as well as a way for our schools to get in touch with our families and share newsletters and messages. **This system will replace our current SMS texting system after half term so please ensure you join Studybugs.** You can do this in multiple ways:

- a) Through the Studybugs website: <https://studybugs.com/about/parents> (this will also give you the chance to use your Facebook login details if you find that easier);
- b) b) (iPhone users) By downloading the App from the App store: <https://itunes.apple.com/app/id695307170>
- c) c) (Android users) By downloading the App from GooglePlay: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.sickly.app>

The quantity of homework given was also questioned. Homework is always a contentious issue with parents disagreeing on whether we set too much or too little. Research also suggests that pages of homework are of little benefit to school aged children whilst every study conducted shows that regular reading has the biggest impact on improving achievement and life chances. If all children are reading every single night we believe they will be developing the required fluency and necessary skills to tackle the rest of the curriculum in school. We recognise that children need to have some free time outside of school and we do not believe in creating extra workload for our teachers with numerous worksheets. We encourage creative activities at home, pre-learning tasks and regular online maths through 'Mathletics' as well as reading every night. If you feel your child should be doing more, your child's teacher will always be happy to signpost you towards useful websites or resources that you can use at home with your child.

Staffing News. Due to the retirement of Mrs Russell from Whitehorse Manor Infant School, there will be some changes to our senior leadership team next year. I am pleased to tell you that Ms Hall, currently Head of Site at Whitehorse Manor Brigstock will be coming to over to lead the Infant School. Ms Tye, who has been my Deputy on the main site for seven years, will be moving to lead the Whitehorse Manor Brigstock site. I am pleased to tell you that Mr Stephenson has been successfully appointed to replace her as the Deputy Head of School here at the Junior main site.

Some key dates:

- Monday 5th June: First day of the summer term
- Wednesday 28th June: Year 6 Camping Trip
- Monday 3rd July: Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day
- Wednesday 4th July: Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day
- Wednesday 5th July: Year 2 to 3 Transition Meeting 5pm (change of date)
- Friday 14th July: Reports go home
- Monday 17th July: Year 6 Leavers' Disco