



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 24th February 2023



Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. It is great to see the children all returning raring to go. Before half term, it was lovely to welcome so many parents to our successful Museum Day - the school still looks amazing! I've been having difficulty getting hold of some parents as their contact details have changed. Please let us know your current mobile number as this is vital for communicating with you. You can keep up to date with dates and news at www.pegasusacademytrust.org.

Online Safety: There was a modest turn out at our parent meeting about online safety. Ms James will be available on parents evening (Yr 6 area) if you would like information about how to use parental settings to keep your child safe. We have a wealth of literature on this too, so if you don't catch Ms James during parents' evening, please just contact Mrs Caesar, our Family Support Worker, and ask for handouts on this.

Parental Questionnaire: We are conducting our annual online parental questionnaire this half term. The link will be texted out to you in due course. We would appreciate you completing this so we can find out what we are doing well and what we need to improve. There will also be an opportunity on parents' evening to complete it if you have trouble accessing the link from home.

Meet the Junior MACs: Parent members of the Academy Council represent you on the schools' Academy Council. MACs will host a 'Keeping the Connection' coffee morning **on Friday 17th March from 9-10am** in the library. It will offer an opportunity for parents to meet up, meet a parent MAC or two, make connections and let us know what we can do for you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Attendance and punctuality: Mrs Wesley, our Educational Welfare Officer, has been working with families to improve attendance and punctuality which dropped last term. Please remember that absence during term time can only be agreed in exceptional circumstances and parents might be liable to a fine from the local authority if attendance is poor. The doors to the school open at 8.45am and this is when pupils should aim to be in school. Children who regularly get in later than this, even at 9.00 when the register is taken, miss 'early work' which adds up to five hours of extra learning a month. It makes sense for children to be in by 8.45am.

Site safety at the end of the day: Just before half term there was a police incident behind the school on Charwood Road. Although this didn't involve our pupils and happened after the end of the normal school day, it did serve as a reminder that the area around the school is not always safe. Please do not use the office area as a 'cut through' at the end of the day as the area is busy and office staff cannot monitor who is coming and going. Children are dismissed from the playground at the back of the school.

BOOK WEEK and RED NOSE DAY: On Monday 27th February, to start Book Week, we will celebrate World Book Day. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Homemade costumes are encouraged and there is a link to online stories read each day by Trust staff members on the website. Friday 17th March we will be taking part in Red Nose Day; raising money for Comic Relief, a UK charity with a vision of a world free of poverty. On this day please wear something red, or something with red in it and donate £1 to this very worthwhile charity. Official Red Nose Day merchandise that you can buy can also be worn if you want to. Please note that we will **not** be selling Red Noses at school. We look forward to seeing everyone dressed in their red/Comic Relief clothing to raise lots of money.

NEU strike action: Members of the NEU are due to strike on Thursday 2nd March 2023 (please see letter). Further strike action is planned for Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023.

Some key dates:

Monday 27th February: Start of Book Week. Dress as a favourite book character
Monday 6th March and Wednesday 8th March: Parents' Evening
Friday 17th March: Red Nose Day
Friday 31st March: Last day of spring term
Monday 17th April: Children return to school

Ms N. Achenbach - **Head of School**

