



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Wednesday 4th May 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to everyone 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.

Whilst the vast majority (92%) of parents feel that the school keeps them well informed about up-coming events, I noticed that parents were asking for more notice of what is happening. I have since realised that there has been a 'human error' (mine) when getting events in the diary to copy to the events calendar on the website. I am so sorry about this! . Hopefully this will improve as I will now ensure that upcoming events in our diary also copy to the website where you can find these listed on the website under: Home; term dates; PAT events calendar and marked with WHJUN. We are also currently exploring the option of moving towards an email based system. This will allow us to give more information than in a text and reduce the environmental impact of lots of paper hard copies of newsletters. Needless to say that it will rely on us having up to date email addresses for everyone and people checking their email. Don't worry just yet as we will make sure we let everyone know if and when we switch to a new system.

Parents also asked that they be better informed about how their child is doing in school. Please remember that the class teachers are available at the end of the day for a quick catch up to see how things are going and if necessary they will be happy to make an appointment to discuss any concerns you may have.

Homework is a contentious issue. Some parents feel that we should be giving more homework and some feel that we should be giving less. There is also a question about the type of homework that is given. We recognise that children need to have some free time outside of school and we don't believe in creating extra workload for our teachers with numerous worksheets but we would encourage creative activities at home. Most importantly, if all children are reading every single night and completing their online Mathematics homework we believe they will be developing the required fluency and necessary skills to tackle the rest of the curriculum in school. 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.

Unfortunately, the percentage score for knowledge of the MACs is our lowest. MACs are volunteer members of the school academy council and they meet periodically to consider standards in the school. Due to the pandemic, it has been difficult for MACs to raise their profile in school but at our next council meeting we will be discussing ways that the MACs can make themselves more visible and known throughout the school. You can also see who our MACs are on the WHJUN page on the website. We still need a couple of parent MACs, so please, please contact me if you are interested.

Finally, apart from the usual 100% agreement with pupils wearing school uniform, 100% of respondents also believe that pupils from different backgrounds get on well together, which says a lot about our wonderful school community and how you all contribute towards it. Thank you for your continued support.

OFSTED VISIT: We look forward to sharing the outcome of our recent inspection with you in the coming weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils for their eloquence and honesty whilst speaking to the inspectors. They did us all proud and were a credit to you all.

We are a polling station on Thursday 5th May but remain **OPEN as usual.**

Some key dates:

Monday 9th May - Thursday 12th May Year 6 SATs Week

Friday 13th May: Jubilee Day (Children wear red, white or blue) (see separate letter)

Wednesday 18th May: Year 6 school journey

Friday 27th May: Half term

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

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