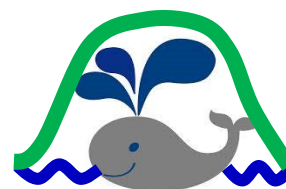


Whale Hill Foundation Primary School  
Sandsend Road  
Eston  
Middlesbrough  
TS6 8AD

Head Teachers: Mrs M. Mellor and Mrs S. Marsden  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mr P. Forster  
Chair of Governors: Mrs K. Dobson.



School uniform from:

[www.motif8.co.uk](http://www.motif8.co.uk)

## **Autumn Newsletter 1** **September 2018**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

The children have come in to school very calmly this morning and settled into their new classes quickly they all look very smart and ready to learn. The key stage 2 children were already tackling their mental maths before 9am today- what a fantastic start to the new school year! Thank you for supporting our transition arrangements last term it really has made a huge difference in how quickly the children have settled into their new classes this morning. As always thank you for making sure the children are so smartly turned out in their school uniforms, black shoes and school PE kit. Please remember to keep long hair neatly tied back in school for safety reasons and also to limit the spread of head lice.

A special welcome to all the children who have joined us this year we hope you enjoy being part of the warm and friendly community that is Whale Hill School.

We also welcome back Miss Kelley from maternity leave and sadly say goodbye to Mrs Partington after a long association with the school. We send our warm wishes and enormous gratitude for her dedication and commitment to the school, the children and their families over the last 20 years - we will all miss her hugely. We hope to plan a special goodbye and thank you assembly for her later this term.

### **School Improvements**

As always when we move out of school in July builders, cleaners and decorators moved in. This year we have developed the outside area next to the upper school hall for a peaceful reading sanctuary. Internal fittings will be arriving soon and hopefully the children will be enjoying using the area in the next few weeks.

### **Steel River Multi Academy Trust**

We are making good progress working steadily towards our conversion to academy status in March 2019 with Caedmon, Bankfields and Grangetown Primary Schools. All four schools have hard working children and staff and this was reflected in their fantastic end of year attainment. We are looking forward to exciting times ahead.

### **Stay and Play and Breakfast Club Services**

These clubs continue to be popular so please make sure you book a place at least one day in advance so you are not disappointed. Costs per session are £2:50 for Breakfast Club and £6:50 for Stay and Play.

Email: [schooloffice@whalehill.rac.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@whalehill.rac.sch.uk)  
[headteacher@whalehill.rac.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@whalehill.rac.sch.uk) Tel: 01642 454339 Fax: 01642 454339

## **End of Year Reports**

Thank you for your lovely comments on our end of year reports, the children said;  
*I like school dinners and I like learning about minibeasts'*

*I like playing on the field with football, I like doing shows, singing, making biscuits and I like all my teachers.*

*My favourite topic of the year was reading Coraline*

*I have had a great, fantastic and amazing year there are lots of memories to remember and cherish forever,*

Parents and carers were equally appreciative;  
*The nursery team have done a wonderful job*

*Her writing, numbers and reading have significantly improved*

*I would like to say a big thank you to the school for being amazing with my children*

*A huge thank you for providing such a fantastic residential to end her school year and to celebrate her wonderful primary years*

One or two of you commented that you would like help to improve handwriting and your comments have been shared with your child's new teacher. Your feedback really means a lot to us so thank you for taking the time to return the response slips.

## **Parents welcome meetings**

All year groups are holding welcome meetings for parents **in the lower school hall** during the next few weeks; don't forget to check our Facebook page for regular updates. Please try your best to attend as

important information about the school year for your child will be shared. The dates for the meetings are:

**Year 6 - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm**

**Year 5 - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm**

**Year 4 - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 5pm**

**Year 3 - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 3:10**

**Year 2 - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 3:10**

**Year 1 - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 3:10**

## **Attendance and Progress**

We were delighted at the end of last term that Whale Hill children once again demonstrated outstanding progress and attainment at a level which is above the national averages in all areas in EYFS, key stage one and key stage two. Brilliant - well done to everyone!

One of the reasons that our children do so well here is that our school attendance is good and often envied by other schools. Our new attendance officer is Lisa Johnson and she will be working alongside Whale Hill and our partner schools to support families helping us to

maintain our good record of attendance. **DON'T FORGET THAT WE CANNOT AUTHORISE ABSENCE FOR HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME AND THAT HOLIDAYS TAKEN ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A FINE.**

Please continue to arrange medical and dental appointments outside of the school day whenever possible. We are always happy to administer medication if needed - please complete a consent form in the office.

### **Our priorities for learning for 2018-2019**

As you know our expectations of children are always high; we want them to work hard, enjoy school life, behave appropriately and take responsibility within the school. Our children's attainment last year was fantastic and we will continue to provide a high level of teaching and learning for all children, to maintain our position as one of the best schools in the area and within the top 20% in the country.

However because our expectations are so high we constantly challenge the children to never do less than their best. This can be uncomfortable if children are tired or not prepared for the day ahead so please help us at home by **switching off that screen and opening a book**. Encourage your child to read books, newspapers, magazines and notices in fact everywhere you see words and numbers when you are out and about with your child. And most of all limit the time your child spends looking at a screen at least one hour before bedtime- research shows that children who access phones/tablets etc. in the evening have disturbed sleep patterns, which impacts significantly on their ability to stay alert in school. Reading together at bedtime is an ideal way to relax and promote restful sleeping.

### **School Meals**

Our kitchen staff work really hard to provide the children with a wide variety and choice of midday meals, which are nutritious and well-presented and good value at £2 per day. If your child brings a packed lunch please make sure it contains only healthy foodstuffs in line with our Healthy Schools policy. **Do not include chocolate or fizzy drinks** and avoid foods high in fat such as pies and pasties. We ask children on packed lunches to take all rubbish home with them so that parents can see what they have eaten and also to reduce school waste. May we remind parents that before making any changes to meal arrangements we require two school weeks' notice, so that food can be ordered in advance. If you have any queries see Mrs Lee in the school office.

### **Safeguarding**

Please make sure our records are up to date with your contact details and collecting from school information- **it is important that you let us know any changes immediately**. Any concerns please ring and speak to Mrs Lee or Miss McGee. Some children in KS2 walk home by themselves; please let us know if you agree to your child doing this as some children are unsure about end of day arrangements.

Last term we had some problems with dog dirt in the playground; this has been an ongoing problem so **we appeal to you again not to bring dogs onto the school premises at any time**.

### **PD days for 2018-2019 will be:**

Friday 7th December, Friday 15th February, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Yours sincerely,  
M. Mellor and S. Marsden.