

Whale Hill 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



## Autumn Newsletter 1 September 2019

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome back to the new school year and our first as part of Steel River Academy Trust. We have received official notification from the Secretary of State that the school opened as an academy on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019. We are very excited about new opportunities and partnerships; but we will continue to be Whale Hill School and our strong ethos and culture of hard work and nurturing will remain central to all that we do.



All the classes were very settled on the first day; the children came in to school very calmly and all seemed very pleased to meet up again with classmates and teachers. Even our youngest children recognised familiar faces in classrooms and weren't daunted by the new term. The children look very smart in their uniforms and many have been keen to show us their shiny new school shoes.

Thank you once again for supporting transition week at the end of the summer term it really does make a huge difference to how quickly the children have settled into their new classes. 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.

### **School Improvements**

The planned extension for the school office has been delayed and won't now be completed until October half term. Unfortunately there will be some disruption around the front entrance and the breakfast club entrance. Children attending breakfast club will need to use the main entrance whilst the work is being completed.

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### Parents Welcome Sessions

All year groups are holding welcome mornings for parents during the next few weeks; don't forget to check our Parentmail 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:

Y1 Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 8:40-9:40

Y2 Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 8:40-9:40

Y3 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 9:30-10:30

Y4 Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 9:30-10:30

Y5 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 9:15-10:45

Y6 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 9:15-10:45

*Entry for parents via the canopy for KS2 classes and via classroom doors for Y1 and Y2.*

### Attendance and Progress

We were delighted at the end of the last school year 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 whole school attendance is good and is often envied by other schools. However we have had individual cases where poor attendance has meant that lessons have been missed; children then become upset because they can't keep up with their classmates. Our Attendance and Welfare Officer Lisa Johnson is in school most Wednesdays and is happy to talk to parents and carers about anything to do with attendance and welfare. She often helps families to access support services when needed, so please call in to meet her if you have any concerns.

**DON'T FORGET THAT WE CANNOT AUTHORISE ABSENCE FOR HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME AND THAT HOLIDAYS TAKEN ARE LIKELY TO RESULT IN A FINE. HOLIDAYS IN SEPTEMBER OR DURING ASSESSMENT TIME IN MAY WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FINE. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE MUST BE SUBMITTED 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.**

*Sixty nine children received awards for 100% attendance last school year -here are some of them enjoying their special cinema visit.*



Thank you for your continued support of the school and everything that we do.  
Mrs Mellor and Marsden.