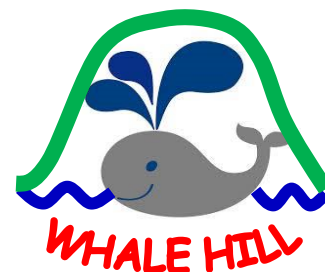


Whale Hill Foundation Primary School
Sandsend Road
Eston
Middlesbrough
TS6 8AD

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



Autumn Newsletter 1 September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your lovely comments on our end of year reports; the children said 'Whale Hill is the best school ever!' Thank you also for supporting our new transition arrangements last term it really has made a huge difference in how quickly the children have settled into their new classes at the start of this term. They all look very smart and ready to start learning without worrying about who will be their new teacher or where their new classroom will be. 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. The school nurse has told us that unfortunately head lice often join schools for the new term! If you're worried about this please ask us for a leaflet.



Miss Lyons

A special welcome to the children who have joined us this year; 73 in nursery 72 in our reception classes as well as a few children who have joined other classes from other areas. We hope you enjoy being part of the warm and friendly community that is Whale Hill School.

We also welcome Miss Lyons who will be teaching in year 4 with Mrs Marshall and Mrs Dunn.

All year groups are holding welcome meetings for parents during the next few weeks; don't forget to check our Facebook page and our Whale Hill School App for regular updates.

Attendance and Progress

We were delighted at the end of last term that Whale Hill children did so well in their end of key stage tests in Reception, year 2 and year 6 as well as year 1 phonics. Our outstanding progress places us in the top 5% of schools nationally. Brilliant - well done!

One of the reasons that our children do so well here is that our school attendance is good and often envied by other schools.

Many of you will have met our Attendance Officer Mr Hutchinson who supports the school and families in all matters to do with school attendance. He is in school every 2 weeks and available to help you with absence issues.



Mr Andy Hutchinson

Email: schooloffice@whalehill.rac.sch.uk
headteacher@whalehill.rac.sch.uk Tel: 01642 454339 Fax: 01642 454339

Medical Appointments

Mr Hutchinson has asked us to continue to request that medical and dental appointments take place outside of the school day and we very much appreciate this. Don't forget many of our staff are trained first aiders and we are always happy to administer medication if needed.

School Priorities for 17-18

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 dedicated staff meet weekly to revise and improve the teaching and learning opportunities we provide. Our children's attainment last year was fantastic with great improvement in all areas; well done to everyone! This year we are trying to deepen our understanding of mathematics so that we are Maths Masters as well as continuing to improve our spelling. In lower school we will be trying really hard to improve our reading; not just reading the words but also understanding what we have read. Please help us at home by **READING READING READING!** Encourage your child to read books, newspapers, magazines, notices in fact everywhere you see words when you are out and about with your child.

Stay and Play and Breakfast Club Services

Improvements to the premises for our before school and after school provision include a new entrance for ease of access to parents which will be in operation soon along with a lovely new indoor space. Breakfast club opens at 8.am every morning and Stay and Play operates after school until 5.15pm. Both clubs offer high quality care within a fun environment. They are very welcoming and the children's behaviour is excellent. The clubs are managed by our own school staff, so all the adults know the children very well, are highly trained, including first aid and can cater for individual and special needs. **Please make sure you book a place at least one day in advance so you are not disappointed.**

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. Most of our children have school dinners but 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 bottles of 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 changing between school meals and packed meals, we require a transfer form to be completed, but must also have two school weeks' notice, so that food can be ordered in advance. If you have any queries see Mrs Bostock, School Secretary, who will be only too willing to give you advice.

Safeguarding

Our first priority is to keep all children safe in school so we are really pleased with our new secure entrance to the main building. Please make sure our records are up to date with your contact details and collecting from school information. 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.

PD days for 2017-2018 will be:

Friday 1st September, Friday 1st December, Friday 9th February, Friday 6th and Monday 23rd July.

Be sure to check your child's bag regularly for class newsletters and our Facebook page and Whale Hill App.

Yours sincerely,
M. Mellor and S. Marsden

