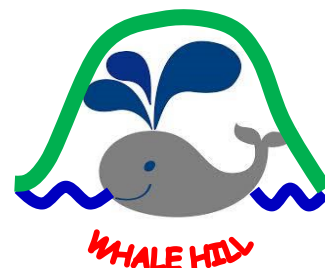


Whale Hill Foundation Primary School
Sandsend Road
Eston
Middlesbrough
TS6 8AD

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



January Newsletter 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. The children are all refreshed after their Christmas break and it sounds like Santa has been very generous as usual!

As always we have lots of exciting activities planned for this term.

Parents evening will take place during the week starting 4th March 2019

Parents will be given a mid-year report and the opportunity to discuss children's progress with the class teacher. We would prefer to do this privately and so would encourage parents to leave children at home if possible. If you cannot attend on the date given please make alternative arrangements to consult with your child's teacher. More details will be sent home soon.

Attention all parents!

Download the ParentMail App
for the best way to pick up school messages

FREE DOWNLOAD

"Great App to compliment the web!
It's so convenient to have all the
ParentMail services in my pocket!"
★★★★★

"Works perfectly! Texts, emails & newsletters all
come through. I can even make appointments
for parents' evening. Fantastic!"
★★★★★

ParentMail

Please note: If you are not already registered, you will need to register online on the ParentMail website before trying to access the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message

Parent Mail will be live from **6pm on 11th February** for you to book appointments for parents' evenings so make sure you have registered by responding to the text message we sent you. Once registered don't forget to download the Parent Mail App to receive all school communication.

We plan to add the payment element of Parent Mail at a later date.

School Uniform

There has been a long tradition of wearing uniform at Whale Hill School and children are proud to be members of the school community. Our uniform is kept simple to avoid unnecessary expense but we do encourage all children (including nursery) to show their support by wearing uniform right down to the finer detail of wearing plain black shoes, having tidy hair styles and not wearing jewellery. We have noticed that some of the girls like to wear their hair down; please can we ask that hair is tied back securely for all lessons as this will help us to reduce outbreaks of head lice. The school nurse has asked us to remind parents that it is good prevention practice to use conditioner on the hair and comb through regularly when wet.

Tel: 01642 454339

Fax: 01642 454339

Email: schooloffice@whalehill.rac.sch.uk
headteacher@whalehill.rac.sch.uk



World Book Day 2019

To celebrate World Book day we will again be inviting children to dress as a favourite character from a book.

SCHOOL READING BOOKS

Thank you for continuing to help your child read at home, it makes a big difference to their reading progress. Please encourage your child to look after their reading book while it is at home and return it to school in good condition.

School Attendance

Well done to everyone for coming to school every day last term. Our attendance for the whole school for the autumn term was 96.7% which is ahead of the national target of 96%.

It makes such a difference to children's enjoyment and progress in school if they are here every day and don't miss out on everything school has to offer.



Last term Roary the Lion from MFC visited the classes with the best attendance:

Red class 96%
Mr Parsons's 97.9%
Miss Offiler's 97.9%
Mrs Boffey's 97.5%

Well done to them all!

The school holiday calendar for 2019-2020 is attached to help you plan holidays. Please may we remind you about our policy on holidays in term time?

The law does not grant parents an automatic right to take their child out of school for holidays during term time. You must apply for permission in advance and the request for leave of absence must come from a parent with whom the child normally lives.

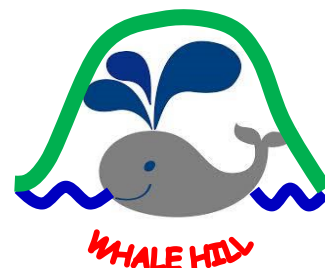
Holidays during term time are NOT classed as exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised. Unauthorised absences are referred to the Attendance and Welfare Officer and may result in a £60/120 fine, per parent, per child.

Where leave of absence is taken without authorisation, a warning letter or penalty notice may be issued, depending upon the individual circumstances of each case. If a child's attendance is below 95% in the previous 12 months prior to the leave of absence being taken, a penalty notice is likely to be issued. **Absences will not be authorised in September, January – May (inclusive) or other periods of the year when children are taking mandatory tests.**

Attendance and Welfare Officer Lisa Johnson is in school every Wednesday and is happy to speak to parents about any school attendance matters.

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End of Year Assessments.

All children will be completing end of year assessments in the summer term; mainly in May and June. The year 6 children are already practicing hard for their SATs which take place week beginning 13th May. This is a really important time for them, thank you for your support in making sure they attend booster groups so that they can put on their very best performance during SATs week. The year 2 children will take their SATs during May too and during SATs, staff will run a free breakfast club in classrooms.



UPDATE: The academy application for all schools has been approved by the governing body and submitted to the Department for Education. It is expected that we will convert to an academy along with Caedmon, Grangetown and Bankfields schools no later than May 31st.

DON'T FORGET! To let us know if you change your telephone number...we may need to ring you unexpectedly if your child has had a bump in school or has become ill and we cannot text you so you can register with Parentmail. **DON'T FORGET!** School will be closed on Friday 15th February for our PD day therefore school will close for the half term holiday from Thursday 14th February; children return to school on Monday 25th February.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February

Friday 15th February: Professional Development Day (School closed to children)
18th - 22nd February: Half Term Break
Monday 25th February: School re-opens

March

Week beginning Monday 4th March: Parents evenings

April

3rd -5th April: Y5 residential visit to Boggle Hole
Friday 5th April: break up for Easter holiday
8th April -22nd April: Easter Break
Tuesday 23rd April: Children return to school

May

Monday 6th May: School closed for May Day holiday
Monday 13th May: SATs begin for Y6 and Y2
27th -31st May: Spring Half Term

June

Monday 3rd June: Children return to school
17th-21st:Y6 residential visit to France.

July

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July: Professional Development Days (School closed to children)
End of term for the children Friday 19th July

Many thanks for your ongoing support for the school; M. Mellor & Marsden (Head Teachers)

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