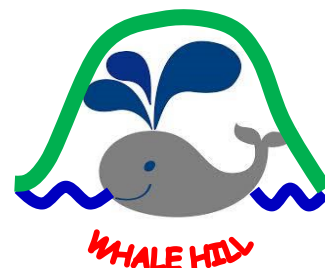


Whale Hill Foundation Primary School
Sandsend Road
Eston
Middlesbrough
TS6 8AD

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



Summer A Newsletter April 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Y5 Residential to Boggle Hole

The children said they loved rock pooling and finding hermit crabs, velvet crabs and other sea life. Jake was the only one lucky enough to find a starfish!

They loved the games at the centre, they loved the food, and the showers in fact they said they loved everything!

A big thank you to Mrs Phoenix, Mr Parsons, Miss Berry, Mrs Lee, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Doe, Mrs Brown, Mrs Gavaghan and the staff at Boggle Hole Youth Hostel for making the children's stay so memorable.



MFC Girls' Football Week

Well done to our girls who took part in the football week with Miss McGee. The girls took part in an inter-schools tournament held at MFC foundation last week. It was a very exciting day; our girls drew one match and won the rest!

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headteacher@whalehill.rac.sch.uk

SUMMER UNIFORM

We'd like to send a gentle reminder home about what our uniform policy states about school shoes, hair styles, jewellery and nail varnish. School shoes should be plain black and hair needs to be tidy, fastened back if long and without extravagant shaved patterns. Nail varnishes and treatments are not suitable for school and our policy has always been to help children to remove nail varnish in school if possible and often the children will be asked to stay in at playtime until adjustments have been made. This is not as a punishment but to make sure that the younger children do not copy these fashion trends in school as this can be a huge distraction to learning.

It's the time of year when we remind you to apply sunscreen, bring water bottles and sun hats now that the bad weather is behind us and the children can play on the school field most days. Children are invited to wear summer uniform; blue checked dresses and black or grey shorts. Our uniform policy is for children to wear only plain black shoes for school but if children choose to wear summer uniform **they may wear black or white closed toe sandals which are safe and sensible**, suitable for running in the playground and field and not with a high heel.

Nursery places and reception class allocation.

We still have a few places available for September, if you have friends or family who would like a place please ask them to call into school to register.

Steel River Academy

We are working with the other schools to begin to develop our new website for the academy and will be asking the children to design a logo. We hope you can attend the consultation presentation on **8th May at Inspire to Learn at 6pm**. In the meantime if you have any questions please email info@steelriveracademytrust.co.uk.

Holidays in term time

Please remember that **WE CANNOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN SCHOOL TIME**. We are still receiving applications from parents for holidays who seem to be unaware that this is the case. Occasionally parents tell us that children have been poorly but then the children tell us what a lovely holiday they have had which puts us in a difficult and embarrassing position. Please try to use our PD days to enjoy a short break with your children or if this is impossible please complete a holiday form to avoid dishonesty. We understand that holidays can be expensive but the school register is a legal document and it is important that the correct absence code is recorded e.g. if a child is on holiday it cannot be recorded as illness when this is not the case. And of course we want the children to be in school and learning every day so that when they move on to secondary school they are secure and ready to progress with confidence.

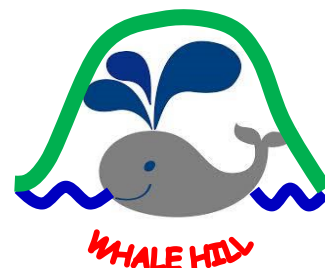
Dealing with holiday requests is quite time consuming for us when we would much rather be focused on teaching and learning; therefore **we ask again for parents not to request holidays during the school term** and help us make sure that no one misses out on the fantastic learning opportunities available at Whale Hill School.

Safeguarding

We are aware that many of our children are accessing unsuitable games regularly, many with adult and violent content; in particular Grand Theft Auto and Fortnite. We also know that many children have social media accounts on sites where the minimum age is 13 or above such as Facebook. The police have told us that these sites are targeted by known paedophiles who can easily identify children from the information and photographs they have posted about themselves.

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Now the days are longer we hope that the children can enjoy more time outside and less time on their phones and tablets which will help parents and carers to manage this growing concern at home. Internet safety is a rapidly increasing concern with record numbers of underage children having social media accounts. Parents must realise that the risks are far greater than falling out with a friend during an online game and be vigilant about monitoring their child's access. The website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk has some useful links to online safety for both parents and children.

SATS WEEK BREAKFAST CLUB

During SATS week the staff will be offering FREE breakfast club before the start of the school day for all children in Y6 and Y2 in their classrooms. We hope all the children can attend, it helps them to relax with friends and apply themselves confidently to the tests.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May

Wednesday 2nd 3rd and 4th: Dentist in school for fluoride varnish treatment.

Monday 7th: School closed for May Day holiday

Monday 14th SATS week for Y6 and Y2

Friday 25th: School closes for half term

June

Monday 4th: Children return to school

Starting Monday 11th: Year One phonics screening test

Wednesday 13th June: New nursery parents meeting

Monday 18th -22nd:Y6 children to France

July

Thursday 5th Y6 leavers' assembly followed by Y6 open afternoon

Friday 6th July: Professional Development Day (School closed to children)

Friday 13th Open afternoon for all other year groups

Friday 20th July: School closes for children for the summer break.

Monday 23rd: Professional Development Day (School closed to children)

Tuesday 4th September Autumn term begins

Many thanks for your ongoing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,

M. Mellor & S.Marsden (Head Teachers)

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