

Whale Hill Newsletter



As we wrap up the Autumn Term, we reflect on what a fantastic term it has been! A heartfelt thank you to all our families for your continued support.

Mrs Marsden – Headteacher



Parental engagement

We've had a wonderful term of parental engagement! All sessions were well attended, and families enjoyed a variety of activities—from reading together to creating clay brooches, sewing projects, and making beautiful calendars.

We're excited about our upcoming Spring sessions, so please keep an eye on Parent Mail for dates and details. We look forward to seeing you there!

The **PINS project** (Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) is a national initiative funded by the Department for Education and led by NHS England. It introduces a new model to support positive outcomes for neurodiverse pupils in mainstream primary schools and strengthen partnerships between parents, carers, and schools.

Through PINS, health and education specialists work alongside experienced parent carers (via the Parent Carer Forum – Pinpoint) to provide valuable guidance and support.

We're delighted to have received funding for this initiative and are now in Year 2. Our coffee mornings are held every half term and offer a relaxed opportunity to discuss support for neurodiverse children and their families. Please check Parent Mail for upcoming dates—we'd love to see you there!

Attendance matters

A huge well done to all pupils who received a 100% attendance award for the Autumn Term and to those whose attendance has improved—what a fantastic achievement! Good attendance is so important because it helps children:

- Keep up with learning – every day in school builds knowledge and confidence.
- Make strong friendships – regular attendance supports social skills and a sense of belonging.
- Develop positive habits for life – being punctual and consistent prepares children for future success.

We also celebrated two families who won a Just Eat Gift Card in our half-termly attendance raffle—well done! Keep aiming for excellent attendance, and you could be in with a chance next time.



Christmas Performances

KS1 put on a wonderful Christmas performance over two days, and it was enjoyed by so many of you! The children truly shone on stage—their confidence and singing voices were amazing.

Our EYFS children took part in a more relaxed craft and sing-along session, which was equally delightful. Both children and families had a fantastic time, creating special memories together.



Royal Northern Sinfonia Orchestra

We are excited to have been invited to take part in 'Our Music, Our Way'. This project involves members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia Orchestra visiting our school a number of times between November 2025 – March 2026, to co-create some brand new piece of orchestra music, inspired by the hopes, dreams and ambitions of the young people.

This music would then be performed, by the young people & the RNS together at a concert, in March.

Our OPAL journey

This year marks an exciting start to our OPAL journey (Outdoor Play and Learning), giving children the opportunity to develop important skills through play and experience a wide range of outdoor activities. Thank you for supporting this initiative and embracing the fact that your children will, and do, get very muddy at times! Outdoor play is all about creativity, teamwork, and resilience—and we love seeing the joy it brings to our pupils.

www.whalehillprimary.co.uk/opal



Lead Music School Recognition

We are thrilled to announce that our school has been recognised as a Lead Music School! This achievement reflects the incredible breadth and quality of our music provision—from brass and choir to musical theatre and creative projects with professional musicians. Music is at the heart of our curriculum, inspiring confidence, creativity, and collaboration among our pupils. Being a Lead Music School means we can continue to champion music education, share best practice, and provide even more enriching opportunities for our children to shine through the power of music.

Fundraising Success! Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair—it was a fantastic event! From festive stalls and games to delicious treats and crafts, the atmosphere was full of community spirit. Thanks to your generosity, we raised **£2,410** that will go directly towards our OPAL provision. Your support truly makes a difference, and we couldn't have done it without you!

www.whalehillprimary.co.uk/our-fundraising-aims/



Eco Shop

Don't forget to visit our Eco Shop, open every Thursday! It's a fantastic way to support sustainability and grab some great bargains. You can choose **5 items for just £1**, making it affordable and eco-friendly. Every purchase helps reduce waste and encourages our children to think about recycling and reusing. Thank you for supporting this initiative—together, we're making a difference!

