



Dear Parents/Carers,

Having spoken to many of you each day, it is lovely to hear that you and the children had a restful and enjoyable Christmas and New Year but it does already seem a distant memory!

The start of another term at Whiston Willis has begun in positive fashion and even the challenges posed by the snow this week led to the children having fun and taking the opportunity to play and connect with their friends in a way that doesn't happen very often. There are some snowmen building experts in school- even without having the chance of regular practice!

Learning has been positive in the first few weeks back and it has been fantastic for me to complete some detailed evaluation of the learning completed during last term with staff. This allows us to consider how well pupils are achieving across school in each subject. When I look at learning, I always like to start by looking at the first few pieces of learning from September and then compare this to the most recent. This shows how much the children have progressed over that time. In some cases, the improvements in learning are amazing and that has been fantastic to see in science, geography and history particularly this week.

Some children from Tiger Class and Penguin Class have brought their learning to me this week to share their English and maths learning and I want to say how impressed I was with Aurora S, Isaac Mc and Sage W for the progress they have made.

After school clubs have started again and the commitment shown by the children to attend is as amazing as ever. We offer a wide range of clubs and it is fantastic to see children from both Owl and Hedgehog Class starting to attend this term. Please do remember children in Y3-Y6 collect the hours that they complete each year and this enables them to 'graduate' in our Children's University celebration during the summer term.

Our Y6 children have completed some key learning that we commit to each year this week. They have completed sessions with 'The Gangsman' which really makes them consider the challenges they may face in life as they become older including peer pressure and criminal exploitation. The children are always so well engaged and take lots from these sessions that we believe prepares them well to make the right choices as they become teenagers and start high school.

It was excellent to see how well our Reception 'Stay and Play' session with Knowsley Family Learning Team was attended. Thank you for your support. There are further sessions over the coming weeks for Y1 parents to attend sessions to work with your children and develop and create story sacks.

Snow fun in Squirrel Class.....



An important message for our Y6 pupils....



Learning for Life



PTA: Our school PTA is growing and the last meeting saw more parents offer to help. The next event for the children is a Valentine disco and you should have received a letter this week with the arrangements for this. Please do try and support the PTA and encourage your child to attend. All money raised will go straight back into funding resources and activities for the children.

Attendance: Attendance at school continues to be something that we really do need your support with. We understand that we all can get ill, but we have seen far too many children with too many broken weeks in the last term which means having random single days off in any week.

In line with our attendance policy and Knowsley School Attendance Service advice, we will be asking for medical evidence to enable us to authorise absences for children who have attendance below 95%.

Unauthorised absences can lead to referral to Knowsley attendance service, warning letters and ultimately prosecution.

I hope you will work with us this term to reduce the number of broken weeks across school for all our children. They all have one chance at school so attending every day really does matter!

Attendance League Table (3RD January- 18th January)

Position	Class	Percentage	LEAGUE POINTS	<p>Please arrange appointments out of school time or if that isn't possible bring your child in first thing to get their mark and return them after any appointment.</p> <p>Please do call the school office if your child is going to be absent or if you need any further advice.</p> <p>If we are not informed of any reason for absence, either Mr Nixon or Mr Cooper will have to complete a home visit as part of our safeguarding procedures.</p>
1st	Pangolin	97.6%	YEAR 2 WINNERS	
2 nd	Hummingbird	96.68%		
3 rd	Wolf	94.83%	UKS2 WINNERS	
4 th	Shark	94.69%	YEAR 4 WINNERS	
5 th	Tiger	94.43%	YEAR 1 WINNERS	
6 th	Koala	93.97%		
7 th	Zebra	92.95%	YEAR 3 WINNERS	
8 th	Jaguar	92.18%		
9 th	Lion	91.96%		
10 th	Cheetah	91.4%		
11 th	Squirrel	90.87%	EYFS WINNERS	
12 th	Owl	90.87%		
13 th	Penguin	90.82%		
14 th	Hedgehog	89.05%		

Communication:

Our texting service has had some issues this week that have led to us considering home school communication that is most cost effective. We have explored our options and have now identified that the most cost effective method is to subscribe to an app that all parents can download to their mobile devices. This provides improved and a more cost effective approach for us as a school. We will be sending out information- hopefully next week-please look out for this.

Dates for the diary:

Monday 22nd January-Monday 29th January- Y6 Bike ability (daily small groups)



Thursday 25th January – Y1 Family learning (9am)

Friday 26th January- PTA meeting (2:15pm)

Wednesday 31st January- Y4 Buddhism workshop

Thursday 1st February- Y1 Family learning (9am)

Wednesday 7th February- KS2 Valentine Disco (4-5:30pm)

Thursday 8th February – Y1 Family Learning (9am)

Thursday 8th February- EYFS/KS1 Valentine Disco (4-5:30pm)

Friday 9th February- Finish for Half term break)

Special mentions for positively standing out this week.....

CLASS	PUPIL	
Squirrel	Harper Rae M and Joel M	To follow what is going on in your child's class, please join Twitter and follow the class page. It is a great way to see all the learning and fun that goes on in classes. Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school by following our school values- Demi Yates Mr Cooper's special award for being a fantastic example to everyone around school by following our school values- Amelia Newton
Owl	Lexi M and Carson P	
Hedgehog	Arthur C and Nellie M	
Tiger	Ben M and Joseph W	
Jaguar	Eddie L and Heidi Mc	
Pangolin	Skylar R and Ivy W	
Hummingbird	Archie G and Bobby H	
Zebra	Johnny D and Ryan J	
Penguin	Una A and Lennon R	
Lion	Michelle P and Frankie C	
Shark	Toby S and Demi Y	
Koala	Oliver L and Isabel D	
Wolf	Max D and Tony T	
Cheetah	Reece D and Emmi C	

Have a great weekend,

Ian Cooper