



31st January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a busy few weeks in school and there has been some excellent learning completed by so many of the children. It has been fantastic to see so many positive examples of learning when pupils are brought to my office to celebrate their achievements. I am really pleased with the focus shown in Shark Class in recent weeks and am also so impressed with the increased focus and attitude shown by the children in Jaguar Class. A big well done to them from me!

A number of children have represented the school in sporting events such as Dodgeball and football in the last few weeks, and as ever they have represented our school in such a positive manner; demonstrating not only skill but amazing sporting attitudes and behaviour even when they lose.

We have been really fortunate to secure a 'nearly whole school trip' to Chester Zoo next half term. Entry to the zoo will be free for all pupils in Y1-Y6 and we only need to pay for transport. Chester Zoo is supporting with a donation towards this and our school PTA, thanks to all their fundraising last year, are making a significant donation towards this to reduce costs further. We are currently finalising arrangements and will send a letter out as soon as we can to confirm details.

Our PTA have completed some amazing work and I really want to thank them for their support. They have arranged another event in a couple of weeks' time with a Valentine's Disco on Wednesday 12th February from 3pm until 4.30pm. Please look out for the flyer for further information.

We will be thinking about our Mental Health next week during Children's Mental Health Week. The theme for this year is 'Know Yourself. Grow Yourself' and we will be completing activities linked to this during the week. Look out for further information from Miss Boyd. (It does include own clothes on Friday 7th Feb!)

This week we have introduced our swap station at lunchtime and we have seen some children make some swaps from their packed lunches. The water melon on offer at the swap station has been really popular! This is part of our ongoing work to try and achieve Healthy School status and Miss Chiocchi and Mrs Hemnell are working really hard on this.

School Uniform:

Reminder- please ensure that your children wear correct school uniform. Many children have lost school ties, are wearing incorrect footwear and on PE days are not wearing the correct PE kit.

Please refer to the school uniform page on the website and ensure the correct uniform is worn.

School Development:

I am sure you are aware that renovation work is ongoing onsite at the moment and will be for the next few months. The latest work has seen the development of the Kingfisher Room for our pastoral work, intervention rooms and the staff room. Currently the first set of toilets in the Junior building are nearly completed and the spare classroom is being made usable for the future as we grow. Further work will include window replacement, playground development and extending of the school hall.

Local Governing Committee:

We currently have some vacancies on our school governing body. If you think that this is a role you maybe interested in, please do contact me. This voluntary role is key in helping us to challenge ourselves to continue moving forward and support in developing the future direction of Whiston Willis.



Swap Station



Computing in Hedgehog Class.....



Attendance: Attendance at school currently is not good enough for many pupils. We have significant numbers of pupils who have attendance below 90% which is classed as persistently absent. These pupils are monitored closely both internally and by our Attendance Officer from the council.

We do want to bring to your attention, that unauthorised absence can also be subject to fines not just holidays (which are unauthorised). We have no choice but to follow advice from the attendance team and we will issue fines to highlight the importance of high attendance.

Attendance League Table (Year to date)

Position	Class	Percentage	
1st	Jaguar	95.04%	Y1 WINNERS
2nd	Hedgehog	95.03%	EY WINNERS
3rd	Penguin	94.98%	Y3 WINNERS
4th	Zebra	94.27%	
5th	Tiger	93.78%	
6th	Cheetah	93.65%	UKS2 WINNERS
7th	Hummingbird	93.43%	Y2 WINNERS
8th	Lion	93.41%	Y4 WINNERS
9th	Owl	93.2%	
10th	Wolf	92.82%	
11th	Pangolin	92.64%	
12th	Shark	91.69%	
13th	Koala	91.1%	
14th	Squirrel	89.2%	

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.

Please do call the school office if your child is going to be absent or if you need any further advice.

Please note we will be sending an email to parents to notify you if your child's attendance is a concern next week.



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

CLASS	PUPIL	
Squirrel	Harrison R and Alfie O	<p>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.</p> <p>Well done to all our pupils who have been recognised by staff this week for their hard work and in following our school values and The Whiston Willis Way.</p> <p>I really have noticed some pupils in Y1 following the Whiston Willis Way so a special mention to them!</p>
Owl	Oliver and Lola	
Hedgehog	Esme S and Joseph J	
Tiger	Theo J and Daniel R	
Jaguar	Theo P and Aisha A	
Pangolin	Heidi Mc and Olivia H	
Hummingbird	Pennie F and Bank B	
Zebra	Tom C and Stephanos R	
Penguin	Evelyn C and Nyla H	
Lion	Vinnie A and Logan T	
Shark	Jack H and Oliver CD	
Koala	Rosalie W and Jonnie N	
Wolf	Ewa O and Dammy	
Cheetah	Cayden G and Ruby S	

Parking: Please can we ensure that we are parking with care to avoid any accidents and with consideration for local residents. Please do not block driveways or pavements due to unthoughtful and dangerous parking. We still even have parents who park between our safety figures!

Please can I ask you all to read the other letter that was issued via email today as it is imperative that the conduct of any adult who visits our site or who is a member of our school community upholds our school values.

BE RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE AND SAFE!

Kind regards

Ian Cooper