

Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

9th December 2022



'Excellence in a Caring Community'



On Wednesday, the children enjoyed their Christmas lunch. They were all dressed in their Christmas jumpers to make the day even more festival. The kitchen, midday and staff team all helped to ensure the children were treated to a Christmas feast, complete with specially decorated tables, crackers and Christmas music.

Yesterday, the children in Dahl team enjoyed a non-uniform day as well as additional team reward time in the afternoon. Well done Dahl team for being our winning team this term!

Some of our KS2 children got to go to a Boccia sports festival this week. The children demonstrated great sportsmanship whilst learning how to play Boccia and Curling. They played as a team and encouraged their team players and showed respect for their opposition. They represented Whitby Heath exceptionally. They came away with a medal and were really proud. They enjoyed telling their peers about this and explaining the game to them when they got back to school.



Well done to all of our Shining Superstars this week:



Oak Class - Colby E
Elm Class - Harper E
Ash Class - Tommy F
Beech Class - Lexxie T
Fir Class - Noah G
Cherry Class - Oliver J
Poplar Class - Flynn L
Rowan Class - Joe C
Cedar Class - Emily C
Holly Class - Aaron P
Sycamore Class - Nathaniel R
Willow Class - Daisy P
Birch Class - Derry T
Maple Class - Harry A

Congratulations to you all!

This week's Top Three classes for attendance are:

First: Cheery 99%
Second: Holly and Maple 98%
Third: Poplar and Rowan 97%



Whole school attendance: 96%

Another great week for attendance! We thank you for your continued support with attendance.

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Christmas Performances

The children (and staff) are getting excited to showcase their Christmas performances next week. Just a reminder, that if you will be joining us to watch your child/ren perform next week, you **must** have a ticket in order to be permitted entry. Anyone without a ticket, will not be able to come in.

All performances will take place in the school hall. Please can parents/carers enter/exit via the S4YC gate on Clydesdale. Doors will be open 15 minutes before each performance begins.



For the evening performances for Years 3 & 4 and Years 5 & 6 on 13th and 14th December, please can all children return to school for 4.30pm so they are ready for a 5pm start. All children are to enter school via the main office on Wyedale.

Key Stage 2 children will be dismissed after their evening performance at approximately 6pm via the main playground. **All children must be collected.** Those parents/carers watching the performance in the hall, will be let out directly onto the playground after the performance finishes. For any parents/carers not at the performance, the gates on Wyedale and Clydesdale will be opened for you to enter/exit the playground.

We will have a table of lost property set up in the dining hall at each performance, please feel free to have a look through and take anything which belongs to your child/ren. The PTA will also be selling raffle tickets at each performance. At the end of each one, we will draw out a winning ticket for a Christmas hamper to be won. There is a hamper to win at each performance.

We are very excited to finally be able to share our Christmas performances with our families!

Mental Health Charter

We are pleased to be supporters of the Mental Health Charter. The Charter was put together with the help of the Samaritans, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England and Beat. By supporting the charter, we are committing to providing opportunities to educate and to reduce stigma around mental illness.



Warm Space

Trinity Church in Ellesmere Port are providing a Warm Space every Friday from 9:30am-12:30pm. There is a craft project running, a free mug of soup and a lovely cafe for hot drinks.

Kids Bank Donations

Many thanks for all of the kind donations which were taken to Kids Bank Chester. They were amazed at the quality of the donations which were gratefully received!

Finally

I'm sure many parents/carers have seen the news recently regarding the reports on Strep A and Scarlet Fever. As always, we are in contact with our LA Health Protection Team as needed. They have sent the following advice to schools to share with their parents/carers:

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The UK Health Security agency are reporting that we are seeing a higher number of cases of group A strep this year than usual in the North West. The bacteria usually causes a mild infection producing sore throats or scarlet fever that can be easily treated with antibiotics.

In very rare circumstances, this bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness - called invasive group A strep (iGAS). This is still uncommon however it is important that parents are on the lookout for symptoms and see a doctor as quickly as possible so that their child can be treated and we can stop the infection becoming serious.

Make sure you talk to a health professional if your child is showing signs of deteriorating after a bout of scarlet fever, a sore throat, or a respiratory infection. Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, but it is highly infectious. Therefore, look out for symptoms in your child, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if you suspect your child has scarlet fever, because early treatment of scarlet fever with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection. If your child has scarlet fever, keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

There are lots of viruses that cause sore throats, colds and coughs circulating. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop a bacterial infection on top of a virus and that can make them more unwell. As a parent, if you feel that your child seems seriously unwell, you should trust your own judgement. Contact NHS 111 if or your GP if:

- your child is getting worse
- your child is feeding or eating much less than normal
- your child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration
- your baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39C or higher
- your baby feels hotter than usual when you touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty
- your child is very tired or irritable

Call 999 or go to A&E if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing - you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when your child breathes
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake

Good hand and respiratory hygiene are important for stopping the spread of many bugs. By teaching your child how to wash their hands properly with soap for 20 seconds, using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, and keeping away from others when feeling unwell, they will be able to reduce the risk of picking up, or spreading, infections.

More information can be found here: [Scarlet fever: symptoms, diagnosis and treatment - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-and-treatment)
(www.gov.uk)

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Guidance on exclusion for a range of infectious diseases can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities>

In school, we are maintaining an ongoing emphasis on cleaning, hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and ensuring staff and children who are unwell, remain away from the setting as per health protection guidelines. This will help to reduce transmission of most infections within school. These measures, alongside improved ventilation where possible, are particularly important at the moment as a number of respiratory viruses are also circulating.

Mrs E Williams