



WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mrs. S. Randle
Dunelm Road Elm Tree Farm Stockton-on-Tees TS19 0TS Tel/Fax 01642 678212

Dear Parents/Carers,

Friends of Whitehouse

The Friends would like to thank all those who came to our family fun night on Thursday 30th of June. We had a fantastic evening and a **huge** Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a great success! The event raised £1059.10. The monies raised by the Friends usually pay for the extras that our children receive and additional activities. We are very pleased to welcome new members and our next AGM will be held on 28th September in school.

Cultural Studies Week

During the week Monday 11th September-Friday 15th September, the children will be engaged in a cultural studies week and we thought it may be useful to let parents know which area of the UK the children were studying, should they want to start to find out about the place during the Summer holidays.

Reception - Wales, Y1 - North Yorkshire, Y2 - Northern Ireland, Y3 - Northumberland, Y4 - Cornwall, Y5 - Scotland, Y6 - Cumbria.

School Meals

School meals now cost £10.25 a week and half a term's notice **must** be given to change over either to packed lunches or to school meals.

Packed Lunches

We encourage the children to have healthy food in their packed lunches and that the food is in appropriate containers that the children can open themselves. We discourage any chocolate products in packed lunches and appreciate parents support in this.

School Uniform

The school has a uniform which we **strongly promote** our children to wear. It contributes to the high expectations of behaviour and attitude of the children. Plimsolls are required for indoors and sensible black school shoes for outdoors, not trainers. Please ensure all clothing is named, as it is easier to return lost items.

Children wearing jewellery is a potential hazard to the safety of all children in school. The school enjoys the support of parents with **children not wearing jewellery**. If your child has pierced ears we ask that earrings are taken out for the time that they will be in school. No jewellery will be worn in PE and staff will not assist children with the removal or wearing of any jewellery. If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced then the beginning of the six weeks holiday is an ideal time to have them done so that you will be able to **remove them for the start of school in September**.

Children may want to wear a watch and this is promoted as it helps them to learn to tell the time. The children are **not allowed** to wear exotic hairstyles such as shaved/patterned or hair gel. Please let the children be children.

Attendance

Research shows that children achieve less, the more school absence they have. A child absent from school for two weeks each year means that the child misses the equivalent of two terms of education over their school life. Leave of absence for any reason will only be granted under **exceptional circumstances**. The school will take into consideration the context of any requests for leave of absence along with the pupil's attainment and attendance. Children whose attendance raises concern will be referred to the school Parent Support Adviser and the Attendance and Exclusion service at Stockton Borough Council.

Those children who have achieved 100% attendance over the year have been given a reward and a certificate for their excellent efforts. Well done!

Parking

Parking passes for access to the school car park are available at the school office for anyone whose child has mobility difficulties. There is **no other access to the car park** for parents/carers except to collect children from after-school clubs, Tea Time Club and Breakfast club. Our school buses need clear access to the school car park. The Sainsburys supermarket has given permission for parents to use their car park and then walk the children to school. There is also parking available **behind the Elmtree Shops to 'Park and Stride'**. It only takes a few minutes to walk from either of these parking areas and helps towards the reduction of traffic, the consideration towards the school's neighbours and the safety of all our children.

Safety in School

Please remember that children are **not allowed** on the outdoor play equipment before school or after school. They are only allowed on the equipment during supervised playtimes and lunchtimes.

Unfortunately our school has grown so much in terms of the number of children who attend school and the space around the building has not been able to grow at the same rate. This means that we have a greater number of parent/carers coming onto the school site to drop off and collect children in relatively small playgrounds. To ensure the children are dismissed safely to parent/carers we will be introducing a parents waiting area in each playground which will be marked in yellow.

School now has CCTV at the main entrance which is used for the safety and security of all visiting the site.

Arts Mark Gold

We are very pleased to announce that the school has been awarded the prestigious Gold Arts Mark. Award from the Arts Council. This means the school is recognised

for delivering high quality Arts and Cultural education. The council said that they recognise the 'clear benefit on an inspiring and creative environment for the pupils.' Well done to everyone involved!

Review of the Year

It is amazing when you look back at an academic year with the children and staff and see how much we have been doing in school. The website gives a snapshot of all the activities and learning that has been going on: www.whitehousepri.org.uk I hope that your child has enjoyed all that school has to offer and been able to shine in class, in sport, in music, in art, in friendships and gain an awards/certificates of which there are many.

Survey

At Whitehouse we spend a large amount of time and commitment into providing high quality education and a range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year. We would like to evaluate the impact of what we do and would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete our survey on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/whitehouseparentsurvey0717>

Thanks

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank parents for their kind gifts and cards received at the end of term. Your children are a credit to themselves and to you. We are a happy and successful school due to the support we have from our parents. Thanks also to the staff and governors for their hard work and commitment for the last academic year.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 4th September 2017.

Best wishes for a lovely, sunny and restful Summer Holiday.

Mrs S Randle
Head Teacher