

29/03/18

Dear Parents/Carers,

Easter Holiday

Just a reminder that school will close on Thursday 29th March and reopen on Monday 16th April for the new term.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who supported our Book Fair. We raised the magnificent sum of £692.08 and this means school will receive commission to purchase new books for the school.

Easter Egg Competition

Wow, we had some eggciting and eggstrodinary creations for our competition! A huge well done to all the children who entered and I am sure you had a cracking time making them!

Sport Relief

The children and staff had a fantastic time wearing something red for Sport Relief. We raised a terrific £298.37 for this worthwhile charity.

Whitehouse Bake-off

The Friends of the School held another successful Bake-off and raised £121.66. Thank you and well done to those who baked, those who tasted, those who bought and finally those who ate such wonderful pieces of culinary art.

School Uniform

The Foundation Stage children have carried out a great job testing the new school uniform and new suppliers. Visitors to the school have all commented on how smart the children look. They look bright, well turned out and ready for a day's learning at school. We would like to now transition the uniform into school. If your child requires new uniform for the summer term you can see if the office have any of the established uniform left in stock and if not, you can now purchase the new uniform either online go to www.elizabethsewbroidery.com click SHOP and use password WHA, go into store at 8-10 Richardson Road, Stockton TS183LJ or phone them on 01642674973.

Appearance

Once again, I would like to remind parent/carers that hair gel, extreme haircuts/styles and hair embellishments, such as large bows, are not appropriate in school. If you send your child into school with such things, they will be challenged by staff in school and reminded that these are not allowed. **If you do not want your child to be upset, do not send them in with such things.** Please allow our children to enjoy their childhood free from the trappings of commercialism and pressures of self-image.

Leave of Absence

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. The school year is 190 days which leaves **175 non-school days** in which families can have time for a holiday. '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. It is predominantly for a parent/carer to make a very clear case for exceptional circumstances in a request for a leave of absence in term time. Parent/carers who continually take unauthorised leave will be referred to the school Parent Support Adviser and the Attendance/ Exclusion service at Stockton Borough Council. A referral could lead to parent/carers being fined. Mrs Gibson, our

Parent Support Adviser, supports families in many ways and can be contacted on 07949612489.

Free School Meals

If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you can check your eligibility using this link: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

It could lead to additional funding from the government to help your child in school.

Staff News

We are happy to wish Miss Grant very best wishes for her upcoming marriage over the Easter Holidays; she will return as Mrs Aaron. At Easter, Miss Mathews will complete her apprenticeship and has been successful in gaining full-time employment with an organisation that works with children with SEND.

School Development

Last Monday evening, the school was invited to attend an awards event at Alnwick Gardens, where we were one of four schools to receive the Artsmark Gold. We achieved this award last year but this was the ceremony where we received our fabulous glass trophy. It has pride of place in the trophy cabinet next to the school office, if you wish to have a closer look. We have also been given a Certificate of Achievement for the school's work in Partnership with Durham University. Our school is a training centre for Initial Teacher Training and has contributed to the course, receiving Outstanding from Ofsted.

The Right Approach

If you feel that you have any concerns over the education or welfare of your child, you are invited to speak to the class teacher in the first instance at a mutually convenient time. If your concerns are not addressed, then the Key Stage Leader may be able to help and can also arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. Please be aware that staff may be busy either preparing to teach or supervising the arrival or exit of children when you approach them to talk. Having the right approach usually means matters are resolved quickly and appropriately.

Whitehouse has the best Parents!

At a time of taking a stance to ensure we maintain our high quality provision and education in uncertain times, I am very appreciative of the wonderful support we have from our parents. One parent was kind enough to write 'Whitehouse is an amazing school with staff who support and encourage all children, treating all children as equals. As well as teaching children how important it is not to judge and how it is ok to be different'.

As the Spring term comes to a close, it is good to look back on another busy and successful term at Whitehouse. It is a delight to be in school with such lovely children and supportive parents. I know that in these times of uncertainty in Education, especially around funding, we as a school community will always do the best for your children and offer every child the opportunity to succeed, whatever their strengths and needs.

I do hope the weather improves and becomes a little warmer to enable everyone to have a lovely family-time Easter Break.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Randle,
Head Teacher.