

Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term. It was lovely to see all the children back in Assembly and hearing about all their Christmas presents. It seems that they were all on the good list! (as I would expect).

Please find the school Spring Term calendar with this letter. We do try to give as much advanced warning as possible of the events but please remember that occasionally events have to be changed due to circumstances beyond our control.

Absence/Illness of Children

It is very important that parents report any absences of children to the office on the first day and every day after. This can be done through a telephone call, leaving a message 01642 678212 or texting through the school coms 01642688199. If school has not been informed about an absence the office staff will follow up with a phone call as part of our safeguarding procedures. The local authority requires that these absences be followed up in writing when your child returns to school.

Adverse Weather Conditions

We will always try our best to remain open (and warm) for the children to attend school. However if there are severe weather conditions which affect the school and a decision is taken to close the school, parent/carers will be notified through our school comms texting service, a notice on the school website, Stockton Borough Council website and publication on local radio stations.

Park and Stride

Thank you for your continued support in parking away from school and walking the children to school. This helps to ensure the safety of all our children. Parking is available at Sainsbury's and behind the Elm Tree Shops. Those children who achieve 100% target walking to school last term will be getting their Fun Splash session in our pool.

Class Assemblies

We will be starting our Class Assemblies this term. This is a valuable experience for the children to develop their speaking skills in front of an audience. It also gives parents and visitors an opportunity to see all the hard work the children are doing in class. Thank you for your continued support at these and all our school events.

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club is only able to supervise children from 8am, please don't bring your child any earlier as staff are not available.

Schoolcomms

If you haven't already done so please could you download this app to your phone (it's free) as it will help us improve communication with parents - and save the school money.

The set-up process is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

1. Search for "School Gateway" in the Apple App Store/Google Play or on your phone go to www.schoolgateway.com/apple (Apple) or www.schoolgateway.com/android (Android)
2. Install the app and if you are asked then say yes to "Allow Push Notifications"
3. When you launch School Gateway for the first time, please select 'New User' and enter the email address and mobile telephone number you have registered with the school
4. The system will send a PIN code to your phone; please enter this PIN code and the app will be activated for you.

As soon as you've got the system set-up, all of the text messages we send you will appear in the app; you'll receive notifications/alerts as normal. Please ensure your phone number and e-mail is always updated with the school office.

We try to keep parents and the community informed about all the great learning opportunities happening at Whitehouse through our school website which can be found at: www.whitehousepri.org.uk/

With best wishes for another busy and successful Spring term,

Mrs S Randle
Head Teacher