



Newsletter

Issue No 4

Pupils behave well in lessons and around school. There are warm, respectful relationships between staff and pupils, and teachers gently remind pupils of expectations, when needed. OFSTED 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you well prepared for a busy few days. It has been a very long term and everyone in school is very tired and looking forward to a break. Looking back over this term there is much we can be very proud of.

In Design and Technology, the children have been learning how to prepare and cook food in our *Festive Food* focus. It has been lovely to hear the children singing carols ready for the carol concert and getting ready for *Young Voices* next term. The *Gifted and Talented Reading* team is working hard to read their three books ready for the quiz against other schools in February. The Reception children have been 'buddied up' with children in Y6 and it is lovely to see them interacting with each other developing the Whitley Character values of Friendship, Courage, Resilience, Kindness, Gratitude and Honesty.



In sports the children in Y5 and 6 benefitted greatly from having the swimming pool in September. Many children were not at all confident in the water and by the end of the course they could swim 20 meters and completed survival skills. Our children competed admirably in the indoor athletics competition, coming fourth overall with some outstanding performances from our pupils.

Leaders have overhauled the curriculum. They have identified key 'curriculum drivers' which aim to develop well-rounded citizens with high aspirations for their futures. OFSTED 2023

We are continuing to develop our curriculum to support the children and a short video was produced by one of our Governors to show case our *Everyone Does PLEDGE*. <https://whitleyabbeyprimary.co.uk/curriculum/>

To help the children's understanding of other cultures and to foster tolerance we held an *International Day* at the end of September. This was the highlight of the term for me to see so many people from the community sharing food together.

The wider personal development programme at Whitley Abbey is well thought out. The 'Everyone DOES' pledge ensures that pupils experience a wide range of opportunities. OFSTED 2023



We have welcomed lots of new children and members of staff, all of whom have settled quickly into our routines. Most classes are now full, with 30 children and there are 440 children altogether. The new House Point reward system has improved learning behaviours and children enjoy getting House Points for doing the right things like reading regularly and having good manners. They can spend them each half term on small prizes or save them for a better prize.

It was lovely to see so many of you on *Parents Evenings* and at the *Carol Concerts* this week. This strengthens the partnership we have established and demonstrates to your children we are learning together. Anne Richards from St James's Church came to lead our fun assembly today and the children learnt how chocolate features in the Christmas story.



On Friday 15th December we had our *Learner of the Term* special assembly, which was a fantastic surprise for the winners because their parents were invited to see them receive their award. These children all demonstrated one or more of our Core Learning Values of Commitment, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence.

RB- Anesia

RH- Nmachi

Y1A-Kikiolaoluwa

Y1H-Chikamso

2A- Emma

2D-Vrishika

3W-Johann

3B-Vladut

4D-Noah K

4O-Cohen

5H-Blossom

5E- Trisha

6D- Omar

6S-Sophie



We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 9th January.

Kind Regards



Mr Robbie Walker

Headteacher

Whitley Abbey Primary School

Dates for your diary

<u>Date 2023</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 8 th January	School Closed (Teacher Training Day)
Tuesday 9 th January	All Pupils Return to School
Monday 29 th January	Y4 Parents Meeting (Multiplication Times Tables Check)
Monday 5 th February	YR & Y6 Heights and Weights
Friday 9 th February	Last Day of School Break up for Half Term
Monday 19 th February	All Pupils Return to School
Friday 22 nd March	Last day of School break up for Easter – NON-UNIFORM DAY
Monday 8 th April	School Closed (Teacher Training Day)
Tuesday 9 th April	All Pupils Return to School

