



## Spring Term Update 1

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the midpoint of this academic year, I thought I would touch base with you to draw your attention to one or two things which may not necessarily feature in my weekly blog (although that's quite unlikely).

### Parent Consultation Evenings

Over the second half of the term, you will receive details of how to book your appointment to meet with your child's class teacher. As always, we will be using the online booking system which will open for you to use at 9.00am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March. A letter will come home the week before reminding you how to access the system, although you are probably experts by now.

The appointments themselves will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Mrs McConnell Smith will be available to meet on Wednesday and you can indicate this option when you book.

### Information Evenings

Advance notice of two information evenings we will be running in the summer term.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April** - We will be holding a SATs Information Session for parents of pupils in Year 6. This will be in the hall starting at 6.00pm.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June** – This will be a Maths Mastery Information Evening for anyone to attend. We will be talking about our approach to teaching maths in the school and it is also our intention to involve pupils from all four year groups to demonstrate and talk about the types of activities they do on a daily basis.

Information about both events will come out in due course but feel free to mark them in your diary now.

### Assessment

One area we are focusing on at present in terms of whole school development is our assessment system and how we record the progress the pupils are making. You may have seen in the news recently the change in focus from Ofsted, away from an over-reliance on data to a more curriculum based agenda.

That being said, assessment is an essential part of the learning process and therefore we have looked to make this meaningful for the school. Where you may notice a change is when the school reports come home. Although they will look similar to previous years, some of the 'statements' for the subject areas have changed and also the way these statements are 'ticked' will be slightly more robust.

I urge you not to try to compare the position of last year's ticks to this year's. For example, even if there are fewer ticks in the 'working at greater depth' column this year than last, your child may still have made progress and be working at a higher standard than before.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball

Tickets are selling but we would love to sell more! Details are all online and further information can be obtained from Mrs Cook. Come on your own, as a couple or get a table together; it promises to be a great evening with a three-course meal, magic and live music. A fantastic way to celebrate the 50 years of Whitehill Junior School.

## Good Luck!

In the coming weeks we have pupils taking part in a number of competitions and festivals. Our dancers have been working really hard on their entry for the **County Dance Festival** under the guidance of our former Head Girl (and current HGS Head Girl) Ruby, along with Mia.

We have a group ready to show off their fashion designs made purely of recycled materials at the St Christopher's School **Recycled Fashion Show** and our Trampolinists are off to Cannock to compete in the **National Trampoline Finals** on the same day.

## Welcome Back

When we return after half term, we will welcome back Mrs Davies to the staff team after her maternity break. She will be working with all year groups in a variety of ways, supporting in class and working with groups to support teaching and learning. This is going to be a wonderful addition to teaching team for the second half of the school year.

## New School Website

We are currently working on the finishing touches to the new school website, ensuring it is Ofsted compliant before we switch over from the current site. Whilst the content will be very similar, the way it will look is much more user friendly and much 'cleaner'. I hope to be able to make the switch in the first couple of weeks after the half term break.



## Hygiene

There have been a couple of cases of Threadworms in school recently and therefore attached to this letter is a guide with some advice from the NHS. It is important that we all encourage children to wash their hands frequently, especially after going to the toilet.

## Enjoy the Break

Have a wonderful half term and I will see you all on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Best wishes,

*Steve Mills*

Steve Mills  
Headteacher