

Autumn Term Update (4)

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come towards the end of a very long Autumn Term, there are a few things I would like to draw your attention to which relate to these last two weeks or future projects.

Hogwarts Day

Poppy, our Head Girl, made a pledge when she stood for election to run a Hogwarts' themed day for the pupils. For various reasons, we have decided that we will hold this event on **Tuesday 10th December**. Poppy has been working closely with the teachers to plan the event and it looks like it will be a fun day.

The pupils are invited to dress up for this to help create the atmosphere. This might be by wearing a white shirt as opposed to the school polo shirts, or, if pupils have them, going all the way and wearing Hogwarts cloaks etc. The choice is yours.

During the day, there will be a 'sorting hat' assembly followed by a series of lessons run on a carousel basis. Each class will experience four different lessons during the day, from potions to Herbology; defence against the dark arts to Quidditch. It promises to be great fun. Thank you for your support with Poppy's project.

Whilst there is no charge for this day, Poppy will be holding a charity collection if pupils would like to donate, in aid of Lumos, a charity supporting children across the world.

Christmas Cards

From Monday 9th December, pupils may bring in Christmas cards for their friends. We will have a post box just outside the school office for the pupils to use and then once a day, a class will take turns to collect, sort and deliver the cards around the school.

Could I ask that you remind pupils to address the envelopes carefully to include given name, surname and also class? We have five Edwards at Whitehill and we wouldn't want the cards to be delivered to the wrong one!

RSE Consultation

Thank you so much to those of you who were able to attend the Relationships Education consultation last week. It was really informative and a valuable exercise to ensure the curriculum we put together for our pupils is appropriate.

One of the suggestions was a way by which parents could add further thoughts to the process. I have now set up a separate email address, consult@whitehill.herts.sch.uk which parents can use to send over their comments. This inbox will be monitored and all comments added to the consultation process but you may not necessarily receive a personal response. I hope this helps.

As and when there are developments with the planning of this new initiative, I will update you further.

Christmas Jumpers

We have a visit from Anthony Glenn again on **Wednesday 11th December** to perform for the pupils as our Christmas treat. This is also the same day as we will be enjoying our Christmas lunch. I would like to invite pupils, should they wish to, to wear Christmas jumpers on this day or decorated school jumpers to make the school look festive. There is no obligation to do so and no need to bring any money in. The rest of the school uniform is to remain the same.

End of Term

We finish for Christmas on Friday 20th December at 1.30pm. Earlier that day we will have our Carol Service at St Mary's Church starting at 10.15. Parents and grandparents are more than welcome to attend.

Outside Play Equipment

Good news and bad news! The good news is, we are in the process of ordering the brand new outdoor play equipment to replace the blue and yellow wooden trail on the school field. A huge thanks to the Friends' Association for all their fundraising which has allowed this project to commence. The bad news, however, is that we are going to need to tape off the existing equipment between now and its replacement. Please can I ask that you ensure your children keep off the area which is behind the tape.

Sporting Successes

We continue to perform well in a wide range of sports and have continued to participate in all competitions open to us through the Sports Partnership. I would like to thank and congratulate all pupils who have represented the school so far this year; they do so with determination to succeed but also the perfect attitude. The feedback from staff who accompany the teams and also the organisers at the different events is always so positive.

I would like to thank all of our parents who have supported the pupils and provided transport to and from fixtures. It goes without saying that without such great support we wouldn't be able to offer the extensive range of clubs and teams we do.

I would also like to say 'well done' again to Miss Gooderham for her recent success at the Herts Service to Sports Awards, where she won the award for 'Apprentice of the Year'. We were all naturally delighted and I am sure you would agree with me when I say it is thoroughly deserved.

And finally...

Year 6 Party

Whilst not relevant to the majority of parents, can I take this opportunity to inform those of you with pupils in Year 6 about plans for the end of the school year?

Once again, the staff have agreed to organise and run this event following on from the success of last year. At this stage I can confirm the date which is **Friday 10th July**. There will be a nominal charge to cover some of the entertainment and food. Further details will come home in due course.

Can I finally take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Steve Mills

Mr Steve Mills
Headteacher

