

# Whitehill Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr S Mills



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Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October

Dear Parents and carers

As we reach the end of the first half term, I thought I would write to you all with a few updates and reminders which wouldn't fit well in my weekly blog.

It has been a very successful seven weeks and I have been really impressed with the way the pupils have settled back into their new year groups and classes. I have been particularly pleased with our Year 3s who have embraced the opportunities they have had and thrown themselves into life at Whitehill.

## School Lunches

When we return after half term, you will see that the menu for our school lunches, provided by Herts Catering has been updated. I can also confirm that you should find a fourth option for each day now, in the form of a jacket potato. Please remember to select your child's lunch in advance and also, should your child subsequently be off, please remember to cancel it.

## Friends' Association

Our Friends' Association have continued to work exceptionally hard for the benefit of pupils at both Whitehill as well as our feeder infants, Highbury. I would like to thank everyone involved for the very generous donation of £6000 given to us for projects around the school.

Thank you too for the generous sponsorship of my bungee jump that one of the committee members managed to convince me to do. With gift aid, the total is just under £2500 which is incredible. I wonder what they will ask (get) me to do next.

They have launched their Christmas card project recently and anyone who would like to take part needs to return their design on the first day back – the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

## Year 6s

For those of you with pupils in Year 6, please remember that you need to have expressed your preference for their secondary school by 31<sup>st</sup> October. This deadline is important as late entries might mean you won't get your preference.

For those of you who have signed up for it, Bikeability starts for our Year 6s when we return on Monday 31<sup>st</sup>. Please don't forget your bikes and your helmets!

## Social Media

I wrote to all parents earlier in the term with reference to our twitter feed and how we try and use it. I am grateful to me staff team who, as well as ensuring our pupils are engaged in fantastically, creative learning opportunities, also



do their best to share these with you via twitter. Can I remind you again please that there can be no expectations on what and when we tweet? It is only ever intended to give you a flavour of what we do each week in school.

We all have a responsibility to ensure use of social media is appropriate. Our Home-School Agreement which is shared with families when they join Whitehill (and which can be found on the school website) makes specific reference to this and states that parents should, *'Refrain from uploading or adding any images, sounds or texts on social media that could upset or offend any member of the school community.'* It goes on to state that we should, *'Respect everyone in our school environment, including children, staff and other adults.'*

Thank you for your support with this.

#### **Other reminders**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Additional SEND consultation appointments with Mrs McConnell Smith. The booking platform for these is now live.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Flu jabs for pupils.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Class and Team photographs in school.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Occasional Day. School closed to all.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break. A chance to spend some quality time together and to recharge batteries as we lead up to Christmas. It will soon be here!

Best wishes,



Steve Mills  
Headteacher

