

Tuesday 20th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Autumn Term Update 5

We are almost there – the end of a very long and on the whole, very successful term.

A new cohort joined the Whitehill Community in September and I have to say, they have impressed me a great deal. Not just with their Christmas production last week but also the way they have settled and their attitude towards the work. It has been wonderful to get to know them and some new parents too, although with something like 42 siblings, there are relatively few new faces to welcome.

The Friends' Association has been hard at work. We have had two very successful 'socials' – one at Whitehill and one at Highbury with both being very well attended. Despite the restrictions which were still in place for some of last year, Mrs Avey and I were presented with substantial cheques for our respective schools at the AGM. This money all goes back into school to provide opportunities and resources for our pupils. The committee also managed to get me to jump off a rather high crane with a giant elastic band around my ankles – thank you so much for the sponsorship which raised over £2300.

We have also been very successful on the sporting front and I must thank Miss Gooderham for the way she has increased the number of pupils who have represented the school this term in a whole range of different sports.

St Mary's

Tomorrow we will have our final assembly of 2022 at St Mary's Church starting at 9.30am. Parents are invited to join us if they are free, for some festive songs and readings.

Mrs Cornell

It gives me great pleasure to share the news that Mrs Cornell has had her baby. Josiah (Jos) weighed in at 6lb 3oz and both mum and baby are doing very well indeed. I am sure you join with me in wishing Mr and Mrs Cornell and of course their daughter Emmie all the very best on the new arrival.





Absence / Attendance

Attendance across Whitehill is very good and indeed, even since the pandemic our attendance has been significantly above the national rates for the majority of the term. That being said, there are a few pupils whose absences are creeping up and are beginning to cause a little bit of concern.

There is a clear link between outcomes for pupils and attendance and therefore it is imperative we all do what we can to ensure pupils are in school. Whilst I am not suggesting pupils should be in school if they are genuinely ill and suffering, there might be times however when, although not 100% fit, they could (and should) be in and learning.

Our Attendance Improvement Office will be looking at those pupils whose attendance now makes them 'persistent absentees', in other words attendance of less than 90% and may be in touch. I have no doubt that the break and a couple of weeks rest for everyone will see our attendance remain strong as we start back in the Spring Term.

School Lunches

As with most of my updates, can I remind you to order your child's lunches for the start of the Spring Term. In addition, it is also your responsibility to cancel the lunch should your child be away for any reason. You may still be charged if the lunch is not cancelled.

Year 3 Production

I have placed a copy of the film of this year's Christmas production on the [school website under Blogs/School Films](#). It is password protected and I would remind you that the sharing of any part of the film on social media is prohibited. The password to allow you to view the film is: **L00roll** (with the 00 in L00 being zeros).

Feed Up Warm Up

Mrs Lanni and Mrs Granger have asked me to pass on their thanks for the various ways you have contributed to their recent charity collection for Feed Up, Warm Up. They will make sure everything gets to where it is needed in the coming days.

On behalf of all the staff can I thank you for the cards and gifts which have been brought in. The staffroom table has looked particularly welcoming in recent days and staff have been able to pop in to be refuelled.

We return to school on Thursday 5th January 2023.

Have a merry Christmas and a wonderful break.

Best wishes,



Steve Mills
Headteacher