

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Welcome back. It was great to see the children come straight in and settle into their work and learning. We are so excited for another year of brilliant learning.

We had a great year in East Whitby last year with children achieving highly despite the previous two years of the pandemic. That is down to the fantastic job the class teams do, your support and most importantly the fantastic attitude to learning that your children bring into school most days. It was also brilliant to have shows and performances again, to get the children out of school on visits and to have a much more “normal” year.

Our aim is to build upon the successes of last year. There will be a range of extra-curricular clubs on offer throughout the year, details of those will be out soon.

There are a couple of ways you can help this year. Please ask your children about ‘What they are Learning?’ as there is some amazing stuff planned for the coming term. We are all focused on History this half-term, ranging from Castles and James Cook in Year 1 and 2 to Vikings, Egyptians, Greeks and World War 2 in Key Stage 2.

The other thing we need help with is Reading. A recent report from Ofsted found that children who struggle at secondary often struggle because their reading is not good enough. To be a good reader pupils need to practice regularly. Our Phonics program gives pupils a really good start and last year we got our best Phonics results ever. Children however, need to keep reading and practicing reading, Can you all really push on reading this year, we will work really hard to help children find books that they love but we need you to find them the time and space to read, it would be even better if they read with you. We will be running some parent reading sessions later this term. It would be great if you could come.

We are aware that there may be huge challenges in the next year with the Cost of Living Crisis amongst other things, please don't hesitate to ask if you need help, whilst we may not always be able to help we will definitely be able to support you and help you get the help you need.

Can we request that if a child comes to you with a concern please ask them first whether it has been dealt with at school that day. 9 times out of 10 it will have been resolved and you need to reassure your child that it's over and done with. When coming to talk to us at school, please bear in mind school staff are people and the way you speak to them has an impact, it is a lot easier to deal with a problem if everyone is calm and measured. We are always happy to explore issues and will always look to find solutions. We all want the same thing, which is a brilliant education for your child. Sometimes things go wrong. Please work with us to get it right.

Attendance

We will not be able to give permission for holidays or time off school unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you take your child out of school for more than 4 ½ days then we have a legal obligation to send this information to the Local Authority and they may impose a fine.

If your child is going to be off school for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact school and let us know.

Please try to arrange appointments for the doctors and dentists outside of school time, we appreciate this is not always possible, it is however having a significant impact on the learning of some pupils.

If for any reason you will be late at the end of the day can you please ensure that school is aware? Children not collected will be sent to after school club and a charge will be incurred.

Uniform

It was amazing to see the children come to school looking so smart yesterday. Can we request that if you have any uniform that is still in good condition that your child has grown out of, could you please bring it into school. We are aiming to set up a uniform bank to help families in the upcoming year and your support would be really appreciated.

If children have had their ears pierced they must be able to remove the earrings to do PE. If they can't do this then could we request parents remove them at home. If they are waiting for them to heal then unfortunately they won't be able to do PE until they are able to remove them, we cannot stick plasters on them.

Start and End of the Day

We will be changing the end-times and pick up procedures in a couple of weeks time, going back to our normal times that we changed due to the pandemic. We will be sending out a letter early next week with details and times, until then we will continue with the times as they are.

A calendar of school events for the term will also be sent out next week.

East Whitby on the web

Don't forget you can keep up-to-date with school and find any information by visiting our website. This has photos and up to date stories and information as well as a calendar with all the upcoming dates and events www.eastwhitbyacademy.org.uk We are also on **twitter** and **Facebook**.

Don't forget to use social media responsibly, school will not tolerate the use of social media to upset staff or make false allegations around the work of the school.

Thanks again for your continued support and if you have any issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. My door is always open.

Simon Smith (Headteacher)