Dear Parents,

We are really glad to see most children back at school after we were hit by a nasty bug last week. Attendance was around 80% last week but is now above 95% again.

We had our school enquiry from our Academy trust last week, they looked at books, observed lessons and spoke with children and staff. They talked highly about the pupils learning behaviours, the high quality of the work, the expertise and knowledge of the staff in school and the atmosphere which was described as “Chill but on it.”

**Thankyou**

 It was great to see so many of you at the Halloween Disco and the (very early) Christmas Bingo last week, your support is very much appreciated. Huge thanks to **The Friends of East Whitby** for organising both events. If you would like to offer your support and help I’m sure they would appreciate it. They can be contacted on their facebook page.

**The Wider Offer**

We have had a couple of questions about the broader curriculum offered.

East Whitby offers a broad holistic curriculum that seeks to support the children in finding their strengths and the things that drive them.

There is an excellent offer from the Local school sports partnership that we pay into using part of our Sports premium budget. Children from East Whitby this term have attended a wide range of sporting events this term football, multisports, cross country, sports hall athletics, we have basketball next week as well as many other events. We attend most events and make active choices by looking at the timetable for the year and planning a broad range of experiences and opportunities for the children. Our philosophy is that these experiences are offered to all children. Many events however have limited places and therefore as a bigger school, we balance it to ensure all children have those opportunities to take part and represent the school over the course of a year. Children also receive specialist PE coaching in school over the course of the year.

Alongside this, children also attend and take part in a range of local cultural events and a wide range of carefully planned visits, including residentials. These provide a broad range of experiences for our young people.

East Whitby also works closely with a range of groups such as the Arts Council and the Stephen Joseph Theatre on a range of projects. We also work with the National Literacy Trust and the Centre for Literacy Excellence on live poetry and performance events.

In the last year, children also had the opportunity to work with a number of artists and local museums who delivered workshops in school and their work has been used in local exhibitions and events.

We have also had visits from a range of authors, musicians and theatre groups either online or increasingly live in person. We think it is so important that the young people in East Whitby get the opportunity to work with a variety of people who are specialists in their field.

Equally, in school all children receive specialist language teaching each week and specialist music teaching as we believe these subjects require expertise to support the pupils development in these areas. We also ensure that all pupils take part in performances each year both in school and beyond which we believe is an important part of their development.

The aim of our broad offer is to support all the young people to find their passion and the thing that drives them.

If you have any queries please don’t hesitate to get in touch and we’ll happily talk you through the broad balanced curriculum offer we have in school.

Regards

Mr Smith

Principal

East Whitby Primary Academy