December Newsletter

Dear Parents,
We are pleased to bring the following information to your attention: -

Christmas Fayre - Another great success!
A big thank you to the small group of fundraisers who worked tirelessly throughout the year preparing for last month’s Christmas Fayre. The event was a huge success. Thanks too for your generous donations and then for coming along and buying them all back! The final figure raised on the day was a massive £2535.66. Sincere thanks to all concerned. The proceeds will be used to subsidise educational visits, outings, theatre groups, daily free fresh fruit for each child etc.
Raffle prizes were won by:
Leon Parks
Alex Carling
Brandon Beazley
James Booth
Jack Richardson
Carla Johns

School Uniform Update
Well done for continuing to insist that all children wear school uniform. Visitors to the school always comment on how smart our children look. Uniform is a great leveller and wearing it is a sign of belonging to the school and all that it stands for. All items of uniform are currently on sale from the main office, including fleeces and waterproof jackets. Can we also make another plea that children do not return to school with ‘designer’ haircuts or with coloured hair etc after the Christmas break? Such haircuts are a great source of distraction.
Head Lice
Unfortunately some of our children have been troubled with head lice. In schools children spend a lot of time working in groups and being close to each other which means that head lice can easily be passed from one child to the next. The following information is available on www.bbc.co.uk/health/physical_health/conditions/headlice which we hope helps:

Head lice are widespread in the UK and almost all schoolchildren have at least one attack, if not more. Head lice affect those with long or short, dirty or clean hair – they are not a sign of poor hygiene or dirty hair. Head lice can be caught by direct contact or by sharing combs, brushes and hats. Whole families are often affected.

Look for lice or nits by using a fine-tooth comb after washing the hair. Always check the whole family.

There are several ways to treat head lice. After washing the hair, apply lots of conditioner and comb it thoroughly with a fine-toothed comb - the lice and nits will be caught on the comb. (Rinse the comb in a basin of water to see them easily) You will have to repeat this for several days to catch all the lice and nits, and comb your child's hair daily to check for lice afterwards.

Alternatively, an electrically charged comb (available from pharmacies) can be used to catch and kill the lice. It must be used regularly.

Pesticide shampoo can be used, although some people are concerned about harmful side-effects and head lice in the UK are becoming resistant to chemical treatments. If you wish to use a pesticide shampoo, talk to your chemist about the most suitable one and follow the instructions as you may need to repeat the treatment.

Recently, a treatment called dimethicone has become available, which physically covers and smothers the lice. To get rid of head lice, it’s important to understand their life cycle so that you continue treatment for the right length of time. You may need to repeat treatments after 7-10 days – the time taken for the eggs to hatch - as the eggs are more resistant to treatments. If you are meticulous with treatment, there is a high chance of getting rid of the infestation.

Remember to check the whole family for nits, and to alert the parents of friends and your child’s school.

New Year New Term New Start!
2013 will soon be with us and the New Year is a great time for children to consider trying a school lunch. School meals are really good value and if it's a while since your child tried one they may be pleasantly surprised. Menus contain popular winter warmers as Spicy Shepherd's Pie, Savoury Lamb and Yorkshire Puddings and Brain-boosting Salmon & Cod Fish Fingers. Follow this with traditional favourites such as Chocolate Sponge & Custard or Apricot and Apple Crumble! Delicious!

Mrs Hutchinson and her kitchen staff work really hard to provide the children with a wide variety and choice of midday meals, nutritious and well presented. We would like as many children as possible to have school meals, as large numbers of children bringing packed lunches gives us real difficulties with space, time and organisation. We had some problems recently because packed lunch boxes have not been named or have been mixed up because parents have brought lunch boxes to school late so please: make sure children bring their own lunch boxes to school at the start of the day and that they are clearly named. May we remind parents that although changing from packed meals to school meals is quite easy, we do need two 'school-weeks' notice, so that food can be ordered in advance and the computer database amended accordingly. Anyone interested in changing please see Mrs Bostock, School Secretary, who will be only too willing to give you advice.
Attendance
This term 16 classes have been rewarded with class treats for having 100% attendance during the week. Especially well done to Miss Steele’s class who have had 100% 3 times! We want the very best for our children; being in school every day and not missing lessons will help them to be the high achievers they are all capable of. We all suffer from coughs and colds this time of year so thank you for encouraging children to come to school even when they are a bit sniffly, we will always keep them warm and administer medicine if necessary but urge you to send them to school whenever possible.

Breakfast Club
We offer a thriving breakfast club providing a high level of care. The club is very popular and costs £1.80 per session from 8am every morning. It is important that children are booked into the club in advance so we can make sure enough staff and breakfast ingredients are available. Please pick up a booking form from the office for next term.

And finally...
A reminder that school closes for the Christmas holiday on Friday 21st December and re-opens on Monday 7th January 2013.

Other dates for your diaries:
Friday 25th January: Wear something purple day for Moebius awareness
Thursday 14th February school closes for the half term break
Friday 15th February: Professional Development Day (School closed to children)
Monday 13th- Friday 17th May: Y6 SATs week

Thank you for all your support during my first term at the school; I look forward to getting to know more of you next term. The children at Whale Hill School are exceptional, they have a very high regard for learning and the greatest respect for their peers and all adults in school; I’m sure you must be very proud of them. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. May we take this opportunity to wish all children, parents, governors and friends of the school a very “Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year”.

Yours sincerely,

M. Mellor
Head Teacher