

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to an exciting new Academic Year. I hope you all had a very happy and safe holiday with your family and friends. The children have settled in well to the new term and are working hard straight away.

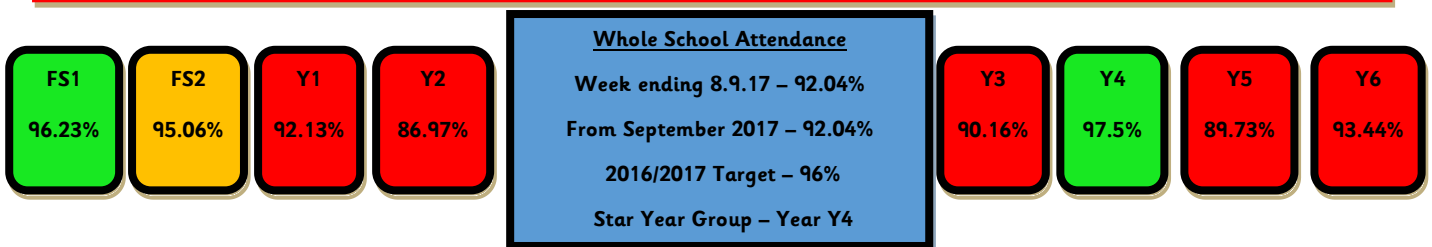
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about your child's learning in school. Please remember, we are available to talk to you about your child's well-being and progress at any time, not just at the set Parents Meetings.

Thank you for your continued support,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Donna Brown

Head of Academy



Some of our classes look low for attendance at the moment. This is due to children who have not returned to school as they have left or gone abroad. We have to keep these children on roll for 20 school days until we are satisfied they are safe. They can then be taken off roll.

Your child will bring home a Whetley Academy family calendar today and will have a personal water bottle to use in school. Both are free for our children. The water bottles will have their names printed on them and can be filled up by the children using the water coolers situated around the school building. The calendar highlights when the academy is open and when it is closed for the holidays. To support excellent attendance you could draw a smiley face on your calendar every day that your child comes to school and we can then reward this at school. You can add important dates to your calendar such as clubs, visits, special Academy days and so on. The calendar also has some excellent tips for learning your times tables. Please practise these with your children as it will really support their learning in school. Let us know what you think of our new Whetley Academy calendar and any top tips you think other parents would find useful.

Additional water bottles and calendars are on sale in the office
£1 for bottles and £3 for calendars

If you have changed your telephone number or address, please give your new details to the main office, in case we need to get hold of you in an emergency.

FS1

Wow, what a great start back for our current Nursery children! They were all amazing last week, settling back in and showing great enthusiasm for learning. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and we are so excited to be back in our old nursery building, which has been newly furnished and resourced for us too! Many thanks to all parents for your understanding, support and positive comments as we finish the nursery environment.

FS2

What a great first week we have had in FS2! The children have been superstars and all the staff have commented on how settled they all are already. Even though it's our first week we have been really busy. We have been getting to know each other, exploring our classrooms, using our resources sensibly and tidying up after ourselves. In English we have been looking at the story "The Tiger who Came to Tea" and thinking of words to describe the tiger. In maths we have been practising our counting.

Y1

Last week in Year 1, we were settling into our new classes. We have been learning about ourselves and our families. In Maths, we have been learning to recognize and make repeating patterns using different coloured cubes and shapes.

Y3

As part of our topic on Diary of a killer Cat, we looked at what we already knew about cats, and had an extremely interesting class discussion.

Y2

Last week year 2 were settling in and learning routines. We have started looking at our story, The Leopards Drum. We have also been learning how to partition numbers.



Y4

Year 4 have made a great start to the new school year! Their English lessons have been inspired by the film, Spiderwick Chronicles. We are watching bits of the film and reading parts of the story, so we can produce pieces of excellent, inspiring and entertaining writing.

Y5

Last week Y5 got off to an excellent start in our weekly Oracy Assembly by working together to create a set of rules for discussion



Y6

Year 6 have hit the ground running since coming back and picked up where they left off in July. We have started our English topic of horror, where the students will be writing a piece of descriptive writing aimed at creating suspense and fear in the reader! It has been great to see everyone ready and eager to work right from the beginning of the year.

New Catering Company Arrives!!!

We are very pleased to announce that the new school caterers, Chartwells, have just started providing school lunches for our children. I have eaten with the children every day and I must say, the food is much improved and delicious. Healthy snacks will be on sale again from Monday 11th September. Items will cost between 20p and 50p and will include vegetable pots, fruit pots and bottles of water.

Children may bring their own **healthy** break-time snacks but no sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks, crisps, chewing gum/bubble gum please.

We are working hard this year to make the school lunch experience as enjoyable as possible. As well as providing tasty lunches and snacks, plus our Free Family Breakfast Club called Early Birds, we are creating a more relaxed and modern café atmosphere with menus, music, new cutlery pots and flowers on the table.

We are also focussing on improving spoken language at lunchtime and general good etiquette. For example by teaching the children how to ask correctly for their lunch. E.g. Please may I have a portion of carrots with my chicken and potatoes?

Please remember that school meals are free for children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. School lunches cost £1.65 per day. If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please contact the main office who can help you with your enquiry. There will be a free tasting session for parents coming up soon so please watch this space! The cash machine will be moved to the front office soon but the old office will be open every morning from 8.15 until 8.45 until then.

We would like all children to have the same meal choice for a full week, starting from today. If they wish to change to a school dinner or packed lunch, this can only be done on a Monday.