



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools

13 January 2023



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Website whittonstall.eschools.co.uk/web



Our overall attendance this week was

96.1%

Well done everyone! Keep up the good work everyone!



Welcome to our Half Termly Newsletter

SCHOOL UPDATES



Welcome Mrs Ridley

Some of you may have noticed our New Deputy Head - Mrs Ridley- around school this week. She has been working hard to try to get to know all of the children's names, our routines and the members of our wider community. As some of you may be aware Mrs Ridley has joined from our partner, trust school Ovingham Middle, and she is very excited to be with us!

Chinese New Year Friday 20th Jan

Next Friday we will be hosting a special afternoon on buddy crafts and activities in school, to teach the children about Chinese New Year. The children will be learning about traditions and cultures, and how New Year is celebrated. Mrs Robinson is also organising a special Chinese Food inspired lunch Menu too- It sounds delicious!

The menu for next Friday will be as follows:



*Chinese New Year
Year of the Rabbit*

Sweet and Sour Chicken with Vegetable Rice and Prawn Crackers

Or

Vegetable Chow Mein with Egg Noodles and Prawn Crackers

Followed by:

Ice Cream

Singing Club - starting again on Friday

Mr Ioannides will be starting his singing club again on Friday lunchtime. This will run at lunchtime, once the children have finished their lunch. The club will be open to children from Reception to Y4 this term and anyone in these year groups is welcome to go along.



BeYou

The BeYou website is a service that has been developed to showcase Northumberland's mental health offer for children in the county. Below is the link to the website which contains information about the Graduated Response and the Thrive Model that we use across Northumberland. You will find some helpful information about supporting your child, but also information about finding support for yourselves too if needed.

As always if you feel you would like to discuss any worries you are having about your child please get in touch with school and we will do our best to help you.

<https://www.beyounorthumberland.nhs.uk/advice>

Healthier Together

The link below is for an NHS website which has lots of useful information and advice about health and wellbeing for children which we thought might also be useful: There are guides on when to seek support, advice about illness in children plus much more.

[Healthier Together | Home \(nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk)



Y4 Ford Castle Parent Meeting:

Just a reminder to our Year 4 parents that you are invited to attend a meeting to discuss our Broomley and Whittonstall joint Y4 residential trip to Ford Castle in June. The meeting will be held at **Whittonstall First School on Thursday 19th January 2023 from 4.30-5.30pm.** Mr Hammersley and Miss Endacott will run

through lots of information about Ford Castle, including the accommodation, food, activities and timing of the trip. There will be a chance for parents to ask any questions they may have too. We look forward to seeing you there.



Volunteers for Sports Clubs:

We are very keen to get some sports teams up and running at school. We would love to hear from any of our parents and carers that would be interested in helping to run some sports teams after school. If you feel you would be able to support the school with this please message the office and Mr Hammersley will get in touch with you to see how we could make it work.

Wildlife Watch

Ms Richardson is after some help! We are hoping to set up a 'Wildlife Watch' board in school full to the brim with photos and sightings of wildlife in our local area. A person in the village recently captured the photo of this beautiful Barn Owl and we hope to see what wonderful wildlife you spot too. It can be a photograph, or a observational note. Please bring anything you have into school for Ms Richardson.



A New Year message from the PTA

Welcome back from all the PTA. We wanted to start the year with the fantastic news that last term we raised a total of **£1186**. We could not have done this without the support of parents, teachers and local businesses and we would like to say a massive

thank you

to everyone who donated prizes, gave time, bought raffle tickets/photos or paid for their child to take part in the events we organised. I think we can all agree that the children loved these events and the money raised will go back into enriching their experience at school.

What we are funding this year

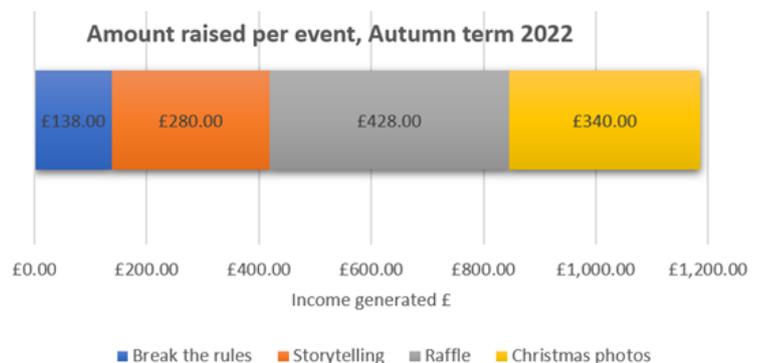
Last year we funded play equipment for reception, books for each class and den building kits for the school. This year we wanted to ensure that the children shortly leaving Whittonstall would benefit from the funds generated and so we asked Class 3 to pitch to us what they would spend £1000 on. The children presented their ideas to a panel of 4 PTA members, showing huge confidence; we were very impressed with their ideas and creativity. While the ideas were many and varied, three themes stood out:



1. Class pet

2. Sports equipment for break times

3. Reading shed



We are currently working with these three themes and although we are unable to provide the lizard requested(!), we hope that the children will be delighted with what we will arrange in the coming few weeks!

As well as this, we will continue to fund the coach to Ford Castle as we have in previous years and also the termly book allowance to each class teacher to enhance the project for that term.

We need you!

We are currently looking for new members to join our PTA. We are a small and friendly group and being part of the PTA is a fantastic opportunity to really get to know the school, to see your children in the school environment and to contribute towards enhancing their education. We will be arranging a meeting shortly to plan our Spring term activity, so please do look out for dates. If you would like to chat with someone about how you could help, Mrs Drysdale or Mrs Spencer are both part of the PTA, or feel free to catch Lydia, Fallon, Natalie, Toni or Sam after school.

DIARY DATES

- Friday 20th January Singing Club with Mr Ioannides begins again
- Thursday 19th January Y4 Parent Meeting re Ford Castle Residential Visit in June
- Friday 20th January Chinese New Year Special Lunch (see above for more details)
- Friday 17th February Break up for half term
- Monday 27th February Return to school for Spring 2
- Week of 13th March Mother's Day lunches in school - more information to follow soon
- Friday 31st March Break up for Easter holidays
- Monday 17th April Return to school for summer term
- Monday 8th May Additional Bank holiday for the King's Coronation
- Wed 28th - Fri 30th June Y4 Ford Castle Residential Trip

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care.

Mrs Howe

Executive Head Teacher