



Whitehorse Manor Schools-Brigstock

Friday 13th September 2024



Welcome back! It has been lovely to see all the children looking excited to return to school and hear all their summer news! The children have settled well into their new classes and made a good start. Team Leaders will shortly send out letters with a curriculum overview and specific dates and we will let you know about school wide events on the website and via 'Studybugs' messaging. I'm looking forward to a positive autumn term and a productive year ahead.

We now use a paperless communication system, if you have not yet signed up to **Studybugs** please do so ASAP. This is the attendance reporting system and the portal by which we will share communications about trips, events and important dates and letters. You can download the **Studybugs App** onto your mobile phone. We are always working on improving our communications to parents and if you sign up to Studybugs you should never miss a letter or important communication again! Class teachers can help you with Studybugs if you need some support.

School uniform: The children have returned to school looking super smart. One of the success stories of recent years has been pupils coming to school already wearing their PE Kits on their PE day. So that this can continue, can I remind you that we have a school specific PE kit which is part of our school uniform - children should not come into school wearing other sports clothing and we monitor this kit in just the same way as we monitor uniform. The school PE kit consists of: Any plain white T-shirt, any plain black bottoms (shorts or jogging bottoms depending on weather), any trainers or black plimsolls and the normal school sweatshirt or jumper. Items are generic and can be bought from any shop to keep the cost low. Coats are worn as needs be on PE days. When pupils have fitness sessions as part of Enrichment afternoons, children can wear trainers to school and do not need to wear full PE kit. We still have so many items of lost uniform turning up. Please label clothing, particularly jumpers and coats. Any labelled item can be retrieved from lost property.

Attendance: Poor attendance is a key priority for the government this year and the Local Authority now has 'live' access to our attendance data. Croydon have also assigned Whitehorse a Local authority Attendance Officer who will work alongside Mrs Wesley (our Academy Attendance officer) to rigorously track and challenge poor attendance. Anything below 94% is of concern and if attendance falls below 90% we will have serious concerns. Below 90% is regarded as persistent absence by the DFE and parents will be asked to meet with Attendance Officers and Senior Leaders to discuss poor attendance. If there is a very good reason that your child cannot attend school, you are expected to request exceptional leave before your child is absent from school. Any request for exceptional leave which comes after the period of absence has already been taken **will not** be granted and will be classed as unauthorised absence. The office is always available by email if you are unable to call or come into the office in person for any reason. Any absence that is attached to a school holiday, no matter the reason for the exceptional leave request, **is likely to be denied** and will be classed as unauthorised absence. There has been a significant rise in vague 'family emergencies' that are attached to a holiday, when we are all aware that flights are cheaper. In order to ensure fairness, and without having to ask intrusive questions, it is easier to expect that requests which are attached to a holiday will not be authorised. Parents can be issued a fixed penalty notice of £80 per child, per parent by the Attendance Officer for extended unauthorised absence. The link to our website attendance page is <https://www.pegasusacademytrust.org/attendance-2> if you wish to find out more information.

Charity Events:

We are supporting the following charities this term- Jeans for Genes on Friday 20th September. Children can wear jeans (as much denim) to school on this day and bring £1 to donate to this charity. We will be holding a cake sale after school to raise money for Macmillan on Friday 27th September and a coffee morning for parents. Please can all cake/biscuit donations be dropped to the school office from **Wednesday 25th September**. All donations are very much appreciated. We will also be collecting non-perishable food gifts for Harvest the week commencing 7th October. Details will follow at a later date. We hope that families can support these charities and thank you all for your contributions.

Applications for admissions to Reception in Sept 2025-24

If your child was born between **1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021**, then you must apply asap for a reception place. Contact- www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions

Mrs Stephenson-Tye: Head of Site-Brigstock

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 17th September 9.15am	Year 1 Curriculum meeting for parents (hall)
Thursday 19th September 9.10am	Year 2 Curriculum meeting for parents (hall)
Friday 20th September	Jeans for Genes (wear your jeans to school for a £1 donation)
Thursday 26th September	Reception Curriculum meeting for parents (hall)
Friday 27th September	Macmillan coffee morning ((Hall) Join us for a Tea/ coffee and cake, network with other parents and raise funds for charity! Cake sale after school.
Week beginning: 7th October	Year 1 Rowan class trip to the local park : Date TBC
Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October 3:30-6:00pm	Parents' Evening
Friday 11th October	Harvest Assembly (Parents welcome)
Friday 11th October	Year 2 (Ash Class) : Hampton Court Trip
Friday 11th October	Year 6 Height & Weight Check
Friday 18th October	Show Racism the Red Card Day-Red themed mufti day
Friday 18th October	Last day of half term
Wednesday 30th October	First day back after half term
Friday 8th November	Individual and sibling photographs (NO PE KIT)
Monday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Tuesday 3rd December 9:15am	Reception: Christmas Concert (Hall)
Thursday 5th December	Year 1 Rowan class trip to the Science Museum
Tuesday 10th December	KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2) Christmas Concert Times TBC
Friday 13th December 2.30pm	KS2 Christmas Concert
Friday 20th December	Last day of term
Monday 6th January	First day of term

Please Print me and keep me on your fridge!