



# Whitley Park Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher: Mr Nathan Butler-Broad

Website: [www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk)

Dear parent/carer,

It has been a productive start to the new term and it is positive to see children developing on their previous learning/starting new units. This week, Year 1 have had the opportunity to visit Woolly Firs on a school trip to the woods; Year 5 have started some workshops with Reading Rep theatre; Year 4 have had Bikeability; Football clubs, choir rehearsals and tutoring have continued. This is great to see, as is some of the fantastic homework that has been appearing across the school. I am looking forward to seeing more of this as we maintain our focus on developing effective routines for learning.

## Attendance – Holiday Requests

Unfortunately, attendance has been particularly low since we returned in September. Part of this continues to be the impact of COVID. However, there is also an alarming amount of holiday requests starting to filter through as the ability to travel becomes simpler. As a school we always encourage holidays to be taken outside of term time. At this stage I would like to be really clear with parents and explain that **no requests will be authorised** because of the concerns we continue to have about children missing education. The research on this is clear. Weak attendance has a huge negative impact on children's ability to learn and make progress. Ensuring children receive a positive education is our reason for being and anything that might interrupt this is something we are not in a position to condone. This is our moral and firm stance which I know may be upsetting to some families who have not seen extended family abroad for some time. However, I hope this sends a clear message and sets the right expectation.

## Children in Need

Next Friday is Children in Need Day. As a school we would like to promote this by inviting children and staff to wear "Silly Socks or Spots". We will also be getting involved with some of the Joe Wicks workouts to help mark the day. We do not expect a donation but we will have buckets on the gates for those families who wish to contribute. All monies collected will be donated to Children in Need.

I hope you enjoy a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing all children ready to learn on Monday.

Kind regards

Nathan Butler-Broad  
Headteacher



2019-2022





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