

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



February 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

Friday 2 nd February	Celebration Assembly 2.40pm – All parents’ welcome
Friday 9th February	Break for half term
Monday 19 th February	School reopens for Spring 2 term
Friday 23 rd February	Reception and Year 6 weight and vision checks
Monday 26 th February	Northern Ballet workshops – year 1 and 2 Leeds Rhinos coaching sessions year 3 and 4
Wednesday 28 th February	Parent Consultation Evening
Monday 4 th March	Leeds Rhinos coaching sessions year 3 and 4
Tuesday 5 th March	Northern Ballet workshop – year 1
Friday 15 th March	Celebration Assembly 2.40pm – All parents’ welcome
Wednesday 20 th March	Halifax Dance competition – KS2 Dance club
Thursday 21 st March	Skipping Festival (Armley) – Year 4
Friday 22 nd March	Murton Park visit – year 5
Thursday 28th March	Break for Easter holiday (school closed on Friday)
Monday 15 th April	School reopens for Summer 1 term

School Term dates 2023/24

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 4 th September 2023	Friday 27 th October 2023	Half term: 30 th Oct– 3 rd Nov
Monday 6 th November 2023	Friday 22 nd December 2023	Christmas: 25 th Dec – 5 th Jan
Monday 8 th January 2024	Friday 9 th February 2024	Half term: 12 th Feb -16 th Feb
Monday 19 th February 2024	Thursday 28 th March 2024	Easter: 29 th March– 12 th April
Monday 15 th April 2024	Friday 24 th May 2024	May Bank Holiday: 6 th May Half Term: 27 th May – 31 st May
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	Summer begins: 24 th July

Training Days:

Monday 4th September, Monday 6th November, Monday 29th January, Monday 22nd July,
Tuesday 23rd July

February alreadyroll on Spring!

Well, the weather certainly has been gloomy through January. I don't think I've ever known a time when we've had such a prolonged period of wet lunchtimes. We've managed to get outside as much as we can - thank you to all parents for making sure children have coats and suitable footwear – it really makes a difference if you can wrap up!

We seem to have been plagued with staff illness – I thought we'd gone through that in the weeks before Christmas – so we've had a tough few weeks staffing-wise. My thanks to all staff for being so flexible and remaining positive during this time. Despite this, school remains calm and we can see some super learning and good progress across school. However, fingers crossed it has now run its course and we'll get our team back to full strength!

News from the Governors

Thank you to Katie Casswell, a year 1 parent, who has come forward and volunteered to join our Governing Body. We are thrilled to welcome her onto the board – it is really important that we have parent representatives supporting our school at a strategic level. As you may already know, Alexster Pearson-Clough (year Rec & 2 parent) is also a parent governor and Chantel Johnson (year 4 parent) is a co-opted governor. Their contributions to our meetings are really valuable and support discussion and decision making with the Full Governing Body.

We have one final vacancy on our Board which we hope to fill very soon. We were approached by a local business before Christmas who donated books to school as part of their community partnership work. I asked if they had any colleagues who had the capacity, and interest, to join our Governing Body – they feel they do so fingers crossed we can finalise arrangements and appoint a new member soon. A representative from the business sector will be a good addition to our Board.

The work of the Governors is vital to the success of the school. They are all volunteers giving up their time to ensure our school continues to improve and do the very best it can for your children. Two of our Governors have supported the school – and your children – for 20 years! They want the best for your children and work hard behind the scenes to provide challenge and support.

Reading at home

If you can do one thing with your child at home please read!

We still have lots of children who don't appear to be reading very much at home. Children should read – and be read to – every day...especially our youngest children. Children will not learn to read well if they only read in school – parents have a vital role to play and we need your help.

Leeds Rhinos Tickets

I would like to thank Miss Adamson for the time she has taken communicating with Leeds Rhinos to arrange our assembly and coaching sessions and for organising the free ticket allocation.

Thank you to parents who requested tickets – all tickets are now allocated and Miss Adamson will have contacted those parents directly. Enjoy the games!

Northern Ballet

Miss Adamson has also been in touch with the Northern Ballet to arrange workshops for year 1 and 2. We know they will be excellent.

Following on from our visit to the theatre in December, Northern Ballet organised a competition for all the Trust schools. They asked us to send in an example of something we had done in school to prepare for the visit and they were going to judge them and offer a prize.

We sent in one of our Year 1 WANTED – Enormous Crocodile posters and have been awarded a prize! Our prize is an additional Northern Ballet workshop for year 1. I'm sure the children will love it!

Leeds City Council Travel Survey

What travel and safety issues do you face in your local area?
Now's your chance to have your say!

Leeds City Council want to hear from residents in Crossgates & Whinmoor, Garforth & Swillington, Kippax & Methley, and Temple Newsam on any issues related to travel in your community. This could be about how you access public transport facilities, whether you feel unsafe walking, wheeling or cycling, the attractiveness of a street, or where traffic and speeding are causing issues.

The consultation is live until Sunday 25 February and it's easy to have your say – drop a pin on the maps where you're experiencing issues and fill in the survey. This will help prioritise improvements, when funding becomes available.

To find out more and take part visit <https://bit.ly/3HHK9S8>."

Attendance

Thankyou to all parents who work hard to ensure children are in school on time consistently. Thank you also to parents who remember to contact school and keep us fully informed of any absence. We know that children may be ill from time to time however the aim is for all children to be in school every day.



Please remember that all messages relating to attendance/absence should go directly to the school office and not to the class teacher. Please telephone 0113 2930280, text or email john.barker@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk or Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk.

Please remember that holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a fine.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Sheerin