

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



## October 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your diary

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Visit to Tropical World - Danube
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bikeability Week– Year 6
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Family Games Night
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Individual school photographs
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	SCOPE Coffee Morning – 9.00am
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pedestrian Training year 2 and year 4
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bring a tin Harvest Collection Parents invited to join Harvest Singing Assembly @2.40
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Break for Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	<b>School Closed – Training day</b>
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	School reopens for Autumn 2
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultation meetings

### School Term dates 2023/24

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

### Training Days:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July and one more date to be confirmed.

Nursery and Reception – additional Training Days Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

## **Welcome**

Well, what a busy start to the term we have had! Once again, thank you all for your patience regarding the roofing works and apologies for any inconvenience this caused. Fingers crossed all will be well with the roof and there'll be no more disruption! The children are all now settled into their new classes and are working hard. It is great to hear them talking about their new topics with enthusiasm and interest.

Our assemblies so far have focussed on our Golden Rules and in particular being gentle with each other. We have also talked about the importance of reading and I know some children are making a big effort to read every night and to record their reading in their reading diaries. Year 6 are leading the way at the moment but year 2 have a lot of catching up to do with less than half the class reading every day – this must improve year 2! You can do it!

Please remember – Book bags should be returned to school on Monday, books will be changed and returned on Tuesday. If you are late returning your book bag the book may not be checked or changed.

Our Reading Ambassadors lead our assembly this week and, to celebrate World Poetry Day, they shared some poems with us. They have challenged the classes to learn a poem each to perform for the whole school on Thursday – we look forward to hearing them all.

## **Welcome from the Governors**

### **Meet our new parent Governor – Alex**

My name is Alexster (you can call me Alex) and I am an Account Manager and also a Foster Carer and an adoptive parent of two children.

I have lots of experience with children, particularly with looked after children. This requires me to undertake regular training in areas such as Safeguarding, CSE, Domestic Violence and many other areas. I am required as a foster carer to hold a valid and enhanced DBS check. My partner and I also run a local business, which has been operating since 2015 so I also have experience with the operation of a business.

I live locally (I can see the school from my home) and I am keen on working with school to ensure the best for my adopted children, my foster children and all the children who attend the school.

### **Welcome from our Chair of Governors – Peter Whelan**

Before looking forward to everything the new school year will bring, I felt, on behalf of the Governors, that we should celebrate how well White Laith is doing, and in particular, to remember last year's Year 6 who did remarkably well in the SATS tests.

In an independent report their attainment across the whole breadth of the tests was well above the national and Leeds average. In the particular aspect of reading, the report stated this represented achievement in the top 5% of the country.

Obviously, the achievement belongs to the children, but it is good to see that the school focus on a positive learning environment and positive learning behaviours makes such a difference. It also emphasises how all the staff strive every day to enable each child to do and become their best.

### **Welcome from our SEND and EYFS Governor – Jenny Horton**

Hoping that you and your children are now well settled into the new school year. Fresh starts are always exciting, and that is true for governors as well! I have been given the responsibility for Special Educational Needs this year, and it's one that is very close to my heart. Our school has outstanding provision for children with complex learning needs, and I am very much looking forward to being part of this. It is a role I have undertaken before, but I intend to do more training on my role and responsibilities as SEND governor, so that I am as knowledgeable and skilled as possible.

I am also working with EYFS and Year 6, so interesting to observe how our youngest children start their White Laith journey and then the results of their school experience and hard work at the other end. I am feeling excited!

### **Parent Governor vacancy**

We still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor position on our Governing Body. If you are interested and would like to find out more about what this entails, please do get in touch with me or with Mr Barker and we can have a chat about it.

### **TIDDLERS – Wednesday's 9.00am-10.30am**

We are very pleased that we are able to resume our TIDDLER group this next week – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

This year our group will be led by two parent volunteers – Jessica Manir and Kylie Pell. We are thrilled that they both volunteered for this role as without them we would not be able to run the sessions. I know you will all support them with this and I know they'll do a great job!

As usual the sessions are an opportunity for parents to meet and to play with your children in a different environment to home. It is also an opportunity for parents to meet each other, share ideas and provide some mutual support – parenting can be tough!

If you have a child aged 0-3 and you would like to come along please just come through to B4A club via the green gate in the front carpark at 9.00am. There is no need to book.

There will be a signing in sheet and we ask that you add your contact details when you sign in. Ms Ashmore will use these details to set up a 'Tiddler' contact group so that if we were to cancel for any reason we could let you know.

### **Fruit/Healthy snacks in KS2**

Children in Reception, years 1 and 2 are provided with fruit free of charge.

Children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to bring a healthy snack - this could be piece of fruit, raisins, stick of cheese or a breakfast biscuit (Brevita). No nuts please.

Please do not send cereal bars or general biscuits as these are not healthy snacks.

Occasionally, if there is excess fruit in school class teachers will share fruit in class to anyone who would like it.

### **SCOPE SLEEP RIGHT SERVICE - coffee morning**

*Does your child have a disability?*

*Does your child struggle to sleep or stick to a consistent bedtime routine?*

*The Scope Sleep Right Service is a parent/carer led service which supports children and young people who struggle with sleep.*

*The service offers short term behavioural intervention followed by group session and/or direct support from an experienced sleep practitioner.*

A representative from SCOPE will be in school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 9.00am – 10.00am to host a coffee morning. She will be sharing information about the service and may be able to offer some individual advice.

Please do come along – we are lucky that we are able to host this visitor so it would be great if parents would attend.

### **FAMILY GAMES NIGHT**

You will all have already received the flyer for Family Games Night – thank you to everyone who has already booked places to come along. Tickets are £2 per adult and £1 per child. Places are limited so replies do need to be returned ASAP.

It was lots of fun last year and we are hoping that this year's event will be just as successful.

### **Parking – Ravensdale**

***I have included here the Dojo message I sent this week about parking just in case you missed it.***

I received a telephone call on Friday afternoon from the manager of Ravensdale. She explained that she had received verbal abuse (swearing, aggression) from a number of parents on Friday afternoon when she asked them to move their cars. The cars were either parked in Ravensdale carpark or blocking the carpark entrance.

I was very disappointed to hear that our parents would behave in this manner. Swearing and aggression is unacceptable and I have apologized to her on your behalf.

I have assured her that I would remind parents that the carpark at Ravensdale is PRIVATE and for Ravensdale staff only. She explained that they cannot put a gate on the carpark because they need 24hour emergency access. They do have CCTV and are currently considering whether to introduce clamping although this is something they do not want to have to do.

Please do not park in Ravensdale carpark or park in front of the carpark entrance.

I am aware that parking outside school is limited and when it gets busy this can be unsafe for pedestrians (children and parents). Therefore, please leave the car at home if that is possible or else park and stride.

### **Attendance**

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](mailto:john.barker@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk) or [Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk).

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

**Thank you for all your continued support**  
**Mrs Sheerin**