

# Whitley Lodge First School

## Newsletter 8 - December 2024



### Christmas Message from Mrs Palmer



Thank you to all our families for their support over this very busy period and their continued support throughout the year. I am incredibly proud of the partnership of children, parents, carers, staff, Governors and the wider community that is at the heart of Whitley Lodge First School.

As the Autumn term closes, I would like to share some of the highlights with you:

**Outdoor Learning** continues to be a key focus and every class from Reception to Year 4 has had the opportunity to learn outside in the local environment at the Beach and Brierdene.

**Nursery** children have been amazing this term. We are in awe of the progress that they are already making and can see how much they are enjoying making new friends and developing their communication and language skills. It was wonderful to share our songs with parents/carers during the Stay and Play sessions this term.

Both classes in **Reception** have settled so quickly into school life. It is always a pleasure to pop into the Reception classrooms to see what exciting things are going on. STEM challenges have been a highlight this term where the children have carried out exciting investigations within the Winter Wonderland topic. The magical trip to the Rising Sun was a real highlight too. All this and taking the exciting first steps into reading has made for a very exciting Autumn term.

Reading and writing is a key focus in **Key Stage One** and the children are developing a real love of books. Through key texts like 'Stanley's Stick' and 'On the way home', children created many exciting pieces of writing across a range of different genre. Designing and making amazing 'Whacky Races' cars in DT was fabulous fun too. We definitely have some future design engineers in KS1.

**Key Stage Two** have thoroughly loved their topics this term. They were fascinated by Shackleton's amazing survival journey whilst developing their geographical knowledge of the world. Recently, it has been all about learning the tricky art of sewing. The children have shown perseverance and resilience in producing some wonderful, finished pieces.

**Whitley Lodge Wonder League** continues to celebrate and reward our children every day. A total of **12,082** Wonder Points have been given out since the beginning of term. We are already collecting for next term and the tubes are filling up fast.

**On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish our families a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Many thanks and best wishes, Mrs Palmer.**

### Diary Dates

2025

6.1.25 Training Day

**7.1.25 Children return to school**

24.1.25 Blue Class  
Assembly @ 9am (Fri)

6.2.25 Y4 Robinwood meeting  
9am (Thurs)

21.2.25 Orange Class  
Assembly @ 9am (Fri)

24.2.25-28.2.25 Half term

10.4.25 Green Class  
Assembly 9am (Thurs)

14.4.25-25.4.25 Easter Break

5.5.25 May Bank Holiday

9.5.25 Purple Class  
Assembly 9am (Fri)

26.5.25-30.5.25 May Half Term

20.6.24 Training Day

27.6.25 Yellow Class  
Assembly 9am (Fri)

9.7.25 Reception Joint  
Class Assembly 9am (Wed)

17.7.25 Last day of term

18.7.25 Training Day

### Online Safety Guides for Parents and Carers

It seems timely to direct you to our school website where there are links to extensive support and advice regarding online safety at home, including:

[Setting up new devices for children.](#)

[Setting up parental controls](#)

[Using and reviewing parental controls](#)

### Parent Pact

Whilst we appreciate, as a First School, that concerns around smartphones are not always at the forefront, we also recognise that it is a growing concern to many parents and carers in our community.

As a school, we support the Parent Pact which is national initiative that encourages groups to work together to change the culture around young people and smart phones. For details visit [Parent Pact](#).

### WLFS PTA Christmas Market & Fair raises over £3000 for school funds!

Thank you to the PTA volunteers and everyone who helped to make the Christmas Fair such a wonderful event. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy it too. There was a lovely atmosphere and a super range of activities on offer. Another thank you to the PTA for supporting all of the Christmas performances and class assemblies throughout the year. The work of a relatively small group of volunteers makes such a huge difference to every child in school. New members are always welcome too.

### Year 4 Robinwood Meeting

**Thursday 6 February @ 9am**

Year 4 Parents/carers are invited to attend a Robinwood information meeting. Details from the meeting will also be shared via Seesaw.

The next newsletter is out on  
Friday 10 January 2025.