



Whipton Barton Federation

Newsletter

Spring Term | Issue 8 | February 13th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Golden Mile

I know it has been a bit muddy to get to but the track is being very well used by all classes for Golden Mile practice. We are seeing a very real improvement in children’s fitness and stamina. In January, the top classes for distance were, in the infants, 2MG with 150 miles and in the juniors, 5C with 225 miles. Since the beginning of the challenge, the children have clocked up a total of around 850 miles, which is quite something.

WWF Appeal

Many thanks for your generosity towards the WWF in the non-uniform day organised by Max Griffiths. Across the federation we raised almost £500!

Dogs on site

I’ve not said this for a while, but we operate a “no dogs” policy on the school site at drop-off and pick up times. We have noticed a few different puppies being brought in and although they are undeniably cute, they need to be cute off site. Thanks for your understanding.

Internet Safety Day

On Tuesday this week, it was internet safety day and I spoke to all the children about this in assemblies this week. The use of mobile technology is increasing and you would be amazed at how many incidents Miss Hardinge and I have had to deal with in school that have started off as online comments which then turn into online name-calling

Attendance Update

Federation attendance target: 96%
Current attendance: 95.3%

We are close to our target but not close enough. We have some classes whose attendance and punctuality are excellent and we need to see this across all classes.

Please can we ask all parents to ensure that non-emergency medical appointments are not made during the school day. Routine visits to the dentist, opticians and doctors should be after school or in the school holidays. If your child has a medical appointment we ask that you provide evidence of this e.g. a letter from the hospital so that we can authorise the absence.

Our attendance competition has certainly got the children excited! Don’t forget that one lucky winner from each school will be receiving a £25 Smyths toy voucher on the last day of term. To be in with a chance of winning, your child needs to have excellent attendance during the Spring term. 100% attendance = 2 tickets in the raffle and 98% = 1 ticket in the raffle. Good luck!



which in turn escalates further. Often, when we approach parents about this, they have no idea their children are using apps in this way. To help you in your conversations about safe internet use, I have gathered together some useful web-links on our website. Go to: <https://www.whiptonbarton.org/safeguarding-0>
Miss Hardinge is also posting **#wake-up-wednesday** information on our Facebook page. Please do take the time to look at these things so we can avoid an escalation in online incidents.

Summer Lane Closure

I hope the road closure is not affecting you too much. I took a call from Mrs Marlow, the Headteacher at Willowbrook earlier this week and she said that some of our children have been taking a shortcut through her school, particularly at the end of the day. If this might affect your child, please talk to them as they are in effect, on someone else's property without permission.

Inhalers

We have sent out a letter to the parents of children on the medical register to check for changes in medication. However at this time of year many children are given inhalers by their G.Ps and we are unaware they have them in their bags. Please could I remind you that all inhalers need to be registered if the children are bringing them into school? If you have any questions, please see Mrs Willey or Mrs Guest at the reception of either school.

It's Not Cool – Not in Our School

We are launching our new anti-bullying plan, starting in the Junior School. All children have signed an anti-bullying charter, agreeing to the simple statement about bullying: It's not cool – not in our school. This statement was devised by children working with Rachel Higginson with a significant input from Callum Hine and Cody Wilson in Y6. We will be looking at what this looks like in the Infant School, but in the meantime, if you have a child in the Junior School, ask them the following questions and see what they say:

- What does *Not in Our School* mean to them?
- What does *STOP* stand for (there are two answers)?
- How many people should they have that they can go to if they feel unsafe?
- Ask them to give you an example of bullying and an example of something that is not bullying.
- After half term, how will children be able to report bullying?

Rachel's group made an excellent anti-bullying film which we will share with you as soon.

We take bullying seriously and I am very pleased that we have the children's commitment to stamp it out – Not in Our School!

