



School breaks up this Friday, 12th February. It's hard to believe we are at the end of another half term. Pancake Day is already here and Easter will follow close behind. I remember when I first came to live in England, I thought that a day especially for pancakes was a great idea. I had grown up eating a lot of them as they are a standard breakfast item in the USA and like all of you, my family loved them when they were growing up - and still do.

Speaking of families, you will all be aware that through our federation with White Mere the Carr Hill family has grown a bit. They have asked for our help and as families do, we have agreed that we will work with them so that they can provide for their children the type of education that our staff here at Carr Hill provide for our children.

Don't worry though, I am keeping an eye on things. Governors have regular meetings with Callum and Paul to ensure that we don't let anything here at Carr Hill slip. I am also meeting with staff on a regular basis and will update you via the newsletter as to what we are doing. So far this term, we have had a joint staff meeting with Carr Hill and White Mere staff, staff from both schools have undertaken training in mathematics together and a number of our staff have gone to White Mere and worked with their staff on a range of issues.

So I wish you a great half term, enjoy your children as they are only young once.

If you see me in the yard, please feel free to stop me and have a chat, I would love to hear what you think about how we are doing.

Pupils and staff return to school on Monday 22nd February.

Jeanne Pratt, Chair of Governors

Safer Internet Day

Don't forget that we holding online safety information sessions for parents and carers of all our children on Wednesday (10th Feb) at 2:45 pm or 3:30 pm.

The session will last for half an hour and we will deliver a presentation to you, giving you practical advice and safety tips to help you manage online safety and suitable online behavior of your child(ren).

We strongly recommend that you attend one of these sessions.

Our federation with White Mere Primary School formally started on January 1st 2016. Mr Kidd is the Executive Headteacher overseeing the work of both schools and Mr Harris has 'Second in Command' role.

Two governors from each school meet regularly, currently fortnightly, with Mr Kidd and Mr Harris forming the federation's 'Steering Group' and reporting into each school's governing body.

Mr Kidd has produced an action plan which directs the work of the federation. This was accepted by the Steering Group members last week.

From a White Mere point of view, the school has a clear direction in which it needs to move to improve outcomes for children.

The federation has three phases:

- Phase one is where significant change in White Mere takes place with key Carr Hill staff supporting some of the actions identified in the action plan. Some Carr Hill staff have already started their work supporting teachers, the curriculum and leadership in White Mere.
- Phase 2 follows in September this year where we expect systems and processes to have 'kicked in' and significant change has been made to impact on pupil attainment. Within this phase the support will be 'from a distance' monitoring that progress is being made.
- The final phase, from January 2017 is the 'exit strategy' where White Mere can stand alone, demonstrate that the improvements made are impacting on teaching and learning and the higher attainment of its pupils. It is expected that in July 2017 the federation work will be complete.

Carr Hill staff are taking this opportunity to enhance their own professional development. By working with staff from another school they are developing both their teaching skills and acquiring new leadership skills. Mrs Mills, Mrs Cox, Mr McGreevy and Mrs Chandler, for example, are already working closely with White Mere teachers and teaching assistants and each have commented on how valuable to their own professional development this has been.

Our newsletters will contain an update on the federation work each half term so you can keep up to date on our school's involvement.

Sports Events

Sporting events play a big part of Carr Hill life. This half term our children have taken part in the following:

- Year 2 children participated in a Multi-Skills Cluster Festival at Thomas Hepburn;
- Lydia Berry from Year 6 teamed up with other Gateshead school pupils and competed in the County Sportshall Athletics final at Temple Park - the Gateshead Team came 5th in the competition;
- Our Year 5/6 Mini Basketball Team will be taking part in the Gateshead Final's on Thursday;
- Our U11 Mixed Football Team competed in an annual tournament organised by the NUFC Foundation last week and did very well although didn't manage to reach the finals this time.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

We are collecting the Active Kids vouchers again as this allows us to get more sports equipment for our children to use during lessons/after school clubs. If you or anyone you know shops at Sainsbury's, please collect your vouchers and bring them in to school.

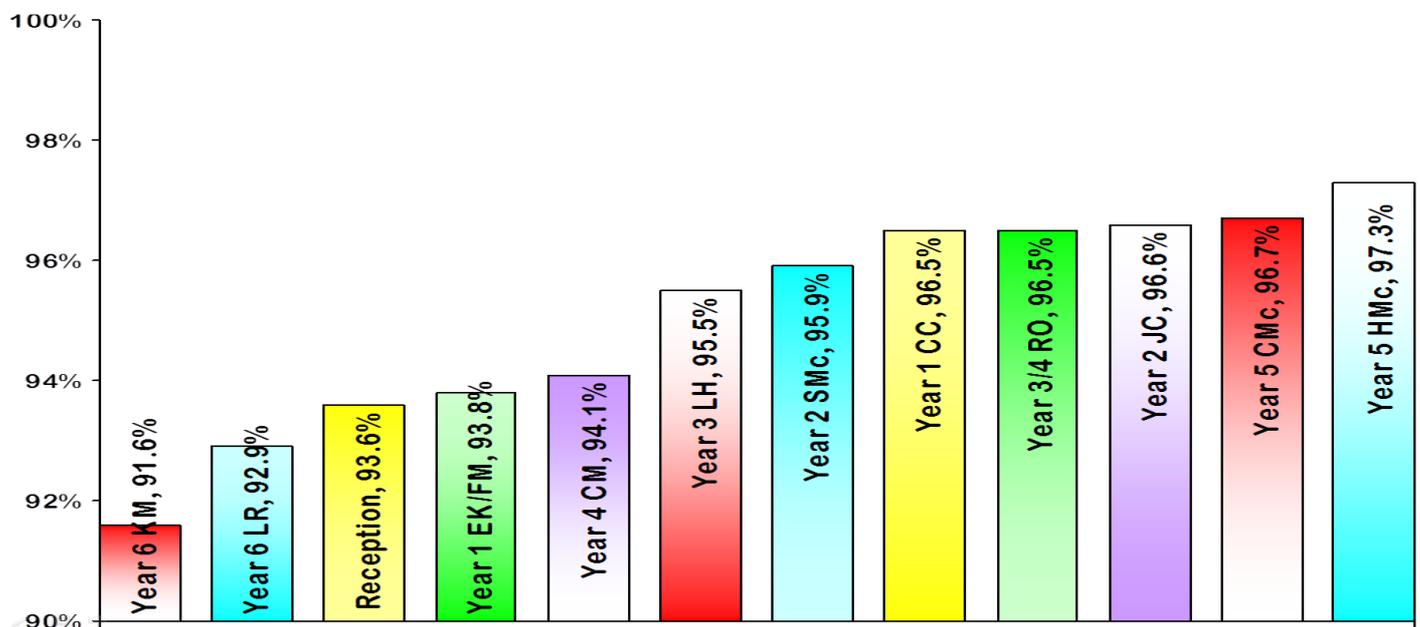
Last year we were able to exchange our vouchers for some new athletics equipment including a speed bounce mat, set of hurdles, footballs, tennis balls and a Giant Jenga game for the school yard.



Attendance - Spring Half Term 2016

The whole school percentage attendance for this half term (4th January - 5th February) is 97%, - this is fantastic so let's keep it up. Here is the attendance data, class by class. Congratulations to Mrs McClean's class who have the highest attendance this half term and also this school year with 97.6% since September.

Our whole school attendance so far this school year is 96.3% and we have 74 pupils who still have 100% attendance.



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2015/2016

Spring Term	Monday 4 th Jan until Wednesday 23rd March 2016	<i>Half term: 15th – 19th February</i>
Summer Term	Monday 11 th April until Wednesday 20 th July 2016	<i>Bank holiday: 2nd May</i> <i>Staff Training Day: Friday 27th May</i> <i>Half term: 30th May – 3rd June</i> <i>Occasional Day: Monday 20th June</i> <i>Staff Training Day: Wednesday 20th July</i>