



Dear Parent/Carers

It's hard to believe that the festive season is upon us already. It only seems like yesterday that we were basking in sunshine, the nights were light and the air was filled with smells of suntan lotion and bar-b-ques. Now we have dark nights, frost on the car and Christmas tree lights on the high streets. I sometime think the festive season comes upon us too early and we get caught up with buying presents for our loved ones, parties and getting a good bargain in the sales. Sometimes, in the midst of the festive season, we can forget the real meaning of Christmas, we can forget to be grateful for what we have instead of wanting more of what we don't have and we can lose sight of what is special around us.

So, looking around at our Carr Hill family I'd like to take this opportunity to express thanks for what we have. To thank you as parents for all of the hard work that you do every day, making sure your children get to school on time and ensuring that they are kind to each other. I am also sure you will want to join me in thanking all of the staff at Carr Hill for the hard work they do to provide an amazing learning experience for your children.

School closes for the Christmas and New Year period on Friday 16th December. Children return for the beginning of the Spring term on Thursday 5th January 2017.

So, enjoy the festive season, spend time with your loved ones, family and friends. Hopefully I'll see you at some of the Christmas events around school over the next week.

Jeanne Pratt, Chair of Governors

Sporting Events

- This term, our School Football Team finished joint 2nd in the Lindisfarne League. This is great start as it's the first time the children have played together as a team. Let's hope we keep on improving during the rest of the school year.
- Sportsability/Sportshall Athletics Festival – 12 of our children took part in this festival earlier in year and also this week. Six of them have got through to the County Final which will be held later in the year – well done to those children.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

Our Breakfast Club will restart after the Christmas break on **Thursday 5th January**.

There will be no after school clubs during this first week back, these will start the week beginning **16th January**.

Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be served next Thursday (15th). The quality of food is superb and the atmosphere, with the Gateshead Music Service Orchestra playing traditional carols, is magic.

Most children have our Christmas lunch but, if your child doesn't normally have a school meal, and wants the Christmas lunch, can you let our office know by Wednesday morning so that a meal can be ordered. Lunches cost **£2.00**.



Any child having a packed lunch on this day will eat it in one of our classrooms, under supervision, as we need all the dining room space for those having Christmas Lunch.

Educational Visits

This term, we have continued to enrich the school curriculum for our children, with a wide variety of extra curricular activities and visits:

- Our Nursery children have been to Saltwell Park to take part in an Autumn walk and to collect Autumn leaves and seeds to make art collages back at school.
- Reception children visited The Hancock Museum. They took part in a "Dinky Dinos" workshop which gave them the opportunity to handle real fossils and find out interesting facts about dinosaurs.
- Year 1 and 2 children visited Gibside to learn about 'Seasonal Changes' and the outdoor environment.
- Year 3 and 4 children visited Saltwell Park to explore the leisure/fitness facilities there. They also spent a day at Stonehaugh to complement their learning around "Native Americans - Dreamcatcher's".
- Year 5 and 6 children travelled to Seaham to see the war-weary "Tommy" sculpture. Tommy sits thoughtfully, head bowed, rifle in hand, as he reflects upon the sheer horror of World War One during the first minute after peace was declared in 1918.
- As part of National Schools Film Week, all our children in Years 1 to 6 enjoyed a visit to the cinema.



A big thank you to everyone who donated to Children in Need - a total of **£346** was collected and donated to the charity.

Since 1980 the charity has raised over £840 million – this is used to change the lives of many children and young people across the UK.

Parking Outside of School

There continues to be a problem of unsafe parking of a very small minority of our parents at dropping off and picking up time. Please remember that:

Double yellow lines and yellow zig zag lines outside the school, along Carr Hill Road and on Elgin Road, are there to indicate that you **should not** wait, stop or park a vehicle on these lines.

The road markings are there to prevent motorists from stopping at the side of the road for safety reasons and/or to aid in preventing traffic congestion.

Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) can be issued to motorists that do not conform to these rules.

Our children are the most important thing to all of us - please help us to keep them safe.

Carr Hill and White Mere School Federation

Our two schools have been working together since September 2015 with Mr Kidd as the Executive Headteacher across the Federation. On a day to day basis, Mr Harris is Head of School here at Carr Hill.

White Mere now has an efficient administrative team who have been trained and continue to be supported by our Business Manager, Miss Coates.

There is a continued focus on teaching and learning and so far this term Mr Harris has been working with White Mere staff, developing and implementing an assessment system to track pupil progress.

Our Mrs McClean, Year 5 Teacher, has been working closely with her counterpart in White Mere and is currently developing a "partnership learning" project between Year 5 children from both schools.

Governors from both schools have termly Monitoring Meetings to track the progress of the Federation.

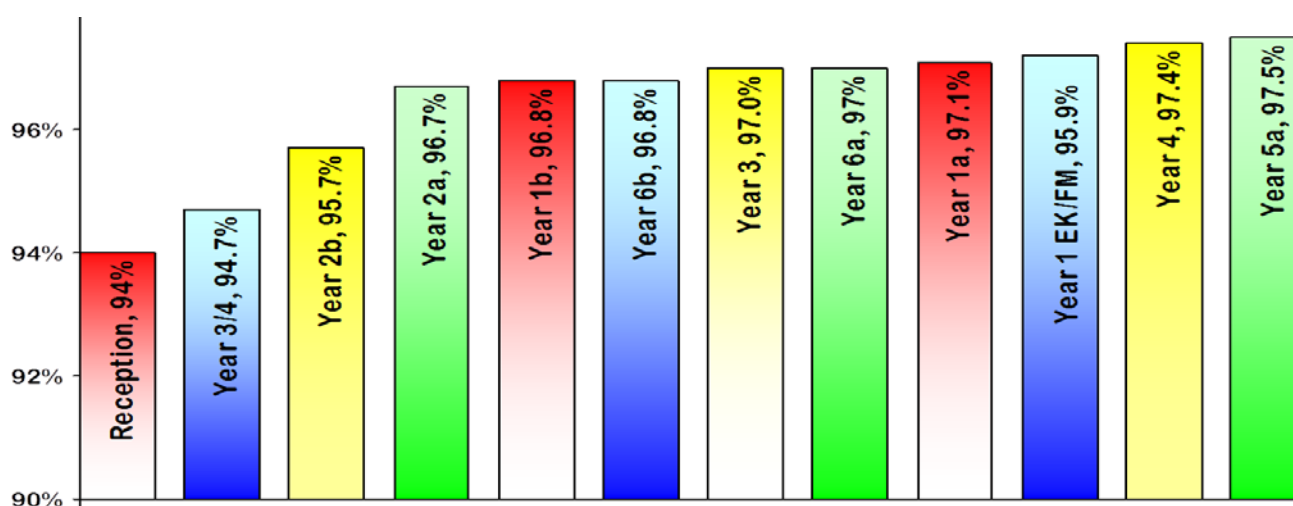
Please remember that highly fashionable haircuts, including shaving of patterns and zig-zag lines into the head, is **NOT** allowed in school.

Also, appropriate footwear for all children in school is flat black shoes – no trainers of any kind and no heels please.

Attendance – Autumn term 2016/17

The whole school percentage attendance for this term, up until 6th December, is **96.4%** and we have 115 pupils who have 100% attendance - a brilliant effort and hopefully one that we can keep up during the rest of the school year.

Here is the attendance data by class or year group. Congratulations to Mrs McClean's Year 5 children who have the highest attendance this term, at a fantastic 97.5%!



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016/2017

Term	Start of Term for Pupils	Last Day of Term for Pupils	Dates that School is Closed to Pupils
Autumn	Mon 5 th September	Fri 16 th December 2016	Mon 24 th until Fri 28 th October 2016 – half term
Spring	Thursday 5 th January	Fri 7 th April 2017	Tues 3 rd and Wed 4 th January 2017 – staff training day Mon 20 th until Fri 24 th February 2017 – half term
Summer	Mon 24 th April	Fri 21 st July 2017	Mon 1 st May 2017 – bank holiday Mon 29 th May until Fri 2 nd June 2017 – half term Mon 19 th June 2017 – occasional day