



Working Together for Our Children

End of School Year 2016/17 Newsletter

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another year at Carr Hill. Time has flown by; it just seems like yesterday that I was wishing you a Merry Christmas or talking about Easter.

This time of year is always full of excitement - for the summer ahead and long days off school, our children moving up a school year, sometimes with a new teacher, and becoming a little bit older! However, for some it can also be full of mixed emotions; the sadness of leaving behind old friends, teachers and the familiarity of Carr Hill and all that that brings and the excitement of moving on to new schools, new teachers and new friends.

I'd like to thank each and every parent for all of the hard work they put into supporting their children's education while they are at here Carr Hill. I know it isn't always easy and I hope that you feel the door here is always open to talk to any of the staff if you need support with your child.

I would also like to say a special thank you to the parents of our Y6 children; eager to spread their wings your children are about to embark on a wonderful journey into adulthood, along the way learning new things, meeting new people and gaining new experiences. Thank you for everything you have done over the past years to support your children. Your time, effort and energy will be missed. Please continue to support your children in their secondary school environments as you have done so at Carr Hill.

Finally I know you will all join me in thanking everyone here at Carr Hill for making your child's learning experience so positive. From our caretakers, lunchtime supervisors and office staff, to our teaching assistants and teachers, to our Deputy and Headteacher - they have worked tirelessly this past year to give your child the best learning experience possible.

I hope you have a great summer of sea, sun and sand, with plenty of ice cream and time to relax and time to enjoy family and friends ready for the start of school on **Tuesday 5th September**.

Thank you again, all the best

Jeanne Pratt,

Our work supporting White Mere Primary School comes to an end next week as the 'soft federation' between the two schools is completed. In September Mr Kidd returns as our 'full time' Headteacher and he's so looking forward to 'being back home'.

White Mere Primary has made huge improvements, particularly during this last school year and Mr Kidd is happy to hand the school over to the new Headteacher who will start in September.

In both schools children have made good progress this year. White Mere parents are really happy with how the federation has supported their school and are grateful to Carr Hill for the work that has been shared.

In Mr Kidd's absence Mr Harris assumed the 'Head of School' role. Mr Kidd, on your behalf, wants to thank and congratulate Mr Harris and the school's senior leadership for the outstanding efforts they have made to ensure Carr Hill continued delivering the very best for our children over the last two years.

As we start the new school year in September, we are in 'Ofsted' thinking mode as our school is expecting its next inspection (we are overdue). Please would you log on to parentview.ofsted.gov.uk and support our school with your parental feedback. Inspectors really do take your feedback and comments seriously.

We are saying goodbye to Ev Marsden who has been our Lunchtime Assistant and Caretaker for the last couple of years, Barbara Donkin our TA in KS2 and David Bewick who has been our fabulous Sport Coach Apprentice for the last 3 years. David starts his Sports Foundation Degree at Northumbria University in September.

Water Bottles

As you know for many years the school has provided water bottles for all our children. During our last Health & Safety Inspection we were advised that there is a health related risk if the bottles and their caps are not sterilised daily. We do not have the time or capacity to wash each bottle daily! As from September we are asking all our children to provide their own water bottle which they will take home daily so that it can be washed at home.

Educational Visits

This term we have continued to enrich the school curriculum for our children, with a wide variety of extra curricula activities. The following visits have taken place this term:

- Nursery children visited Down at the Farm where they engaged in all kinds of 'hands on' experiences during the day such as feeding the lambs, brushing the animals and washing the pigs.
- Reception children visited the Fairy Tale Trail at Gibside which supported and enhanced their learning of fairy tales and traditional stories.
- Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a day at South Shields Beach as part of their science/art/history curriculum. They walked along the beach, collected shells, built sandcastles and enjoyed traditional beach/sports activities.
- Years 3 and 4 visited Thornley Woods as part of their creative curriculum topic "Summer of Sport". They took part in several physical activities, showing how to use the local environment to keep themselves fit and healthy.
- As part of their British Values studies, Year 5 learned about the origins of British Law and the Magna Carta. They visited Durham Cathedral to see their "Open Treasure" exhibition and view the Magna Carta. They also visited St Cuthbert's shrine to consolidate their learning of The Vikings.
- Unfortunately the Year 6 Residential Visit to London was cancelled due to the heightened security concerns in London which were beyond our control. Instead they have done a variety of things in and out of school including a day at Seaham Beach, a meal at The Fat Buddha and a visit to Gibside. They were also given the opportunity to experience Gateshead Council's new Clip 'n' Climb facility which features a huge variety of 25' high climbing challenges.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

Breakfast Club will restart after the Summer Break, on **Tuesday 5th September 2017**.

After School Clubs will restart week beginning 18th September 2017. If a place is offered to your child, you will receive a letter the first week back confirming this and requesting your termly payment of £10 which must be paid before the clubs start.

Sporting Events

The whole school took part in the Great Gateshead Fun Run in May at Saltwell Park. Over 4,000 school children participated throughout the country, in what could be the World's Biggest Children's Fun Run.

Sports Day for Reception, KS1 and KS2 took place, once again, at Gateshead International Stadium on Tuesday 11th July – everyone had a fantastic day.

Our Year 3/4 Quadkids Athletes finished first in the Thomas Hepburn Cluster event. They then went on to represent our Cluster in the Finals at Kingsmeadow Comprehensive, finishing a very respectable 6th.

The Year 5/6 Boys Football Team took part in a Cluster Tournament at South Street Primary. They did brilliant and came 2nd in the tournament.

Mrs Moore's Year 3/4 children took part in a Rugby Union Mega- Fest where they learned new skills in a competitive, fun environment.

Naishe and Alex from Year 5 were given the opportunity to take part in the "Showing Potential" Academy. Both attended the Academy for 5 continuous weeks after school. They were given unique opportunities for physical, social and emotional well-being development.

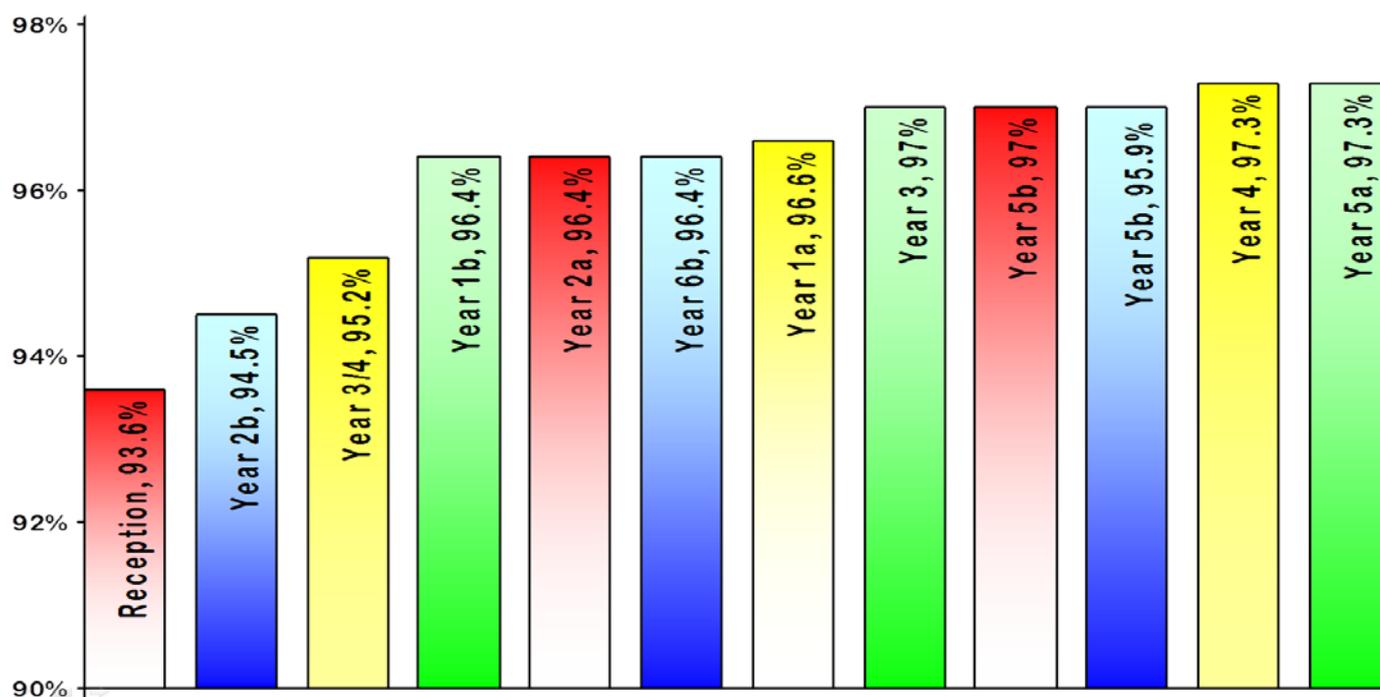
Our Year 5/6 Girls Football Team took part in the Cluster Football Tournament, as reigning champions. They defended their trophy with pride and skill but unluckily finished runners up.

Year 3/4 Pupils took part in an Orienteering Competition at Lord Lawson where they had to use a map to navigate between checkpoints along an unfamiliar course. We finished an excellent 4th place out of ten other schools, despite the fact this was a new skill for our entire team.

Attendance – School Year 2016/17

The whole school percentage attendance for this school year, up until 14th July, is **96.1%**. Here is the attendance data, class by class. Congratulations to Mrs McClean and Mrs Mills' classes who have the joint highest class attendance this school year at a fantastic 97.3%.

We have 29 pupils who have 100% attendance – well done to you all.



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017/2018

Term	Start of Term for Pupils	School Closed	Last Day of Term for Pupils
Autumn	Tue 5 th September 2017	Mon 4 th September 2017 – staff training day Mon 23 rd until Fri 27 th October 2017 – half term Friday 22 nd December 2017 – staff training day	Thursday 21 st December 2017
Spring	Tuesday 8 th January	Mon 12 th until Fri 16 th February 2018 – half term	Thursday 29 th March 2018
Summer	Mon 16 th April	Mon 7 th May 2018 – bank holiday Mon 28 th May until Fri 1 st June 2018 – half term Mon 25 th June 2018 – occasional day	Friday 20 th July 2018