A very Happy New Year and welcome back to all our children! Can’t believe it’s 2020 – I am sure when I was at school we were predicting flying cars by now!

The children have started back in school brilliantly, settling down well after the break and getting straight into their learning.

We have a really busy term with lots of exciting things happening.

**Starting the new year off in the right way!**

We know that we are very privileged at East Whitby to have such well-behaved, well-mannered, articulate pupils – it allows for an enthusiastic positive learning environment where we can all have fun and make great progress together.

LOOK SMART – THINK SMART – ACT SMART

Children - make sure you have all the equipment needed for the day, have a good night’s sleep and a healthy breakfast so that you are ready to learn when you get to school – these are key ingredients for successful learning. The new year is a perfect time to ensure that everything is well set for the year ahead and we would ask for your continued support in this.

**Lunches**

We have noticed that the content of some pupils packed lunches are quite unhealthy, with lots of crisps, cakes, sugary drinks and chocolate bars. We will be talking to children about their packed lunches and helping them understand why they are unhealthy. If your child brings a packed lunch could you talk about it with your child and help them make it healthier.

**Uniform**

Some children are coming to school in clothes and footwear that is not really appropriate for school. If we see your child wearing clothes that aren’t appropriate we will discuss it with them. Please ensure your child is wearing sensible footwear for both inside and outside.

**PE Kit**

Please can all children bring the appropriate PE kit on their PE days. PE is part of their curriculum and all children must participate.

**East Whitby on the web**

Don’t forget you can keep up-to-date with school and find any information by visiting our website. This has photos and up to date stories and information as well as a calendar with all the upcoming dates and events **www.eastwhitby.org.uk**. We are also on **twitter** and **Facebook.**

**Reading**

A plea… If you do nothing else school wise at home, please read with your child. Lots of children are starting to read at home now so thank you to those who are really supporting their children to get better at reading. Listening to them read helps, them develop fluency, asking them questions about what they’ve read helps them develop understanding. Helping your child be a fluent reader makes all the difference to how they will achieve at school both here and later when they move to secondary.

**Online E- Safety**

We continue to have a few incidents outside of school with children mis-using social media or putting themselves in difficult positions. All children have received online safety training from Ann Burton our PCSO. Many children received new devices for Christmas. If your child did get a new console, tablet or phone please think about the following questions;

**Is your child safe online?** (Facebook, Instagram, PlayStation Network, Xbox live, Snapchat and many more…)

**Do you know what they are doing?**

**Are the games they play age appropriate or set to safe mode?**

**Are they accessing sites which are not age appropriate e.g. Facebook, which is for over 13 year olds on their own?**

**Percentage Attendance Autumn**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sprites (Rec) | 93.2% | Centaurs (Year 4) | 95.0% |
| Elves (Y1) | 92.8% | Griffins (Y5) | 91.3% |
| Phoenixes (Y2) | 92.9% | Dragons (Y6) | 93.2% |
| Unicorns (Y3) | 94.1% |  |  |

Well done to Year 4 who were the only class to reach 95%. The average for last term was below 95%. This was mainly due to a number of children taking holidays in the Autumn term. I would like to remind parents that we do not give permission. We have also sent letters out to parents for children whose attendance was below 90%. If a child misses 10% every year in primary school, they will almost have missed a year’s learning by the time they leave. Please try to make sure your child is in school every day.

**Snow**

As winter kicks in this is just a reminder that as a school we will endeavour to remain open whatever the weather. We will also be using our website and **Facebook** to keep you updated at all times.

**Diary Dates:**

Please see enclosed list. Up-coming events with the Friends of East Whitby will be released next week once they have been arranged.

Thanks again for your continued support. Again if you have any issues, please don’t hesitate to contact us. My door is always open.

Regards

Simon Smith (Headteacher)