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Weekly Newsletter: wb 6th January 2025

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. We hope you all had an enjoyable break and are looking forward to the term ahead. On behalf of all the staff, we'd like to thank you for all the cards and presents we received before the holiday; you really don't have to do this (but we do appreciate it!).

Snow

I am writing this a little later than usual so you will by now know that we took the decision to close the school on Monday 6th January due to the snow. If you have been with us a while, you will know that it is very rare for us to close completely and we usually try to open where possible. On this occasion, we considered the condition of the main roads (all buses across the city were cancelled this morning) and consulted with other local schools (most of whom also decided to close). We trust that you received this message via our usual channels (sQuid and social media). If you didn't; please let us know and we will look into this for you. Obviously our plans for the rest of the week are dependent on what the weather does but we are at this stage intending to open as usual from Tuesday 7th January. We will let you know if this changes.

As referred to on the reverse of this newsletter, snow closures do not affect your child's attendance. On days like this, we code everyone as 'not required to attend' and it is excluded from the calculation (so you could still get 100% for the week ahead if you attend Tuesday – Friday). I hope this makes sense!

Dates

Just a few reminders of dates for your diary:

- **15th January:** Deadline for Reception 2025 applications. If you are a current Nursery parent, please do not forget to do this (you should have received a letter from the council but you can find out more here: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schools-childcare/apply-school-place>). If you would like to arrange a visit to school, please let me know via phone or email (headteacher@wharncliffeside.sheffield.sch.uk). Equally, if you have friends / family with nursery-aged children, tell them why our school is so amazing!
- **14th Feb:** Break up for half-term
- **24th Feb:** Return for second half of Spring term
- **WB 24th Feb & 3rd March:** SEND Review Weeks (see separate letter if this applies to you)
- **6th March:** World Book Day
- **5th March:** Parents' Evening
- **28th March:** Break up for Easter holidays (note that Easter itself actually falls on the 20th April this year so there are further bank holidays on Good Friday & Easter Monday!)

Other dates will be communicated as / when. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions etc.

Mr Gaughan

Nurturing confidence, nurturing potential, nurturing success.



Celebrating Achievement



Well done to the following children:

- ★ We didn't do the usual certificates in the final week because it was so hectic! Well done to children of all ages who performed in our Christmas performances - you were brilliant!
- ★ Also well done to the children who volunteered to do a reading during one of our Christmas services at the Chapel on the final day (photos available on our Facebook).
- ★ Thank you to the Y6 children who helped Ms Harrison reorganise the library - it looks so much better now!
- ★ **House Point winners:** **Americas** won the house point trophy in the final week. **Oceania** were the overall winners for the half-term.
- ★ **Attendance winners:** For the week before the holiday, our overall attendance was **94.0%**. The best classes were **Ash** (KS1) with **95.8%** and **Oak** (KS2) with **96.7%**. This means that our overall attendance for the Autumn term was a very respectable **95.8%**. Well done to all children who managed to get above this figure. We are aiming for **97%** for the year so keep pushing to be here as often as you can! (Note: snow days are excluded from this so do not affect your child's attendance!)



Just the one birthday this week: **Evie F** (9). Happy birthday Evie!

This week's '**School Standard**' is:
Taking responsibility & being fair

What's Happening?

Little Seedlings & Saplings are learning about keeping themselves healthy via their 'I wonder how we can stay healthy' topic this half-term.

Ash's new topic is 'Space Explorers'.

Willow will be doing the same topic; specifically looking at the moon landing as a worldwide significant event.

The Learning Zone's topic is 'Africa' (don't forget that all Learning Zone children will also be involved in their respective class topics too!)

Rowan's new topic is 'Extreme Earth'

Sycamore's new topic is 'Our European Neighbours'

Oak's new topic is all about North America.

Meanwhile, our Y6 peer mediators are due to attend the Sheffield-wide Peer Mediator conference on Wednesday. Hopefully this can still go ahead as planned.

