



Working Together for Our Children

Autumn Term 2011/12 Newsletter

Carr Hill Quiz Night

A few years ago we organised a school quiz night and invited you to get together into teams of no more than 4 people to test your general knowledge and have a chance of winning £100 first prize, £50 second prize and £25 third prize.

Another quiz has been organised for Thursday 24 November between 6.30 and 8.30pm to coincide with the opening of our refurbished KS2 hall. Further details will follow soon.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club, a free provision for Carr Hill children, has been operating for 12 years now. Doors open at 8.00am to serve breakfast. This provision IS NOT a child minding service for parents/carers who work as we are not registered nor have legal cover to act as a child minding service. We are always looking for parent/carers who are able to offer a helping hand one or two mornings between 8am and 8.45am. Are you able to help us?

Cycling to School

So far we have our Years 6, 5, 4 and 3 pupils cycling or 'scooting' to school. Our new bike shelters are being installed over half term. All children are encouraged to wear a helmet for their own safety. We can supply helmets for £10.00 (normally £30 in the shops) - if you wish to purchase one please enquire at the school office.

Our New Improved School Website

For many years now our school website has been a source of information for pupils and parents and generally a good introduction to our school.

Visit carrhillprimary.org where you can see how the site has changed to become much more 'pupil led', focussing on 'blogging' to bring school work to life on-line. It promotes children's on-line discussion with other pupils and their teachers. The website also has a leadership section where you can blog the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and School Business Manager.

Parent Vacancies on our Governing Body

The Governing Body oversees the school's work, makes decisions about the school's policies and the direction the school works towards. The Headteacher is answerable to members of the governing body who charge him with the day to day authority and management of the school.

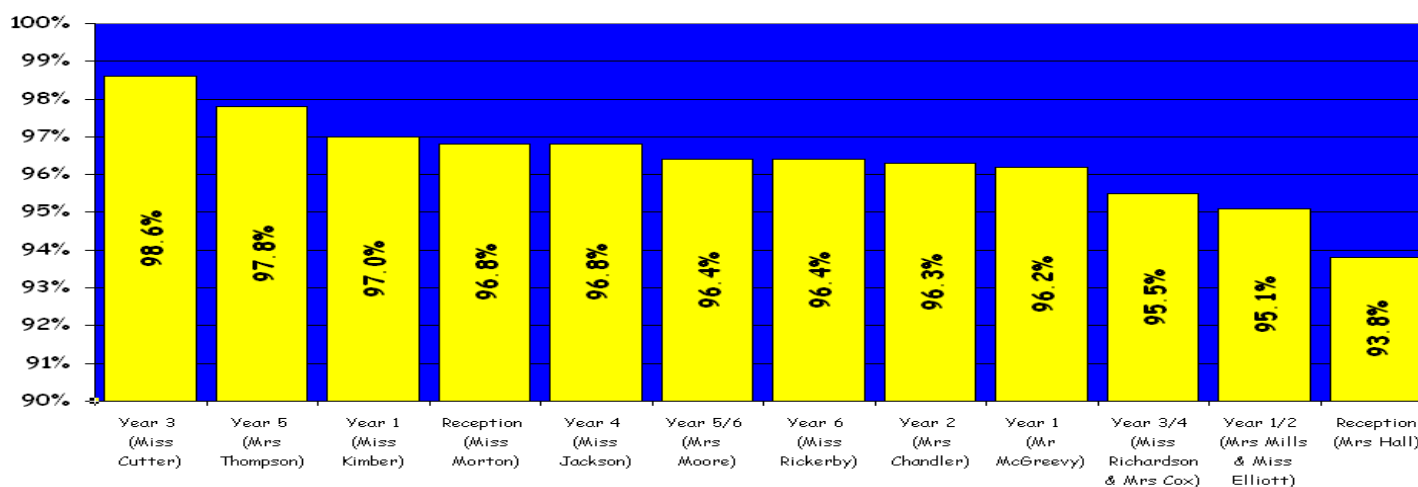
We have three vacancies for parent governors, people who have children attending this school.

If you would like to join the two existing parent governors in having a say as to how the school is run please come in and see either myself, Mr Harris or Miss Coates.

Attendance

The good news is that so far this term our overall attendance is better than this time last year. We set a target of 95% across the school which we hit spot on at the end of last school year, a great result ☺ The current school percentage is 96.4%, a fantastic effort all round. Here is the attendance data, class by class so far this term:

**Class Percentage Attendance
5th September - 14th October 2011**



Congratulations to our Year 3 children who have the highest percentage attendance, so far this term, at 98.6!

We do have a group of pupils on our 'attendance radar' where each time they are absent we enforce 'same day' response to find out why they are not with us. Some of these pupils are classed as 'persistent absentees'. One thing we know about many of these children is that their progress and attainment suffers as a result of so much time absent from school.

Whithaugh Park Residential Visit Dates

Our Key Stage 2 annual week long visits to this outdoor residential centre have already been organised. This week is amongst the highlights of a school year for many of our children. They engage in outdoor activities, have the freedom of rural southern Scotland and feast on healthy home made dinners. You can see where we take our children by looking at adventures.rockuk.org and follow the Whithaugh links. The dates for this year are:

Year 3: Tuesday 8 May - Friday 11 May

Year 4: Monday 23 April - Friday 27 April

Year 5: Monday 19 March - Friday 23 March

Year 6 - Watch this space though not Whithaugh Park but somewhere just as nice!

As in previous years we are freezing your element of the cost (£55.00) which you can start 'part paying' anytime.

Privacy Notice - Data Protection Act 1998

Like all schools, here in Carr Hill Community Primary School we are the Data Controllers for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect information from you, and may receive information about your child from their previous school. We hold this personal data and use it to:

- support your child's teaching and learning;
- monitor and report on your child's progress;
- provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- assess how well your child's school is doing.

This information includes your child's attendance information, national curriculum assessment results, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

We will not give information about your child to anyone outside the school without your consent unless the law and our rules permit it. We are required by law to pass some of your child's information to the Local Authority and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

If you want to see a copy of the information we hold and share about you then please contact the school office.

Finally, please don't forget we break up for half term at 3.05pm this Friday 21 October AND RETURN ON Monday 31 October 2011

We Are Preparing for Winter!

It's getting colder, damper and darker which means Winter is just around the corner ☺. If this Winter comes as early as the snow arrived last November we have to be prepared, and so we are!

Our school will always open, as we did last year, unless in exceptional circumstances (we closed for one day only last November). If you are unsure as to whether we are open or not telephone the school (telephone answering service with recorded message) or check the school website or the Council's website for an update on school closures.

We expect ALL children to attend school during the Winter weather as there is no reason why most of our pupils can not access school despite any snow.

Better Reading Partnerships

We know some of our children are being 'held back' in their learning because not enough support or interest is offered from adults living in their home. We can not just accept this as ALL children have a right to succeed with their attainment. Some other children have that support and they just need a 'boost' to their learning on a daily basis.

All of our teachers and teaching assistants have recently been further trained in strategies to teach children to read and identify where children are making errors. This 'Better Reading Partnership' work is being carried out with groups of children across the school on a regular basis to support their wider learning. All the evidence shows that, where children are confident and comprehending readers, their attainment is boosted significantly. We want ALL our children to have this ability and your support at home can not be underestimated. We have so many ways in which we can help you help your child, all you have to do is ask!

Medicines in School

Sometimes children need to be given medicine during school hours. This is at the discretion of the Headteacher and in all cases can only be given if the appropriate parental agreement form is filled in beforehand.

Almost all 'medicines' given to children by ourselves will be prescribed by a GP and the packet/bottle will have the official chemist dosage printed on it. If you hand to us 'bought over the counter' medicines we can not dispense these as they leave us open to legal action if anything went wrong as a result of us giving it to your child.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2011/2012

Autumn Term	Monday 5 th September until Friday 16 th December 2011	(Half term 24 th - 28 th October) (Staff training day - Friday 24 th November)
Spring Term	Tuesday 3 rd January until Friday 30 th March 2012	(Half term 13 th - 17 th February)
Summer Term	Monday 16 th April until Thursday 19 th July 2012	(Bank holiday - 7 th May) (Half term 4 th - 8 th June) (Staff training days 22 nd & 25 th June)