



# Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to our Autumn 2 Newsletter!

It's always an incredibly busy term leading up to the Christmas holidays, and we have packed so much in. Seeing each Year Group performing this week has been absolutely fantastic: the children have worked so hard and it is wonderful to see their confidence developing. These joyous performances create lifelong memories: for children, for families, and for staff, and it is a magical experience to be part of. You'll love the Christmas photos we have on the next two pages!



<b>C</b>	<b>Collaboration</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>Aspiration</b>	
<b>R</b>	<b>Resilience</b>	
<b>E</b>	<b>Effort</b>	
<b>E</b>	<b>Excellence</b>	
<b>R</b>	<b>Respect</b>	

Reading remains one of City Academy Whitehawk's passions, and it's been beautiful to see so many children developing a true love of reading, as well as reaching their personalised reading targets. Our Growth Mindset CAW Qualities continue our approach to help children develop and prepare for the next stage of their life.

We have improved our communication with families, and the engagement and feedback from our Facebook and Instagram accounts has been great. Why not bookmark the following links so that you can see the regular updates we provide about life at City Academy Whitehawk?

Facebook: [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063736852579](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063736852579)

Instagram: [instagram.com/cityacademywhitehawk](https://instagram.com/cityacademywhitehawk)

Have a wonderful holiday, and I'll see you on the gate on Tuesday 6th January for the children's first day back.



**RUSSELL WOOD**  
Headteacher  
City Academy  
Whitehawk



# Merry CAW Christmas!



# Merry CAW Christmas!

Year 6



Early Years  
Foundation  
Stage



Year 1





# Our City, Our World



**We are very proud of the Our City, Our World personal development provision we have at our school. Our aims at City Academy Whitehawk are to:**

1. Raise awareness of environmental issues through weekly class assemblies
2. 'Green' the curriculum by adding environmental learning to our studies
3. Implement school-wide sustainable operations and systems to reduce waste
4. Create opportunities for children to connect with nature

We work alongside other schools, businesses and organisations across Brighton and Hove to help build a just and sustainable city.

Our six Our City, Our World topics this year are:

**Term 1:** Climate Change **Term 4:** Rampion Wind Farm

**Term 2:** Food Waste **Term 5:** Activists

**Term 3:** Oceans **Term 6:** Agency

There are more details on our Personal Development calendar on our website: [caw.brighton-hove.sch.uk/personal-development](http://caw.brighton-hove.sch.uk/personal-development)

Please ask your children about their weekly Our City, Our World class assemblies, and check the website for more information:

<https://www.ourcityourworld.co.uk/>

We welcome any ideas that families may have to support this important work! We are excited to be applying for the Our City, Our World Gold Rating next year. Please send any suggestions to Mr. Kelsey at:

[cawadmin@auroraacademies.org](mailto:cawadmin@auroraacademies.org)



# City Academy Whitehawk's LAB

As an Academy, we are supported by our Local Academy Board, which operates in a similar way to a governing body. These board members are volunteers who donate their time to help the school, and to ensure that the highest possible standards are in place for the children of Whitehawk.

You can read more about how governance system operates, and the wonderful volunteers who support at this link on our website: <https://www.caw.brighton-hove.sch.uk/governance-1>

Two of our LAB members, Janis and Richard, joined me for the Autumn 2 Headteacher drop in forum with families, and it was lovely to be able to spend time with our community alongside them. We had some great suggestions for ways to improve the school that we've already put into action: please do keep the suggestions coming!



**Janis Taylor, LAB Chair**

I have been a member of the LAB for several years. I have been working in primary education for over 40 years as a class teacher, headteacher, adviser and consultant. In fact, my first job at the start of my career was as a class teacher at Whitehawk Junior School - the building was demolished many years ago! I absolutely loved my 10 years at Whitehawk and over the years I always maintained my interest in its journey, and its ups and downs. Whilst I was headteacher of a school in Hove we supported Whitehawk when it was judged as requiring special measures. When the school became an academy and joined Aurora Trust, I was asked if 'd consider joining the LAB - I jumped at the chance!

It's been fantastic to see the school grow, change and improve so much over the years. We are so lucky to have such a committed and hard-working staff team, wonderful children and families and feel proud to be part of the community.



**Richard Benton-Stage,**

**LAB Representative for Safeguarding**

I have lived in Brighton since 1971 and am married with two daughters. Both girls are also married and went to local primary and secondary schools. School and education have always been an important part of my life and they are something that can provide children with great opportunities. I trained as a primary school teacher and taught children from Reception to year 7. I was also a headteacher in primary schools in Burgess Hill. I first became involved with City Academy Whitehawk when I was supervisor to Brighton University teacher training students coming into school. Many trainees enjoyed the school experience that they applied to work there at the end of their course (Miss Delaney was one such teacher). I have been involved with the school for over ten years now and love coming in to visit this amazing school. The school is very special and has such a talented staff who want the best for every child that comes through the school gate.





# CAW Aspiration Awards

**At City Academy Whitehawk, behaviour and attendance are incredibly important to us.**

We know that children are more successful when they attend school regularly, and that this adds to their sense of belonging in our school and our community. We are very proud of our positive approaches to behaviour.

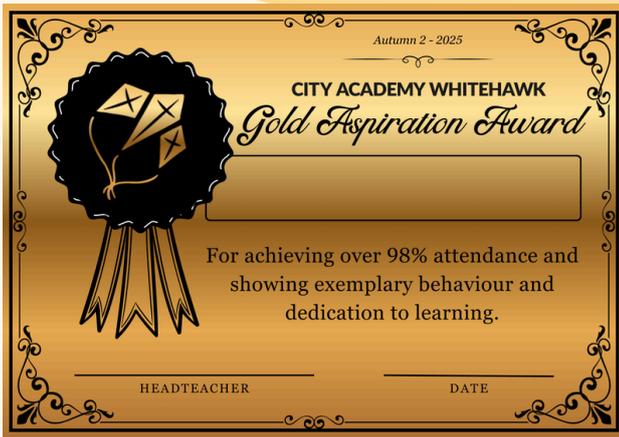
You can read more about this in our school's Behaviour Policy on our website: [caw.brighton-hove.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=13&type=pdf](http://caw.brighton-hove.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=13&type=pdf)

We will always focus on positive strategies and celebrating the children's successes. Each week, two children from each class are awarded certificates for demonstrating our growth mindset CAW Qualities, and these are awarded in my assemblies on Monday morning. We also have certificates for great Mathematicians, personal reading targets, Times Tables Rockstars and NumBots. We love to celebrate the children's hard work!

I have shared information around a new certificate that children will be able to earn based on a combination of their behaviour and their attendance. These are called the **City Academy Whitehawk Aspiration Awards**. Children will have the opportunity earn a Gold, Silver or Bronze award, which will be celebrated in a special assembly each half term. Here's what they need to do to qualify:

	Attendance	Behaviour
Gold	98% or better	0 Behaviour Alert 2s 0 Behaviour Alert 1s
Silver	97 to 97.9%	1 or fewer Behaviour Alert 2s 1 or fewer Behaviour Alert 1s
Bronze	96 to 96.9%	2 or fewer Behaviour Alerts 2s 2 or fewer Behaviour Alert 1s





As a school, we have thought carefully about what children need to do to earn these certificates, and we discussed this with families in our Autumn 1 behaviour and attendance drop in. These are **Aspiration Awards**, and it is important to us that we celebrate children who have demonstrated excellence in their attendance and behaviour.

We will also be celebrating one child in each class who has shown the **most improved** attendance with a special certificate to recognise their efforts.

Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities will of course be able to earn Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates. We are an inclusive school and will always ensure that reasonable adjustment is in place to support children and to allow them to access our whole school provision.



### Update from Mrs Storey, Attendance Officer

We are so proud that overall attendance at CAW this term is the most improved in the whole academy trust, and proud that the vast majority of children here have outstandingly good attendance and punctuality.

For the past few years we have awarded "Excellent Attendance" Certificates to individual children with attendance above 97% every term, and to children who have made significant improvements to their attendance. This is always a highlight for me, celebrating children who are smashing it and coming into school every day as much as they possibly can.

I'm really excited about the new CAW Aspiration Award Certificates, which will combine the celebration of excellent attendance with celebrating children's excellent behaviour choices as well.

If you have any questions about attendance or absences from school, or if your child is worried about anything at school that might be affecting their attendance please speak to me or any other adult at school at any time.

# WASP

## Whitehawk After School Provision wrap around care



Wasp takes place in the school canteen from 3.15-6pm and runs during school term time. The club offers a nurturing, inclusive and fun filled environment for up to 30 children. Sessions are child led and offer a variety of activities which change daily. Cost is £10, £7 for the first sibling and £5 for the second sibling, which is some of the cheapest childcare in Brighton!

Children have the use of the Trim Trail field with climbing equipment, as well as the school gym and larger playgrounds. An inside/outside free flow system is offered, so that children can choose where they would prefer to play.

A delicious and healthy snack includes toast/wraps/crackers/rice cakes and crumpets. Children can choose from a variety of spreads, cheese, fruit and veg. Most options are vegan.

Wasp is registered to accept payment from Tax Free Childcare accounts: [gov.uk/tax-free-childcare](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

If eligible for Universal Credit, families may be able to claim up to 85% of childcare costs back. That is £1.50 per session which is a bargain! [gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit](https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit)

Wasp is a great place to make new friends, grow your confidence and self-esteem and try something new. Children are able to develop their independence in a safe and supportive environment. Either burn off some energy or chill out and relax, it's up to you!

Come and try out a session to see what you think!

### Activities include:

- Sports & games
- Arts & crafts
- Den building
- Board games & puzzles
- Role play
- Lego
- Toys
- Talent shows
- Themed days
- Sensory toys
- Relaxing cosy corner
- Trikes
- Dress Up
- Scavenger hunts
- Discos
- Parachute games
- National art competitions
- Assault courses
- Biscuit decorating
- End of term parties

**Book your After School Club session on Arbor.**



## Breakfast Club

We are really proud to offer a FREE Breakfast Club each and every weekday that every child from Reception to Year Six can attend. Children can be dropped off at the Canteen Gate between 8:00 and 8:10am, enjoy a delicious breakfast with their friends, and then have some play outside before going up to class at 8:30am. It's a lovely way to start the day, and everyone is welcome!

