



Newsletter

January 2017

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year! We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break. After the mild spell of whether at the end of 2016, the frosts we had last week are a reminder that we do need to be prepared for colder weather, just in case. I've included a summary of our ice and snow plan as part of this newsletter—you never know when it may be needed! Please can you ensure that children bring warm coats into school each day, and make sure any hats/gloves/scarves are named. Can I also ask that you ensure that your child has some tracksuit or jogging trousers in their PE kit as we continue to do outside games through the winter months. Thank you.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Some fundraising 'Thank You's'

We hope that everyone who attended the 'Carols in the Square' event last term enjoyed themselves. I had some lovely feedback on the evening, particularly from Cornerstone Primary School who were delighted to be able to join us to take part. A highlight of the evening for me was when the children from our choirs and the Cornerstone choir joined together for a rousing sing-a-long at the end—a real community event. The Salvation Army band would also like to pass on their sincere thanks to all who contributed to the collection which raised £181.

The senior choir also helped to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care last month, joining a number of other school choirs who sang in Fareham Shopping Centre in December. A total of £456.45 was raised over the course of the day, and we were proud to do our bit.

When both the junior and senior choirs came together at Whiteley Shopping Centre for carol singing on a Saturday in December, we were able to use our voices to raise money for FOWPS. A huge thank you must go to the management of the centre who agreed to match-fund our fundraising from the collection and so over £400 has gone into school funds from this event.

Our final fundraising event of the term was on the Christmas dinner day, with those who wished invited to make donations to the 'Chicken for a Child' appeal for Phoebe's Family—a charity which the school has frequently supported in Kenya. They were delighted to receive funds from our school to purchase 21 chickens.

Life Education Workshops—KS2

Hopefully all KS2 parents have received the letter about the Life Education workshops which will be taking place in 2 weeks time. If you would like to attend the parent workshop to find out more about what the children cover during these workshops, please do return the reply slip on the letter asap as places are limited to 20. We also appreciate you making voluntary contributions to help support the workshops this year—the workshops really do make an invaluable contribution to our PSHE curriculum.



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Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Oliver Whitehouse who became the first citizenship award winner for this academic year. We were delighted to be able to award him a £10 book voucher with his trophy, donated by AJ Embroidery. Angie at AJ Embroidery, has donated 4 vouchers for the academic year—we shall be awarding one to each of our citizenship award winners each term. For the final voucher, we shall be putting all the names of children from Y1/2/3 who complete at least their gold bookworm challenge into the hat and pulling out one lucky winner at the end of the summer term.

Staffing Update

Since my last newsletter, we welcome a number of new staff onto the team. Mrs Donna Barrett, Mrs Sarah Lockwood and Mrs Ruth David have all joined our LSA team. We are also delighted to welcome three new midday supervisors. Welcome to Miss Doy, Miss Lance and Ms Pugmire.

Sadly, later this half term, we will be saying farewell to two of our very experienced teaching assistants. Mrs Williams and Mrs Thomas have both been offered exciting opportunities outside of our school, and we wish them the very best of luck in their new ventures. We hope to appoint Mrs Thomas' replacement in a few weeks' time but we have been able to cover Mrs Williams' role in Y6 internally for the rest of the year. Mrs Burnham will be moving to Y6 at the end of January, with Mrs Anthony covering her role in Y3.

Studybugs App

Thank you everyone who has signed up for the new 'Studybugs' app to use when reporting when your child is off sick. If you haven't yet registered, this is easy to do via the link on the school website home page. It is free to use for parents and the school, and includes guidance from Public Health England about whether a child can attend school with certain ailments. It is still fine to inform the school by phone or in person if your child is off sick, but please make sure you let us know before registers close at **9.15am** otherwise your child's absence may not be authorised.

FOWPS Clothes Recycling Collection

Thank you to everyone who brought in bags of recycling for our collection last half term. £192 was raised for FOWPS. There will be another clothing collection later this term.

London Marathon

Mrs Dimblebee has managed to secure a charity place at this year's London Marathon. As part of her fundraising efforts, she is organising a fun run for children in the Stubbington area. There may be places available for Whiteley children—further details to follow for those who are interested.



Encouraging Your Child's Reading at Home

Thank you to parents of Y1-3 children who have been encouraging them to take part in the bookworm challenge—some children have just received their gold badges and are now starting on the super star bookworm award. However, even if your child is still working on their bronze, there is still time for them to get to gold by the end of the summer term. Feedback from parents has been really positive, and we would encourage everyone to get involved as we know that regular reading practice can build confidence and fluency, helping children to become readers for life.

School Nurses—Drop In for Parents Following the success of the drop in session last term, the school nurses will be in school again on Monday 30th Jan between 9 and 10am for any parents with questions or concerns. Our Home School Link Worker (HSLW) will also be available at this time.



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Census Day—19th January—School Lunch Reminder

Please can we ask YR/1/2 children to have a school lunch on Thursday 19th January as this is the census day when the funding for the universal free meals is calculated. The numbers who take up meals on this day are used to work out our funding for the rest of the year, so it is really important that as many children as possible take up a lunch on this day. As usual, we will be swapping the Thurs/Friday menus that week to encourage take up—red choice will be fish fingers and chips that day; blue will be Neapolitan pasta.

British Values

Schools are required to provide for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of their pupils. As part of this, we actively promote fundamental British Values. The fundamental British Values are defined as:

- * Democracy
- * The Rule of Law
- * Individual Liberty
- * Mutual Respect and Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs

Promoting these British Values is now a central part of teaching and learning as we aim to help children become well-rounded members of society. These British Values are promoted throughout the curriculum, across the whole school. They are also seen in school ethos and policies, assemblies, special events and cultural celebrations. If you would like to find out more about fundamental British Values at Whiteley Primary School, the policy is now available to read on the school website.

Educational Apps

If any of you are interested in making your children's 'screen time' on tablets etc. more educational this new year, why not try one of these:

Maths Rocks—App to help children learn times tables, with each one set to a pop song to encourage them to learn and sing a-long.

You Can Read—iPad App Pirate themed game for keyword recognition

Teach Your Monster How to Read—App for tablets, as well as an online PC game which reinforces phonic knowledge. This fits in with the way we teach phonics and begins with single letter sounds but continues onto the more complex vowel diagraphs—suitable for YR-Y3.

Mr Thorne's Phonics—A range of on-line games/activities for phonics—reading and spelling. **Mr Thorne's Spellbook** is an App for spelling suitable for Y1/2/3.

Have your circumstances changed recently? Are you in receipt of any of these benefits?

Income Support **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance** **Universal Credit**
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance **Guaranteed element of State Pension**
Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

The January census on the 19th is also the date when our pupil premium funding for next year is calculated—this is the £1300 extra we receive per pupil registered as eligible for free school meals due to the family's income. If you are in receipt of any of the above benefits and have not yet registered your child, please do so **asap** by going online at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/caterers/hc3s>. You just need your National Insurance Number and date of birth. Alternatively, a member of the office staff can check online for you.



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Snow and Ice Plan



The following information is taken from the school's 'Snow and Ice Plan' which, along with risk assessments, helps us to ensure the on-going health and safety of pupils, staff and parents during wintery weather.

Where possible, we aim to keep the school open in icy/snowy conditions. Measures to support this include

- gritting of main pedestrian routes into the school;
- warning signs of potentially icy conditions;
- regular assessments of the safety of playground areas etc. so that areas can be closed/cordoned off if necessary;
- closure of routes on to the school site which are potentially hazardous.

Please note that the boardwalk entrance may be closed in icy/snowy conditions - this is not necessarily because of the boardwalk itself, but because access to and from the boardwalk requires use of the steps/slope to the all-weather pitch which can become unsafe in icy conditions. Any closure will be notified using signs at the entrance and through Parentmail/texts.

- In snowy conditions, the site team's priority will be to clear the paths to the main entrance, YR playground and piazza to provide safe routes to classrooms. Fewer entrances may be used if necessary.

The decision to close the school is not taken lightly, but may be made in the following circumstances:

- when it is deemed unsafe for pupils/staff to access the school site (after a heavy overnight fall of snow, time may be needed to clear access routes and make the site safe);
- if there is a failure with the school heating;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for pupils to make their way safely to and from the school due to local road conditions;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for an adequate number of staff to travel safely to and from school due to road conditions.

We are fortunate that we have a number of staff who live locally. It may sometimes be possible to open the school with a reduced staff during snowy conditions, as long as there are enough staff to provide adequate supervision for pupils. Other measures which have been used in the past to support safe travel to school include a staggered or later start to the school day to allow more time for travel.

We aim to communicate any decisions regarding school disruption with as much notice as possible. Notification of school closure will be made using Parentmail, the school website and through local radio stations. Hampshire County Council website also publishes an up-to-date list of school closures and a message will be left on the school answer phone (if access has been possible!)