



Newsletter

January 2016

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year! I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break. Whilst for many getting back to early starts in the morning is tricky, there is at least one member of our school community who is very glad to be back. Elaine Binks, our senior admin officer, is now getting fully back into her role following her treatment for breast cancer, and is delighted to be getting back to 'normality'. She would like to say thank you to everyone who has been so supportive over the past 9 months, and is looking forward to getting to know our newer families better now that she is back at work. On behalf of the other members of the office team, thank you for your understanding during this period when we've been short staffed.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

YR/1/2 Free School Lunches—Please take up the offer on Thursday 21st January!

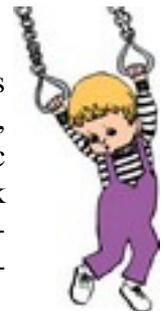
You may remember me explaining in the September newsletter that our funding for the free school lunches for KS1 pupils will be based on the average take up of meals on two census days—one was in October and the second day is **Thursday 21st January**. It is really important that as many YR/1/2 children take up the offer of a free meal on this day to ensure that the school is funded adequately for the meals. If your child has had *any* school dinners since September (even if only on Christmas dinner day), please ask them to have a school dinner on this day. In order to encourage a greater take up, we will be making some changes to the menu that week. A Parentmail reminder will go out nearer the time.

FOWPS Fund 'Active Panels' for classrooms

If your child is in YR, Y4, Y5 or Y6, you may be aware that these classrooms have had their interactive whiteboards replaced with Active Panel touchscreens over the holidays. We are hugely grateful to FOWPS, and to everyone who has contributed to their fundraising over the last few years, as they were able to pay for half of this project. We are now keen to ensure that we can replace the other whiteboards over the next two years, and FOWPS have agreed to support this as an on-going project.

Young Governors' Adventure Playground Project

You may have noticed that the new equipment chosen by the Young Governors has now been installed in the large adventure playground and should be in use shortly, once the soft surfacing work has been completed. The Young Governors did a fantastic job running the film club in order to support this project. They would also like to thank FOWPS who have contributed to the costs, and also Whiteley Rotary Club who contributed a significant sum to ensure that we could also re-do the soft surfacing required.





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Fundraising



Thank you for supporting our charity fundraising events during the latter part of the Autumn term. The Poppy Appeal raised £232.37 for the British Legion—over three times the amount raised last year. We were also delighted to contribute £116 to Tommy’s following the Christmas jumper day in December. Congratulations also to the members of the senior choir who sang carols at Fareham Shopping Centre for Marie Curie Cancer Care along with other schools—a total of £559.50 was raised during the day, and our choir did a sterling job kicking things off in the morning!

Attendance

As part of our new attendance policy, this week we will be celebrating those children who managed 100% attendance in the Autumn term. They will receive a certificate to congratulate them on this achievement.

If your child was absent for a registration period due to taking part in a school activity such as a sport festival, music event or trip, or they were visiting another school (for example, due to secondary transition), these are counted as educational activities and therefore should not impact on overall attendance. However, if your child did not receive a certificate and you believe they should have done, please mention to the class teacher who will check this out with the school office. As a reminder, pupils who arrive late after the registers closed receive an absent mark for that session.

Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Daisy Skilton on being awarded the Whiteley Citizenship Award last term.



Staffing Update

This term, we welcome Miss Joanne Rundle who is covering Mrs Reid's maternity leave. (No news on Mrs Reid’s new arrival as yet!).

You may have noticed that we also have an advert out for a midday supervisor and are hoping to recruit a new member for the lunchtime team by February. Please contact the school office if you are interested in the position.

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 21st 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. Alternatively, a member of the office staff can check online for you.

Spare PE kit /trainers.

We would like to keep a small stock of spare PE kit at the office to ensure that those who forget their kit are still able to take part in PE lessons. We would be grateful for donations of shorts/joggers/school T-shirts/trainers/plimsolls which are in good condition—we are particularly in need of items suitable for junior age children. Any donations can be brought to the school office.