



Newsletter

June 2017

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

This September marks the 20th anniversary of Whiteley Primary School. It seems incredible that 20 years ago, Gull Coppice was nothing but trees and scrubland—until the arrival of several Portacabins, which were the temporary home for our school on the site which now houses the shops and community centre. To commemorate this special anniversary, we have a whole school photo planned for Friday 6th July (don't put your washing out that morning—if past experience is anything to go by, it's bound to rain at some point on us that morning!). We are also extending an open invitation to ex-pupils and their families to pop in on our open evening on Thursday 20th July. We are going to create a 'memory book' and invite anyone involved with our school over the past 20 years to contribute a favourite memory from their time at school, and perhaps let us know what they are up to now! For those unable to attend the event, we invite them to email or write to us so that their contributions can be included. Please do share this invitation with anyone you know who might like to come along or send in a memory. We know that Whiteley Primary School is only one part of any of our pupils' journeys, and it would be great to know where our ex-pupils are now.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Staffing Update—Some Sad Farewells

It has been a while since we have had a number of teachers leave us, but this summer term, we will be saying farewell to several staff who have given a great deal to our school over the years. Mrs Angela Wills, our longest serving teacher who joined our school during the very first year, will be taking early retirement this summer. She is joined by Mrs Kerry Hancock who is also looking forward to having time for other pursuits after over 10 years at Whiteley and a successful teaching career. Retirement also beckons to Mrs Sheila Dickenson (Y1 TA), who has worked for Hampshire County Council for 17 years. We also say goodbye to Madame Sarah Browning, our French teacher, who is waving goodbye to the classroom at the end of June to pursue a different career path after establishing a fantastic tradition of French teaching at our school.

Our leadership team will also have some changes: Mr Alex Jeffries-Hill has achieved promotion to an assistant headteacher role at another Hampshire school, and we wish him all the very best in his new role. Although it is always sad to say farewell to such dedicated and hard-working staff, we also welcome the new ideas and opportunities that are brought by those joining our school. We are delighted that Mrs Amanda Mainwaring will be joining us as a permanent member of the teaching staff from September and we also welcome Miss Sadie Partridge to the teaching team. We also have two new teaching assistants joining the team: Miss Lottie Palmer (KS2) and Miss Anna Smith (KS1). Congratulations to Mrs Jeni Griffith who will be moving from her LSA role to a classroom based teaching assistant role in September.

We are in the process of recruiting a new French teacher and will update you later in the summer with any further staffing news.



June 2017 p.2

FOWPS Summer Fayre—Saturday 22nd July—12-3.30pm

Look out for a separate letter giving details of how you can get involved with the FOWPS summer fayre later this term. As always, it promises to be a lovely family event—as well as the return of the popular magic shows, we also hope to have free drama workshops for children to take part in, and lots of fun for the whole family. Please put it in your diary and also consider offering a helping hand for half an hour or more—either on a stall during the fayre or to help with set up/clear up. You can contact FOWPS via their Facebook page or by leaving your contact details at the school office.

End of Year Reports

Final reports will be sent out on w/c 10th July. In response to feedback received last year, the YR report will now include a specific maths and English comment, as well as providing an overview of pupils' achievements against the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Following last years' changes, the Y1-Y6 report will be in a similar format this year. However, instead of including the 'tick boxes' regarding whether a child has met the expectations within each domain for reading, writing and maths within the main report, you will receive the updated print out of your child's assessments against age related expectations—you should hopefully now be familiar with this format which you should have been provided with at the earlier parents' meetings.

Sun Safety

I may be being optimistic, but presuming that we will get some more lovely days of sunshine this half term, please can I ask you to ensure that your child has their water bottle and a hat in school each day. Also, please consider using an all day sunscreen or providing your child with their own bottle of sun lotion to apply before they go out at lunchtime on fine days. Children are allowed to bring in sunglasses for break-times, but please ensure that these have 100% UV protection rather than being 'toy' versions which offer no protection from the harmful rays. We will be reminding the children about sun safety in school and the importance of drinking regularly in hot weather.



Thank You from Kenya

You may remember that on our Christmas jumper day, any donations went towards the 'Chicken for a Child' appeal, run by Pheobe's Family charity which supports an orphanage in Kenya towards self-sufficiency. The money went towards the purchase of young poulets which have then been reared and kept for their eggs, with the sale of the eggs paying the school fees for the orphaned children. I received this lovely message and photos from Sandra Lewis, our local contact in the Rotary club who is our link to the charity:

"Bishop Phoebe, the children and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your efforts are really changing lives for the better and giving the children opportunities they would not have without your help. Warmest wishes to all in Whiteley Primary School".



June 2017
p.3

FOWPS Events—Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy and contribute at the recent quiz night. As ever, Steve, Steve and Stuart ensured a great night of fun and games, raising around £500 on the night.

Thank you, also, to those who contributed to the recent clothes recycling collection which added a further £66.55 to FOWPS funds.

Hair Accessories—Reminder

Please can I remind parents that hair accessories should be in our school colours, or subtle colours e.g. green/ black/grey/white/beige/brown etc. Large 'Jo-Jo' bows and flowers should also be avoided as they detract from the uniform.

Young Carers Bronze Award

We are delighted to have been awarded the Young Carers Bronze Award, in recognition of the work carried out to support children in our school designated as young carers. Young carers are children who are responsible for emotional, practical or physical care for a parent, sibling or other family member—for example, due to a physical disability or mental health issue. Support in school can be vital to help them achieve their best, but also to give them opportunities to meet others in similar situations and to talk through their feelings. Well done to Mrs Skipp and her team for their efforts in establishing a support network for these children, including a drop in lunch club, signposting for families and ELSA support where required, as well as raising awareness amongst the staff and pupils. If you believe that your child may be a young carer, please do contact Mrs Skipp via the school office.

New Classes for 2016/17

Our class swap afternoon is on Wednesday 5th July, when pupils will find out their teacher for next year. As our current Y2 cohort were mixed last year at the end of Y1, this year it will only be the Y4 cohort who will be mixed to make 3 new class groupings. In organising new groupings, staff meet together to ensure the best possible mixes of children and will include equal mixes of boys and girls, ability groupings and positive friendships. I would ask that you trust the professionalism of the teachers in the year group to make sensible decisions based on what they know and see of your children in the school situation. From experience, we also know that children are less likely to worry about the mix if parents can be positive about the experience at home. We know that parents can become anxious about it—please try not to show this to your child, and talk about the benefits of getting to work with different people, making new friends, rediscovering old ones—and, of course, still seeing all their old class mates in the playground! Please note that we will not be sending out the new class lists on the class swap day, but a copy will be available to peruse at the school office from **Thursday 6th July** and in the Y4 classrooms on the open evening in July.

There will be an information meeting for parents about Y2/3 transition on the same evening as the open evening. Information meetings for the other year groups will follow in September.

Visit from John Coughlan—Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council

Our school is one of only two Hampshire schools who will be visited during June by the Chief executive of Hampshire County Council to see the work of HC3S (Hampshire caterers) at lunchtime. We are delighted to have been chosen due to the positive changes which have been made over the past few years which have seen our school dinner numbers rise, and enabled us to cater for the large numbers of children following the launch of universal free meals for KS1 children.

Congratulations must go to Mrs Mel Greaves and the whole kitchen team who work so hard every-day to deliver quality food for the children (and recently another 5 star rating for health and safety in the kitchen!).