



# Newsletter

March 2017

A place to  
**SMILE**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'll start with an apology for confusing people by sending out the wrong 'Bunny Run' letter yesterday—at least you will have had a sneak preview of what is new this year! The second letter sent out by Parentmail yesterday was the correct one. However, eagle-eyed people have spotted that the judging date for the Bunny Bake Off competition should have read 31st March, not the 18th (I'm not sure the cakes would last two weeks until the Bunny Run!) Anyhow, at least I've brought lots of attention to the event—we really hope you will be able to support us!

We are also starting to look forward to another special date for our school—in September, it is the 20th anniversary of Whiteley Primary School. The school opened in portacabins on the site which now has the community centre and shops in 1997 with about 100 children, and moved into the new school building in 1999. Although we are not planning a big event, we want to mark the anniversary and will be inviting past pupils (and parents) to come along to our July open evening to take a look around and share memories and stories from their time at Whiteley Primary School. If you are in touch with ex-pupils/families from the school, please do let them know. Further information will be given nearer the time.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

## Exciting News from the Cross Country Team—Report from Mrs Farlow

After a very tense final race, we have won both the boys' and girls' cross country leagues. We have been leading in the boys' league for a while but only a win in the last race would have seen us crowned champions (Locks Heath were chasing us and came second in the last race with 83 points whilst we got 66). This final win was enough to hold onto the top spot in the league. In the girls' league we were in the top spot after race five but only came 3rd in the last race. Luckily this was enough to keep us in first place overall but meant that Hook-with-Warsash share first place in the league. I have never seen both the boys and girls win the league before and it was down to the hard work and dedication of the whole team who have turned out in all sorts of weather to both the training and races on a Friday afternoon. We now have the Championship race on Friday where there is a possibility we could win both of those trophies as well. All in all an amazing end to the season!



Well done also to the 7 children who were invited to take part in the Hampshire Athletics Cross-Country Championship yesterday. It was a tough race, but a great experience for them to compete at this level. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support.



## Comic Relief—Friday 24th March

On 24th March, we will be inviting children to come to school wearing something red (non-uniform) in return for a donation to Comic Relief. We are busy learning the Red Nose Day song at school, and are planning a whole-school sing-a-long outside on the day. We will also be running a children's joke competition—in return for 50p, children can enter their favourite joke. We will be selecting finalists who will perform their joke for the school on 24th March and there will be a prize for the overall winner. More details to follow.



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#### Pokemon/collectors cards—a reminder

We just want to remind parents that we allow children to bring Pokemon and similar cards into school *provided the children use them sensibly!* When used well, they can provide a welcome distraction for children at break-times, but where there are issues, we do sometimes have to ban them as has already happened in one of the KS1 classes this term. Parents can support us with this by reinforcing our rule about not trading cards in school—please do not send your child in with money for trading cards.

#### Young Carers—Donation

We would like to say a big thank you to the Nil Sine Labore Lodge No.2736, London, who have made a donation to support our young carers across the school. Mrs Skipp, our inclusion manager, is currently developing our provision for children who are deemed to be young carers. This includes running a weekly drop-in lunch session, and so she is going to use the donation to purchase some new board games for the children to use.

Young Carers are children who help to look after a parent or sibling who have a condition such as a disability, illness or mental health issues. There are a number of children across the school who are already identified as young carers, and Mrs Skipp is working to ensure that they can access support at school, as well as helping to signpost families to organisations such as 'Kids', a voluntary group who provide opportunities for young carers to take time out for themselves, have fun and talk to others in a similar position.

If you feel that your child is a young carer, and you haven't yet discussed this with Mrs Skipp, please do get in touch with her via the school office.

#### Mental Health and Well-being—A Message from Nicola Bevan our Home School Link Worker

Recently the media has been highlighting the rise in mental health concerns in young people. At Whiteley Primary the happiness of our young people is very important. Diet, sleep and exercise are all significant in promoting emotional well-being in children along with giving your child time to talk each day. There is also a strong emphasis in our teaching on developing resilience and a growth mind set.

Support can be gained within the school from Class teachers, Teaching assistants, or from myself - the school ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and home school link worker. There are also national charities that can offer support and guidance for young people and their families. YoungMinds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people and empowering their parents and carers. They can offer support on a range of issues such as bereavement, separation, low self-esteem, hearing voices, anxiety and more. [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

#### Hot Off the Press—Triple Success at the Locks Heath Rotary Club Music Competition

Well done to all the singers and musicians who took part in the Rotary Music Competition last night. It's always a great experience to perform for an unfamiliar audience and feel the nerves of a real competition, and a bonus that the junior choir, senior choir and woodwind ensemble all won their sections. We look forward to the return of the trophies to our entrance hall for another year!