



# Newsletter

June 2016

A place to  
**SMILE**

Dear Parents,

I'd like to start my newsletter with a belated 'congratulations' to Timeout Childcare's breakfast/after school provision who were awarded 'Outstanding' in their Ofsted inspection last half term. Well done to the whole team involved—keep up the great work!

Thinking ahead to next year, we have now confirmed our speaker for staff training in the Autumn term and so I can now let you know our INSET dates for 2016/17:

- Monday 5th September
- Friday 7th October
- Monday 10th October
- Friday 27th January
- Friday 14th July

We hope you will find these dates useful in order to plan weekends away. You should already have received the updated diary dates which were sent out earlier this week, and there are additional dates still being finalised by year teams. It's going to be another busy half term!

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

## New Classes for 2016/17

Our class swap afternoon is on Wednesday 6th July, when pupils will find out their teacher for next year. As in previous years, we will be splitting our Y2 and Y4 cohorts to make 3 new class groupings. We are also mixing the Y1 classes this year to balance the learning needs across the classes. 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 and in the Y1, Y2 and Y4 classrooms on the open evening the following week.

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.

## Early Morning Library Opening

We hope that families will enjoy making use of the early morning library opening on Wednesdays this term. Mrs Yeo, our library manager, is always delighted to welcome parents and children to come and browse, share a book or choose some to take away together. The library is open from 8.15 every Wednesday morning this half term, and Mrs Yeo will be available during that time to offer advice or recommend books.



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### FOWPS Summer Fayre—Saturday 25th June—12-3.30pm

Look out for a separate letter giving details of how you can get involved with the FOWPS summer fayre later this month. As always, it promises to be a lovely family event with some new attractions this year including magic shows for the children, balloon modelling, stalls, games and plenty of activities for all the 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 Friday 4th July. We have a new format this year, reflecting the changes to the National Curriculum and assessment, and we hope you will find it useful. The YR report will be an overview of pupils' achievements against the Early Years Foundation Stage, along with a general comment. In all other year groups, as well as the 'personal and social' comment, you will receive information for reading, writing and maths which will incorporate a judgement for each 'domain' in those subjects. You will be told whether the child has met, is below or is working above age related expectations (ARE) in each subject domain - this is an update to the information you received at the last parents' meeting. In addition, your child will be given an overall judgement for the subject area as to whether they currently meet or are working towards ARE for the subject as a whole. As mentioned earlier in the year, please bear in mind that the goalposts for each year group have changed, as well as the methodology for assessment. Children will now need to be meeting ARE in all domains to be considered meeting ARE overall. We will be providing an overview of what is typical of a child at ARE for each subject area so that you can see the types of skills and knowledge required. (We are also planning on sending these overviews out in the Autumn term for your child's new year group so that you will be able to see from the outset what we are aiming for your child to be able to achieve by the end of the year.) As usual, the reports will also contain a summary of the skills and knowledge that your child has been working on in the other subjects. This year, we have introduced an 'effort' grade for each subject area as we would like to acknowledge the importance of children's attitude and effort, regardless of their final achievements.

We will appreciate any comments on the new format and hope you will find them useful. I also hope you will appreciate the time and effort that our teachers have put into the reports. As with any changes, it takes time for new systems to become more automatic and I would like to thank the staff for all the work they have put in this year to establish our new assessment and reporting systems.

### 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.



Please note that the next clothing collection for recycling is on Tuesday 21st June between 8 and 9am. Please bring donations to the basketball court—any plastic bags may be used.



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### Help! Cleaner Urgently Required

We urgently need to recruit a new cleaner to our site team. If you know of anyone who would be interested in the position, working 2 hours per day between 3.15 and 6, please ask them to contact the school office as soon as possible.

Ideally we would like someone who could work Monday—Friday but would consider a job share so would also be interested in hearing from someone who would be available for some of the days.

We will also be advertising for another midday supervisor soon to start in July or September—if you would be interested, please ask at the office for details.



### Internet Safety for Parents

'YouTube' may have been around for a while, but it's popularity amongst children has grown recently—so much so that You Tube launched it's own 'kids' app last year aimed at younger children. Over the past year, we have noticed in school an increase in the number of our older pupils who not only enjoy searching for video clips on YouTube, but also like to upload their own videos. If your child has shown an interest in YouTube, and you want to understand more about the potential risks or know how to help your child stay safe when using YouTube on-line, I would recommend you read the following article which can be found on the parntinfo.org website:

<http://parentinfo.org/article/youtube-what-parents-need-to-know>

### Sporting Visitors

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome ex-pupil and National U15 Shotput champion Serena Vincent into our assemblies. Serena did a great job talking to the children about her achievements and about how she has overcome setbacks—she even had some video footage of her taking part in a Whiteley Primary School sports day to show the children how her athletic career started! Serena talked about the importance of having aspirations, about dedication and about not giving up, whatever your goal. It was fantastic to see one of our former pupils talking so confidently in assembly and we are hoping she will come back next year to give us an update on her sporting progress. She is aiming high, hoping to get to the World Youth Games in 2019 and we wish her all the very best with her sporting journey.



We are also delighted that Dave Henson, medal winner at the Invictus Games, has agreed to come in to school on the afternoon of our 'multi-marathon' on 24th June event to talk to the children about his sporting journey which we hope will inspire the children.

### A Message from the Queen

Pupils from 2DM have been delighted to receive a card from the queen and a personal message from one of her ladies-in-waiting to say thank you for the lovely pictures and cards they sent for the queen's 90th birthday. Apparently, she particularly liked the photos of the children dressed up for Kings and Queens day!

### JRSO Champion of Champions

Congratulations to our team of Junior Road Safety Officers who have been selected to take part in the Hampshire 'Champion of Champions' event in Winchester next month. They will be competing against teams from other Hampshire schools and we wish them the very best of luck.



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### Sports Festivals and Competitions

We have a number of children in KS2 taking part in sports festivals and events this term. Good luck to the Y5, Y6 and girls' cricket teams who will all be competing in local competitions this month.

A special mention must also go to our hockey and tag-rugby teams who have both qualified for the Hampshire Games in Aldershot at the end of June. This is a fantastic achievement for all involved and we wish them all the very best.

### Staffing Update

Later this term, we welcome back Mrs Reid from maternity leave. We'd like to thank Miss Rundle who has been covering 4R during this time and wish her luck as she moves on to her next adventure.

Mrs Mainwaring, one of our KS2 teaching assistants, will be leaving us on 1st July—but not for long! She has been accepted on to our local SCITT (teacher training course) and we are delighted that she will be returning to us in September to undertake her teacher training.

Finally, we will soon be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Ireton who has been working at the school wearing many different 'hats' over the past 11 years—as a midday supervisor, cleaner, display assistant (it's her creativity that often brightens up the entrance hall!) and more recently as a learning support assistant, Mrs Ireton has been at Whiteley Primary School around the clock, and she will be missed by staff and pupils alike. We wish her all the very best in her new job.

### Young Governors—Visit to Parliament

Just before half term, we were delighted to get the opportunity to take our Young Governors (plus a friend each) to the new education centre at the Houses of Parliament. The visit included a tour of Parliament and then a workshop in the education centre where the children found out about what each of the 'layers' of government do, and how they could have a 'voice'. Following some group activities, and a quiz to see what the children had learned from the workshop, the local MP for Fareham, Suella Fernandes, then came to meet the children for a question and answer session.

The children and staff had a great day, and despite the long train journey, it was well worth the adventure! Many thanks to Mr Greaves, one of our school governors, who managed to book the trip for us.

### A Few Reminders...

Please be aware that the back gate of the school is not usually unlocked for any open events which occur during the school day, other than for our KS1/2 sports days. This is to avoid disruption to playtimes and PE lessons which take place on the all weather pitch. Please use the main gates to the school—you will usually be directed around the outside of the building to access through classroom patio doors.

Please can I also remind parents that there shouldn't be any parking on the zigzags at the front of school, even when collecting pupils from after-school clubs. On some days, we can have over 100 children exiting the school from various clubs at 4/4.30pm and poor parking around Gull Coppice can cause unnecessary dangers for pupils who are trying to make their way home.