



Newsletter

November 2016

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents,

I'm delighted to inform you that we can now offer parents the support of a Home School Link Worker (HSLW) based at the school. Mrs Nicola Bevan, who many of you will already know through her work as a teaching assistant and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA), has undergone training to enable her to widen her role, offering support to children, parents and families, and providing a link between home and school. She can support with children's behaviour or anxiety, where families are dealing with significant changes such as bereavement or parental separation, or with a range of issues which impact on family life. She will also be supporting families with attendance and punctuality. Look out for the leaflet about the HSLW role and how you can access support from Nicola which will be coming out on Parentmail this week. Nicola is available for appointments each morning between 8.30 and 9.45am, and will also be making herself available at the school gates so that people can get to know her. Parents/carers can still contact our cluster Parent Support Advisor, Stella Pratt, for advice or support, should you prefer to speak to someone in your own home. If you would like some support for your family, but are unsure who would be the most appropriate person to contact, have a chat to Nicola who will signpost you to the most appropriate contact.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Exciting Sporting News!

We would like to share the very exciting news that one of our Y6 pupils, George Snow, has qualified to compete in the British Modern Biathlon Championships being held later this month. He goes into the competition ranked in 1st place for U11s! This is a fantastic achievement and we wish him all the very best in the competition which involves running and swimming.

Reading Challenge Update Y1-Y3

Thank you to all the families who have been supporting their Y1-Y3 child with the Bookworm reading challenge. A number of children are already proudly wearing their bronze bookworm badges, and we are looking forward to giving out some silver badges before Christmas. If your child hasn't yet started the challenge, it's not too late! Please ask your child's class teacher for a card—there is still time for them to get their bronze badge before Christmas. If you are finding it difficult to find time to hear your child read regularly, why not enlist the help of another relative, friend or grown-up sibling? We cannot stress enough how important it is for children to be reading regularly and we know that you will see the benefits in your child's confidence and progress if you are able to support with this challenge.

Another Great FOWPS Quiz Night!

A big thank you to all those who attended the recent FOWPS quiz night. As always, it was a great fun evening and also raised over £800. A special thank you must go once again to our fabulous team of quiz masters, Steve Griffiths, Stuart Sandy and Steve Cumes. Thanks also to those who donated raffle prizes. All the money raised will go towards the on-going project to replace the old interactive whiteboards—Y2 and Y3 will be the next year groups to benefit, hopefully later this term.



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Early Finish

Reminder—school finishes at 12.05pm on the last day of term

Attendance Update

Please can I remind parents that if your child is off sick, it is very important that we receive a phone call on the first morning so that we know that your child is safe. In line with county guidance, please can I ask that contact is made with the school by **9.15am** when registers close—after this point, the office staff are required to chase any unexplained absences and where a reason is not provided by 9.15am, the absence may be recorded as unauthorised.

Can I also remind parents who wish to make requests for term time absences that this should be made in writing at least one week prior to the date requested—a form is available at the office or on the school website. Absence request are dealt with once a week, usually on a Monday or Tuesday, and parents will normally be informed of the decision by return of form on the following day. Please note that retrospective requests will not be authorised, other than in very exceptional circumstances.

FOWPS Discos—Monday 5th December

Our Christmas discos are on a Monday this year, with separate discos for the different age groups as usual (YR—4-4.45pm, Y1/2—5-5.45pm, Y3/4—6-6.45pm, Y5/6—7-7.45pm). For new parents, our Christmas discos are held in the gym with a professional DJ. Teachers supervise the children whilst FOWPS volunteers organise the refreshments. Entrance is **£1.50** and this includes a drink. Pupils enter via the main office door, with collection from the gym fire doors (a board outside on the evening will tell you which door to collect children from each year group). Please bear with staff at the end of the discos as we make sure that children are collected by the appropriate adult and this can take a little time in the dark! It is helpful if parents can take coats away with them when they drop pupils to avoid a big pile to sort through at the end. Please can I remind parents that due to safety and security reasons, only pupils are admitted to the discos and parents are not able to wait inside the school building.



Cross Country Success



On Wednesday 12th October, the Cross Country team went to Boundary Oak School to take part in the Annual Festival. In the Y4 race, the team performed really well and came 2nd with Jack Potter finishing 3rd overall. The Y5 race, which was slightly longer, was won by Charlie Brakewell with Lucy Gledhill finishing as the first girl. Oliver Rhodes finished 3rd overall and along with the strong team helped secure 1st place in the team event. The final race was for the Y6s and was won by George Snow with Ollie O'Mahony coming 2nd. Another excellent team performance meant they won the team event too! Mrs Farlow was extremely proud of each and everyone of them for their fantastic running and the excellent sportsmanship they showed during the event.

Cross Country League Update— We are now halfway through the league races and have performed strongly in both the boys' and girls' leagues. Currently we are lying in second place in the boys' league and joint first in the girls' league. Well done to all those who have turned out to represent the school on a Friday afternoon at Portsdown Hill—I look forward to sharing more good news later in the season! As ever, we are very grateful to the support from staff and parents who make it possible for the children to take part in these events.



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Shoebox Appeal—A Great Result!

The Rotary Club of Whiteley would like to say a big thank you to Whiteley Primary School families who contributed filled shoeboxes for the shoebox appeal. This year, the school donated 205 shoeboxes which will shortly be on their way to children in Eastern Europe.

The Y2 team would also like to thank everyone who donated goods for Harvest which were donated to the Fareham Food Bank.



Christmas Dinner Day—Wear a Christmas Hat/Jumper/Accessory— Wednesday 14th December

Christmas dinner day is always an occasion that we look forward to at Whiteley. Children and staff love dressing up in their Christmas jumpers and enjoying food together. As is our tradition, there is no obligation for families to donate for this privilege but we have once again chosen a charity to support for those who would like to do so. This year, while we are tucking into our turkey and stuffing, we will be thinking about some other children who don't get as many delicious dinners as we do. Any donations that are made this year will be going to a charity called Phoebe's family, who raise money for a school and orphanage in Kenya. You may remember that we have helped them before with projects like 'Jambo Rabbits' and 'Boxes for Boys.' A few years ago our Christmas shoes boxes were delivered to children at the orphanage too. Now we are going to support a project called 'Chickens for Children.' Our Christmas jumper money will go towards buying chickens for the orphanage that will provide eggs and meat for the children who live there and those in the surrounding areas too. It costs £5 to buy, inoculate, send and feed each chicken, so just think how many chickens we could send if everyone in the school bought in £1! Thank you in advance for helping us to support this cause. It will make a real difference to many deserving children.

Tucasi Balances

Please be aware that due to increasing pressures on school finances, the school office will be asking parents/carers to ensure that their Tucasi account for dinner/trip money is at zero or in credit at the end of each half term, starting in December. The exception will be where there is a repayment plan in place to stagger costs over a longer period—for example, for residential trips and music tuition. (Please note that the deadline for the second music tuition instalment is 1st December). Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Volunteer Drivers

From time to time, the school asks for parent volunteers to help transport groups of pupils to events such as matches and music events. We have recently adopted the new county safeguarding policy which includes updated procedures for us to use to ensure that parents offering this support are aware of the legal requirements for making sure that their car is road worthy and that they have appropriate insurance etc. Rather than completing a form each time transport is offered, volunteer drivers will be asked to complete a form which will be kept on file. Forms will be provided to you by the member of staff organising the transport and should be returned to the school office. Please note that this only applies to transport brokered by the school—parents/carers may still make their own private arrangements with friends and neighbours.