



Newsletter

November 2017

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable half term break. Thank you to everyone who has passed on their good wishes about Mrs Gibbons. Her operation went well but she is now having to get used to taking things easy and relaxing to ensure she recovers well, ready for her chemo to start in a few weeks.

As we move into November, Christmas looms large on the horizon. If you are doing your Christmas shopping this month, please consider signing up to the Easy Fundraising website that FOWPS sent the link to last week when you are searching for websites to make purchases. It really is very easy, and by accessing your usual shopping sites via this link, a donation is made to FOWPS without any cost to yourself. There are hundreds of websites who are signed up to donate, including travel companies, insurance, and mobile phone providers, along with big names like Amazon, Marks and Spencer, Next, John Lewis and Debenhams. We have several projects we would like FOWPS to support this coming year and every bit of your support for FOWPS helps us to provide resources for the children in school.

You should receive an updated diary dates list with this newsletter. Please note that there are a few changes to dates for events in the final week of term due to the timing of the Y3 pantomime trip, so please discard your original diary dates list. It is a particularly long half term between now and Christmas, but as you can see, there is plenty to keep us going!

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher



Cross Country Festival Success

A number of children from Y4-Y6 attended a cross country festival last month at Boundary Oak School, competing against other local schools, and Mrs Farlow was over the moon with their results. The Y4 team won first place for the age group, with individual placings for Mila Graham (1st girl) and Luca Southall (2nd boy). The Y5 team also won first place position, with placings for Chloe Jones (1st girl), Ava Humphries (2nd girl) and Jack Potter (3rd boy). Finally the Y6 team placed second, with an individual placing for Ava Bennell (3rd girl). These were fantastic results for the start of the season, and we are looking forward to seeing their ongoing achievements at the Portsdown Hill races over the winter.

FOWPS Quiz Night— 24th November

Tables are still available for the quiz night on Friday 24th November. Contact the school office to book a table for teams of up to 8 people—£16 for the table. Bring your own food and drink.

A few 'Thank You's'!

Thank you for the generosity you have shown this term. Firstly, the clothing recycling collection raised £74.40 for FOWPS. The Rotary Club were also delighted to receive 193 shoeboxes for their appeal this year and the Y2 team were grateful for the Harvest donations which were given to the local food bank.





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Early Finish

Reminder—school finishes at 12.05pm on the last day of term: Thurs 21st Dec.

FOWPS Discos—Wednesday 13th December

Our Christmas discos are on a Wednesday 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.

Dropping off 'Plea' from Teachers

At Whiteley Primary School, we have an open door policy in the morning to enable you to speak briefly to the class teacher if you need to, and to see your child into the building. However, even from YR onwards, we encourage parents to allow children to come in independently to the classroom. This enables children to take responsibility for themselves, helping to build their independence, whilst also keeping the corridor/cloakroom areas quieter. Teachers have noticed that there are a number of parents who go through to the cloakroom and corridor areas on a daily basis. Please can we ask parents not to linger in the classrooms/cloakrooms/corridors. If you have concerns about how your child will manage on their own, please chat to your child's class teacher.

Library News

If you have been into the school recently, you may have noticed some changes being made to the central library area. We are amalgamating the fiction and non-fiction libraries into the central library near the office which we hope to have completed very soon.



The changes were made under advice from the school library service to help us keep a closer eye on our library stock - the latest stock check showed that there were over 3000 books that had gone missing since our last audit 4 years ago! Missing books are still being returned (including carrier bags full from ex-pupils!) and we would ask all parents to help their child check for library books at home (particularly older children who may not have been strict about scanning out fiction books through the library computer). All our library books will have 'Whiteley Primary School' stamped inside, along with a small bar code sticker inside the front page. If you find any 'colour banded' reading books when you are searching, we would happily have them returned, too!

Mrs Yeo, our library manager, is excited about the changes—it will be lovely to have our whole library stock in one area and it means she can be more on-hand to support with the selection of both fiction and non-fiction. The added bonus is that we have been able to create a new work area along the KS2 corridor which is going to be called 'The Orchard'. This will provide a designated area for our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) to work with children, as well as two areas for group work/reading.