



Newsletter

September 2016

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We really hope you enjoyed the long summer—and the sunshine which came with it. It is lovely to see the children back now, and getting into their new routines. We particularly welcome our new families—we have several children who have joined us in older year groups, as well as our new reception cohort who started with us last Friday.



We are really fortunate that all the building work carried out by Hampshire was finished over the summer, with quite a bit of weekend working to get it all done! A big thank you needs to go to our site team as they have had a very hectic time over the summer managing all the contractors but have done a great job of getting our school ready for the new term.

This week, you should receive the diary dates for the term as set so far. We have tried to plan as much in advance as possible, but will update you with any additional dates as soon as possible.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Sport Funding—Welcome to Miss Luff

This year, we are once again using our sport funding to employ a specialist PE teacher from Henry Cort. Miss Luff will be with us every Monday. The main focus this year will be developing gymnastics, with all year groups from Y1-6 receiving half a term of specialist teaching. Some classes will also receive specialist games sessions during the year.

One of the targets we have chosen to focus on with our funding this year is, “The engagement of all pupils in regular physical activity – kick starting healthy active lifestyles.” As part of this, we will be funding some breakfast multi-sport clubs provided by ‘My Coaching’ - a local sport provider. Initially we are targeting Y4 pupils—all the children have experienced a taster session and have been invited to sign up for the Friday morning club (8.15-8.45am). Up to half the spaces each term will be allocated to pupils who do not currently take part in any extra-curricular sporting activities, with the hope that we can encourage more children to regularly take part in exercise. We hope to extend this opportunity to other year groups later in the year.

YR/1/2 Universal Free School Meals—Census Day

School funding for the universal free meals for YR/1/2 will be based on the average take up on the Autumn and Spring census days this year. The first census day is on **Thursday 6th October** and once again we would urge all children from YR/1/2 to have a school meal on this day so that we are given adequate funding for the year. Thursday is not normally the most popular menu day and so once again we will be swapping the Thursday and Friday menu choices that week. We will be reminding you and the children of these changes nearer the time.

If your child is likely to have *any* free school meals this year (even if it’s only the Christmas lunch!), please make sure that they do so on the two census days to ensure we receive the funding.



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End of Key Stage Assessments 2016

Below is a summary of the results of our Y2 and Y6 pupils in their end of key stage assessments. This was the first year of the new assessments based on a more rigorous curriculum with much higher expectations for pupils. The data is therefore not comparable with that from previous years, although we have provided the provisional national data to provide a benchmark.

At the end of Key Stage 1, pupils were ‘teacher assessed’ against a set of criteria to see if they had reached the ‘expected standard’ in reading, writing, maths and science. Tests in reading and maths were used to support these judgements but it is only the teacher assessments which are published. This year, we were part of a sample of schools whose judgements were moderated by the county and we are therefore confident in the accuracy of our results which show that we were close to the national figures:

KS1- SUBJECTS	Whiteley Primary School % reaching the expected level	National % reaching the expected level
READING	73%	74%
WRITING	63%	66%
MATHEMATICS	70%	73%
READING/WRITING/MATHS COMBINED	56%	60%

At the end of KS2, pupils were teacher assessed in the core areas against national criteria, but also sat tests in reading, maths and ‘GAPs’ (Grammar, spelling and punctuation). This gave children a ‘scaled score’ where ‘100’ was deemed to be ‘meeting the expected standard’.

KS2—SUBJECTS	WPS % reaching the expected level	National % reaching the expected level	WPS—Average scaled score	National—Average scaled score
READING	75	68	104	103
WRITING (<i>T.Assessed</i>)	74	74	N/A	N/A
MATHEMATICS	79	70	103	103
READ/WRITING/ MATHS	58	53	N/A	N/A
‘GAPS’	76	73	105	104

We were particularly pleased during this first year of assessments to have achieved slightly above the national data in reading, writing, GAPs, and for the combined data, and to be in line with the national figure for writing. Now that the teachers are more familiar with the new curriculum and assessments, we can continue to build on the achievements of 2016. Whilst maths will continue to be part of our school improvement plan, we will be having a greater focus this year on the development of reading and writing, and will be continuing to work on ‘filling the gaps’ of our older pupils in all subjects, caused by the change in curriculum part-way through their schooling.

We are also mindful that the end of key stage tests measure only one small part of the primary curriculum—we continue to be committed to providing a rich, broad and balanced curriculum which inspires your children to learn whilst doing our very best to help them reach the new ‘expected standard’ in reading, writing and maths.



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INSET Days
Friday 7th
October
Monday 10th
October

Parent Volunteers

If you have a bit of time which you could spare to help in school each week, we would love to hear from you. Please chat to your child's class teacher to see if they could benefit from your help in class, or alternatively, if you'd prefer not to help in your own child's class, or if they do not require help at present, contact Mrs Gibbons via the school office who co-ordinates our volunteers across the school.

If you are able to offer 2 or 3 x 15 minute sessions per week (perhaps at the end of the day or first thing in the morning), Mrs Skipp would love to hear from you as we would like to ensure our successful 'paired reading' initiative is available to as many of our pupils who would benefit as possible. A Parentmail about paired reading went home earlier in the week.

Y6 Parents—Secondary Transition

We would like to remind Y6 parents that you will need to make your choice regarding which secondary school you would like your child to go on to by 31st October 2016—the on-line admissions form opens on 19th September. All the local schools organise events for prospective parents (and pupils) to visit and we would encourage you to make contact with the schools directly to make arrangements if you wish to visit. We will send out information to parents on Parentmail that we receive, but most schools detail their arrangements on their own websites. We do authorise Y6 pupils to visit schools with you for an arranged tour but please let the school office and the class teacher know of any such visits. Time out of school should be kept to a minimum with pupils in school for the rest of the day, before/after the tour.

Friends of Whiteley Primary School—Updates

Plans are already underway for our usual fundraising events this year, starting with a quiz night in October. The Christmas discos, 'Secret Santa' and clothes re-cycling dates are also on the school diary so please add them to your calendar. This half term, FOWPS are running our 'Christmas Card' project, with children designing an individual card of which you are able to order multiple copies in good time for delivery for Christmas. If you can spare a bit of time during the school day to help with the administration of this project, please let FOWPS know, either via their Facebook page or through the school office. They would really appreciate it if one or two people might be willing to 'shadow' this fundraiser with a view to overseeing the project next year.



We are delighted to say that a parent has volunteered to oversee the repair and preparation of the second hand uniform, following my request on the summer newsletter. It would now be great if we had a small team of people who would be willing to organise sales of the second-hand uniform at the end of the day once a term. This is a service which many parents really appreciate it, and it would be great if we could make the uniform sales accessible outside of our usual big events. Another 'stand-alone' role which FOWPS will need help with later in the year is the Reception 'tea-towel' fundraising project. We will be looking for a parent rep. from each YR class who will be willing to help co-ordinate this in the summer term. If you feel you could help with any of these projects, please do contact FOWPS.

This year, FOWPS have agreed to continue supporting the replacement of our classroom interactive whiteboards/screens and we are hoping that a number of classrooms can be upgraded this term.



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Mutli-Marathon Event—Final Total!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our multi-marathon sponsored event. The final total raised was an amazing £2,896.40. This will be added to the funds raised by FOWPS to continue the replacement of the interactive whiteboards in classrooms.



Are you in receipt of any of these benefits?

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

If so, please check whether your child is eligible for pupil premium funding by going online at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/caterers/hc3s> or contact the school office. (You will need your National Insurance number). Pupil premium funding comes directly to schools to support pupils from low income families. If eligible, your child will also be able to access free school meals, whichever year group they are in. We always deal with such enquiries discreetly and even your child doesn't need to know that their meals are free. You will also receive a £30 school uniform credit with our main supplier once your registration is complete.

Last day of term—early finish

Please note that the governors have once again agreed to an early finish time of 12.05pm on the last day of term—Friday 16th December.

Hair Accessories

Please can I remind parents that any hair accessories worn to school should be in school colours or 'subtle' such as black, white, grey, green, brown, or white. The children have come back looking very smart, but the occasional fluorescent flower, bow or band detracts from this!

Mobile Phones—Reminder

Please can I remind parents of older pupils that if you wish your child to have a mobile phone in school, you need to provide a signed note for the class teacher to give the reason. Your child should then hand the phone in to the teacher first thing in the morning, and it will be returned to them at the end of the day. Phones should not be left in bags in the cloakroom. Any mobile phones found in school without your written permission, or used during the school day, will be kept at the office until a parent can collect it.

Staffing Update

This term we welcome Ms Rebecca McAtasney to our teaching assistant team—she is working in Foxes class. We also have three new learning support assistants—Mrs Lindsey Maloney, Miss Emily Lord and Mrs Natalie Wyatt are supporting pupils in YR and Y1. Ms Katja Elo has been appointed to our midday supervisory team.

We do still have vacancies for lunchtime staff, as well as one cleaning position and a part-time admin assistant position. If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact the school office for further details or see the school website—community/job vacancies section.