



# Newsletter

September 2017

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term. The summer seems a distant memory, but hopefully you were able to enjoy some quality family time. The children have settled back into school really well, and we would particularly like to welcome our new families in YR and also in older year groups. We do still have a small number of spaces in Y4, 5 and 6 and so if you do know of families seeking a new school, please do pass this information on.



Those of you who use the boardwalk entrance will have noticed our brand new steps to the all weather pitch which were completed over the summer - we are really pleased with them. We have also had new carpets laid in the YR classrooms and the large touchscreens have been fitted in the Y1 classrooms. Due to the amount of rain over the summer, the retaining wall near the Y6 block had to be delayed but we hope that this work will be done at half term.

You should also receive the diary dates today. Please note that there are two further INSET days this term—**Monday 25th September** and **Monday 30th October**.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

## Are you interested in becoming a school governor?

During this academic year, we will be looking to recruit two new parent governors. We have a large and active governing body who play an important strategic role in the school, and it's a great way to contribute to helping our school develop and to maintain our success. There will be positions on both our resources committee (which oversees finance, resources, staffing and other business matters) and also the curriculum committee, who help to ensure that our school improvement plan priorities are implemented, as well as linking with year groups to help us monitor the impact of these plans on the children and staff. For the curriculum committee, it is useful if governors can carry out at least one visit a term during the school day to carry out pupil interviews, in addition to the meetings for the curriculum committee (4.30pm on Mondays, half termly). It is not essential for members of the resources committee to be available during the school day as meetings are held at 4.30pm (on Tuesdays, half termly). All governors are expected to attend the full governing body meetings (7.30pm on Wednesdays, half termly).

Further information for prospective governors will be available once we have sent out the paperwork about the election, but in the meantime, if you would like to know more about the role, please do contact the headteacher via the school office or have a chat to one of our current governors—their names and pictures are on the school website or the office can put you in touch with someone, if you wish.

In addition to parent governors, we are also interested in co-opting a governor from a local business or with another community link. If you know of someone who might be interested, please ask them to contact the school for an informal chat with the headteacher or chair of governors.



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### End of Key Stage Assessments 2017

Below is a summary of the results of our Y2 and Y6 pupils in their end of key stage assessments. This was the second year of the new assessments based on a more rigorous curriculum with much higher expectations for pupils. At both key stages, we have improved on last year's results. We are particularly pleased with the achievements of our Y6 cohort who have exceeded the national results in reading, writing and maths. We are also pleased to see the significant increase in children at KS1 achieving the expected for reading.

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.

KS1-SUBJECTS	Whiteley Primary School % reaching the expected (2016)	National % reaching the expected (2016)
READING	<b>82</b> (73)	<b>76</b> (74)
WRITING	<b>68</b> (63)	<b>68</b> (66)
MATHEMATICS	<b>76</b> (70)	<b>75</b> (73)
READING/WRITING/MATHS COMBINED	<b>64</b> (56)	<b>64</b> (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'. Our teacher assessments for writing were moderated by the county this year, and so we can be very confident in the accuracy of the judgements.

KS2-SUBJECTS	WPS % reaching the expected	National % reaching the expected	WPS—Average scaled score	National—Average scaled score
READING	<b>83</b> (75)	<b>72</b> (68)	<b>106.6</b> (104)	<b>104.1</b> (103)
<i>WRITING (T.Assessed)</i>	<b>83</b> (74)	<b>76</b> (74)	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>
MATHEMATICS	<b>83</b> (79)	<b>75</b> (70)	<b>106.3</b> (103)	<b>104.2</b> (103)
READ/WRITING/MATHS	<b>74</b> (58)	<b>61</b> (53)	N/A	N/A
'GAPS'	<b>77</b> (76)	<b>77</b> (73)	<b>106.1</b> (105)	<b>(106)</b> (104)

As ever, we are 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.

### 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.





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INSET Days  
Mon 25th Sept  
Mon 30th Oct

### 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. Training will be provided.

### 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 5th 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. Every little helps!

You may have heard recently that the government is planning to introduce a 'fairer funding' award for schools; this should particularly benefit Hampshire schools who currently receive some of the poorest funding per pupil compared to schools in other authorities. However, this is not planned to be implemented until 2019 and so although we are hopeful that our school budget will be stronger from 2019, things will still be extremely tight for the next two years. This is why it is *so* important for us to receive the funding we are entitled to for meals through the census.

### 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 2017—the on-line admissions form opens on 18th 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,

### FOWPS Clothing Collection for Recycling—Monday 2nd October

If you are having a sort out of wardrobes after the summer, please do collect any clothes for recycling and bring them in on Monday 2nd October for the next FOWPS clothing collection. They can be put in any plastic bag and brought to the basketball court between 8am and 9am that morning. The school is paid for every kilo collected with funds going towards resources for the children.





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### Rotary Club Shoebox Appeal



I will be launching the Shoebox Appeal next week in assemblies. I hope that many WPS families will be able to support this charity appeal once again this year. It's a lovely way to involve our pupils in thinking about children who are less fortunate than themselves, but also doing something positive and personal for them. More information will follow.

### 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.

### Term Time Absences and Penalty Notices — Update

Please can I remind parents that term time absences can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. All leave requests should be made in advance using the form available on the website or from the school office. Other than in rare, emergency circumstances, leave requests should be made well in advance as it is highly unlikely that requests will be approved retrospectively. Leave requests are looked at once a week and so time should be allowed for the form to be returned to you prior to making any arrangements. The attendance and punctuality letter on the school website gives more information about the definition of 'exceptional circumstances' (parents/termtime-absence).

Following the Supreme Court's judgement regarding the Isle of Wight appeal, all schools are expected to follow the Hampshire Code of Conduct for attendance. Hampshire have updated their guidance for parents regarding term time absence and the use of penalty notices; this can be found at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/hias/learning-behaviour-attendance/attendance-guidance-for-parents/possible-penalties.htm>.

As a reminder, the school is required to work with HCC to take legal action if

1. A child has unauthorised absence for 10 or more sessions within a 100 session period
2. A child is continually late to school and this lateness is unauthorised for 10 or more sessions
3. A child has any unauthorised absence during any formal examinations, assessment or testing.

Please note that each parent/carer can be issued a separate penalty notice for each child. A session is a half day of absence, therefore each day of unauthorised absence counts as 2 sessions. Penalty notices are issued by the county, and are paid to the county (not to the school). For further information, please see the website above.