



Newsletter

June 2018

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you enjoyed the good weather we had over the bank holiday. Let's hope for more sun this half term! Some of you may have spotted Mrs Gibbons when she has popped into school last half term. I'm pleased to say that she is now nearing the end of her radiotherapy treatment which followed chemotherapy, and is hoping to return to work part time in the next few weeks. On the first of July, a team from school will be supporting her and her daughter as they undertake the 'Race for Life' in Southampton—inspired by her determination, I am going to attempt to run the 5K (a bit of a challenge for me, but nothing in comparison to what Mrs Gibbons and others have gone through, fighting cancer). If anyone would like to sponsor a member of the 'Aly's Army' team in support of Cancer Research, donations can be made online via this link:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/alys-army/members?page=1>

There is also going to be a cake sale run by the staff at the end of day on Friday 29th June in support of this worthwhile cause. More information to follow.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Donation for the Young Carers Group

Many thanks to Steve Millis and the members of the Army Service Corp, Nil Sine Labore Lodge, who have once again made a generous donation to support our Young Carers group. Mrs Skipp is going to use the money for crafting materials for the children to use at their meetings.

Extreme Reading Result

Thank you to everyone who entered the 'extreme reading' photo competition. The entries are currently on display on the entrance hall screen. It was a tricky choice, but the book tokens were awarded to Jack (Y4) and Blake (Y2). We particularly liked Jack's WW1 themed photo.

Staffing Update—Changes for September

At the end of term, we will be saying farewell to Ms Jane O'Sullivan who is taking early retirement. Ms O'Sullivan has been at the school for many years, and we wish her all the very best and wish her some enjoyable term-time holidays! We will also be saying goodbye to Miss Ross who is taking on a new challenge at another local school, and wish her all the very best—including with her wedding plans!

We have already appointed two teachers for September—Mr Lahive and Mrs Paine will be joining the KS2 team, and we know you will make them feel welcome. They will both be joining us for the class swap afternoon and open evening on Thursday 12th July.

Just before half term, Mrs Fox (admin assistant) left the school office for a promoted post at Cornerstone Primary School. We wish her all the very best. Mrs Reid will be increasing her office hours to work every morning in school and we are hoping to appoint another admin assistant next week. In the meantime, please be aware that the school office is a little short handed at present, particularly in the afternoons at pick up time.



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Sporting News

Our netball team have performed extremely well this year, and have been selected to take part in the Hampshire Games later this term—a first for Whiteley! Congratulations to Miss Ross and all the children involved.

I'm also delighted to share that our football team got through to the final of the Hampshire Cup earlier this term. They played well, but were pipped at the post by Purbrook Junior School in the final. However, to be runners up in the county is a great achievement, so well done to Mr Evans and the team.

Sun Safety

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. In light of what we know of British summers, it's also a good idea to make sure they have a raincoat in school as well!



FOWPS Quiz Night—a Great Result!

Thank you to everyone who came along to support the recent quiz night. An amazing £771.57 was raised on the evening, which will all go to the latest FOWPS fund raising projects. A huge thank you to Steve, Steve and Stuart who made sure that we all had a great time on the night.

FOWPS are hoping to support the school in purchasing some iPads for use in KS1 from September, and every little bit helps. They have also purchased book prizes for the Y4-6 reading Ambassador challenge so that those who complete the final Topaz challenge will be able to select a book to keep.

GDPR Update

I'm sure, by now, that you are all fed up with numerous e-mails from businesses about the GDPR and updating your preferences! You should have received a communication last half term with our new privacy notice and the new policy is available on the school website. Later this term, we will start the process of updating some of the permissions which we require from parents as a school. For much of the work we do, we do not need to ask for parental consent to process pupil data as it is a core part of our work as a school, but there are some situations where we will be asking for parental consent. To make this more manageable, we have just purchased a module from Parentmail which will allow parents to give consent online with a click of a button, rather than having to print out forms and return to the office—so hopefully, no more lost reply slips! We will need a little time to get to grips with the new system, but we will then be trialling it for the full academic year 2018-19. We hope that it will help to save paper, but also time, for both ourselves and you as parents.

HSBC Community Day

I'd like to say a big thank you to Leon Hayles and his team from HSBC who gave up a day during half term to help out on the school site. They have repaired the paths in the woods with bark chippings, and the main adventure playground is also looking much better now with the earth surfaces covered. Thank you to all involved.



Parking Plea

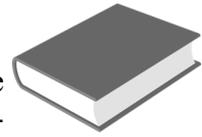
I have been contacted recently by residents of Hanoverian Way to ask for parents to show consideration when using this road at drop off/pick up time. There have been several incidents reported recently regarding inconsiderate parking and driving in the area. Thank you for your consideration of our neighbours.



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National Book Tokens Draw —Please sign us up!

National Book Tokens run a draw each year, with the top prize being £5000 worth of book tokens for the school library. Anyone connected with the school can nominate us, and if your entry is picked as the winner, you also get £100 to spend on yourself! The more nominations we have, the more chances to win in the draw, so please do go on to www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools and nominate Whiteley Primary School.



FOWPS Summer Fayre—Saturday 14th July—12-3.30pm

Look out for a separate letter giving details of how you can get involved with the FOWPS summer fayre later this term. As always, it promises to be a lovely family event. 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. It's not too early to sign up now!

FOWPS have managed to secure generous sponsorship for the event from Walker and Waterer Estate Agents, but they do need to identify two more local families who would be willing to have a Walker and Waterer sign board advertising the fayre at their property for a couple of weeks prior to the fayre. If you could help with this, please let FOWPS know on their Facebook page or via the school office.

New Classes for 2018/19

Our class swap afternoon is on Thursday 12th 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 have also decided to mix the Y1 classes this year to balance the learning needs across the cohort. 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 due to data protection laws, we are unable to share class lists with parents.

Please note that the information meeting for parents about Y2/3 transition will **not** be on the same evening as the open evening—we will let you know the date for this as soon as possible. Information meetings for the other year groups will follow in September.

News from Ex-Pupils

It's always lovely to hear news from our ex-pupils of their achievements when they move on to other schools. Recently, we've heard that ex-Whiteley pupils have been appointed as Head boy/girl of their respective schools—congratulations to Toby Clark and Ella Clarke. Congratulation also to Reece McGowan who has had a short story selected to be published in a Young Writer's book, 'Stranger Sagas'. Please do let us know if you have achievement stories from ex-pupils—it would be nice to make this a regular 'slot' on the newsletter.



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Sport for Schools—Visiting Paralympian

On Tuesday 26th June, we are hosting a ‘Sport for Schools’ sponsored event at Whiteley which will include a visit from Paralympic sprinter, Katrina Hart. During the day, all classes will be involved in taking part in a fitness circuit event and then in the afternoon, Katrina will be talking to all the children in assemblies about her life and achievements, and hopefully inspiring them in their own goals. Children will be invited to wear their own sport kit to school on the day. Further information about this event will follow next week.

Some very exciting news...

Last month, I was thrilled to be contacted by Hampshire Music Service, inviting Whiteley Primary School to provide a group of singers to take part in the National Children’s WW1 Centenary Concert entitled ‘Lest we Forget’ which is taking place at the Birmingham NEC in November. We are one of only 2 schools in Hampshire who have been approached to provide singers—we will be joining others from around the UK to make up a choir of 2000 children who will be performing pieces specially written for the concert, along with medleys of songs from the era. The children will be provided with T-shirts in poppy colours which will make up two huge poppies when they are all together.



This is a really exciting opportunity for our children and we currently have 43 children from Y5 signed up to take part—all those who have returned slips so far should be able to attend. Once we have the numbers confirmed, it is possible that we will also be able to offer this opportunity to current Y4s. We will let the children know as soon as possible if more spaces become available.

Mix-Up Morning Thursday 7th June—Is Plastic Fantastic?!



This Thursday, Y1-6 children will be taking part in a ‘mix-up’ morning of activities, linked to our use and recycling of plastics. The children will be considering how we use plastics, particularly single-use plastics, and the impact that it can have on the environment, including our oceans. HC3S are also supporting our theme as they have a special themed lunch commemorating World Oceans Day. They will be swapping the Thursday and Friday menus this week, so that fish will be served on Thursday, and will also be avoiding the use of any single-use plastics at lunchtime (see separate Parentmail for menu details).

Online Safety—Information about ‘Fortnite’

We are becoming increasingly aware that a number of our pupils are playing an online game called ‘Fortnite’. Although this use is mainly amongst our older pupils, we have also become aware of children as young as Y3 who are feeling pressured into playing the game, and children in KS1 who are exposed to the game due to their older siblings. Ultimately, we know that it is down to parents to make decisions about what their child is permitted to do out of school. However, we do feel it is important that these decisions are made from a position of knowledge. Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12 due to *‘frequent scenes of mild violence...not suitable for persons under 12 years of age’*. I would recommend that parents who are allowing their child to play, or are considering this, read this article from Childnet so that they can assess the risks for themselves. These risks come not only from the content of the game, but also the risk from overheard conversations as users play against people of all ages from across the world.

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/a-parents-guide-to-fortnite-battle-royale>