



Newsletter

November 2018

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your children had an enjoyable break. This half term is always one of my favourites at school, now that the children are settled into their new classes and there are so many events to look forward to in the lead up to the festive season. This Saturday, over 60 children and staff from Whiteley Primary will be travelling up to Birmingham NEC to take part in the National Children's WW1 Centenary Concert. The children have been working hard to learn the songs, and we are looking forward to being part of something really special.

As a school, we will be commemorating Remembrance Day on Friday 9th November. Our Y5s cover a topic on remembrance for their history and they will be leading an assembly for KS2 children on the Friday, as well as contributing to a display of poppies for Whiteley Shopping Centre. In class across the school, teachers will be talking about remembrance in an age-appropriate way, and at 11am on Friday 9th, children from Y2—Y6 will gather outside after playtime. We are fortunate to have Mrs Davies in school that day who will be playing the last post and reveille on her bugle to mark the beginning and the end of the silence. Royal British Legion poppies and other merchandise are now available from the school office in return for a donation—you should have received a separate parentmail with the details. We are also fortunate to have a theatre group coming in to school on Thursday to perform a specially written drama/puppet show for KS2 pupils based upon a true story of a local soldier who twice stayed at the Netley hospital during WW1—the same hospital he delivered newspapers to as a boy.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

FOWPS Quiz Night— 7th December

We are delighted that our usual quiz masters have agreed to run another fabulous quiz night for FOWPS on Friday 7th December (7.30pm for 8pm start). Tables are available for teams of up to 8 people—£16 for the table and you are welcome to bring your own food and drink. Tables can be booked via the school office.

Office Door—Reminder

Please can I remind all parents that if your child is late to school in the morning, you need to bring them to the office desk to be taken down to class by a member of staff. Parents are not permitted to access classrooms and corridors via the door through the library. If you need to speak to a teacher and have not been able to speak to them at the classroom patio door, please ask the office to make an appointment for you or they can arrange for a teacher to call you later in the day.

Parentmail Forms

We hope you are getting to grips with our new online forms through Parentmail. We have had lots of positive feedback which is great, although we know there have been a few hiccups! We have noticed that a number of parents are submitting forms without making a response, probably to clear the form from the inbox. It would be really helpful if you could just ignore forms for activities which you aren't interested in, rather than returning a non-response. To help with this, we will only be using the 'reminder' option from now on for forms which we need completed by all families. If you haven't yet submitted the forms for Y1-6 photo permission and for FOWPS, please can you do so as soon as possible.



November 2018 p.2

Early Finish

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

Date for your Diary—Monday 4th February

I'd like to give you early notice of an event for parents which we are holding on 4th February at 7pm. We will be hosting a workshop for parents called 'Laying Foundations For Positive Internet Use' which is being delivered by a Hampshire based child psychologist, Lorraine Lee. Lorraine comes highly recommended from schools and parents across Hampshire, and her workshops for parents are in high demand—this was one of only 3 dates she was available in the Spring term!

Her workshops are often charged out to parents, but we will be offering places for WPS parents/carers free of charge as developing good internet habits is such an important issue. Look out for more information on how to book a place on the workshop later this term. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more about Lorraine and her workshops, or reading some parent testimonials, see <http://lorrainelee.org/>.

FOWPS Discos—Monday 10th December

Our Christmas discos are on a Monday this term, 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). 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.

At the end of the disco, parents are usually asked to walk through the gym from the fire door nearest the school office, leaving by the opposite fire door once they have collected their child. Please bear in mind that we are unable to do this if the ground outside is wet as we need to keep the gym floor dry and therefore pick up can take a little longer if it is raining! 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.

FOWPS are intending to offer refreshments at the community centre for parents waiting during the discos. Further details will be sent nearer the time. As always, these events do need parents who are willing to help out. Please contact FOWPS through their Facebook page or via the school office if you are willing to help with the children's or adult refreshments.

KS2 Dinner Money Debt

In line with other local schools, we would like to remind parents that there is an expectation that school dinners should be paid for in advance (or on the day they are taken). The office spend a considerable amount of time chasing dinner money owed, and whilst in the majority of cases it is just a case of an oversight by the parent/carer, with payment being made swiftly following a reminder, we want to avoid families accruing debts which they may then find difficult to pay off.

If your KS2 child has school dinners, please ensure that their account is kept topped up to pay for meals in advance. If an account goes into arrears, we will allow up to 5 days for the account to be paid off. After this time, parents/carers will be asked to provide packed lunches for their child until the balance is paid. If your circumstances change and you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office who can check this for you, or you can do this yourself via the link on the HC3S website. YR/KS1 meals continue to be free for all children.