



Newsletter

September 2018

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. I hope you enjoyed the summer holiday—how lovely to have plenty of sunshine, for a change! I'm pleased to say that the work on the school went ahead as planned over the summer. The boardwalk repairs have been completed and new carpets have been fitted in the music room and office.

It's been lovely to be working alongside Mrs Gibbons again this term. She began her phased return before the summer, and is well on the road to recovery now and back at work most days. She wanted me to pass on her thanks for all the goodwill messages she has received and looks forward to getting back fully in to her role over the course of this year.

The children appear to have settled well into their new classes this term. If you do have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact the class teacher as we are always happy to work with parents to try and alleviate any worries you may have. Formal parents' evenings have been set for later in the term, but please don't feel you need to wait until the formal meetings if you have concerns. We look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Rotary Club Shoebox Appeal

We will be supporting the Rotary Shoebox Appeal once again this term. Further information will be sent out next week with a collection date just before half term.

Earrings Reminder

Please can we remind parents that for health and safety reasons, children with pierced ears should only wear small studs in school—please ensure that these don't have fancy designs which could catch on clothing when they are removing jumpers etc.

Reading Challenges

Since the start of term, I have been delighted to see a number of children from Y5/6 who have achieved their Topaz Reading Ambassador Award. They have done brilliantly to complete all 4 of the challenges that were set last September—reading almost every day for the year! They have each been able to choose a book to keep. The reading ambassador awards continue throughout Y4/5/6 so please encourage your child to keep working through the cards if they have not yet reached Topaz.

This week, we have also launched our new 'Reading Rocket' challenge for children in Y1-3—we hope this will help you to motivate your child to read aloud at home. Regular reading at home really does make a huge difference to children's confidence and fluency in reading.

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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End of Key Stage Assessments 2018

Below is a summary of the results of our Y2 and Y6 pupils in their end of key stage assessments. This was the third year of the new assessments based on a more rigorous curriculum with much higher expectations for pupils. Our KS1 cohort achieved above the National in all subject areas—our best results since the new assessments began. At KS2, we are particularly pleased with the increase in children achieving the expected in maths and grammar which put us well above the National in these areas.

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	88 (82)	75 (76)
WRITING	78 (68)	70 (68)
MATHEMATICS	81 (76)	76 (75)
READING/WRITING/ MATHS COMBINED	71 (64)	65 (64)

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.

Although the assessments are not published nationally, we would also like to share with you that we

KS2-SUBJECTS	WPS % reaching the expected	National % reaching the expected	WPS—Average scaled score	National—Average scaled score
READING	81 (83)	75 (72)	105.9 (106.6)	105.1 (104.1)
WRITING (T.Assessed)	85* (83)	78* (76)	N/A	N/A
MATHEMATICS	91 (83)	76 (75)	106.6 (106.3)	104.2 (104.4)
READ/WRITING/ MATHS	69* (74)	61* (61)	N/A	N/A
‘GAPS’	93 (77)	78 (77)	107.9 (106.1)	(106.2) (106)

are extremely proud of the achievements of children at the end of YR and Y1. Last year, 81% of our YR children achieved a ‘Good Level of Development’ at the end of the Foundation Stage (compared with 71% nationally). This is the highest figure we have ever achieved and is a reflection of the hard work the early years team have put in to develop our early years provision over the past 12 months.

Similarly, in the Y1 phonics check, the children achieved our highest ever pass rate with 87% of our children reaching the expected standard (compared with 83% nationally). We would like to thank staff and parents for their hard work supporting the children with this key skill.

As ever, we are mindful that the tests and assessments 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
Fri 5th Oct
Mon 8th Oct

Cycles and Scooters—A Plea

We have reminded all the older children in assembly today that they need to get off their bikes and scooters at the school gate in the morning and walk to the cycle racks. Can we also ask parents to ensure that younger siblings, including pre-schoolers, do not ride their scooters and bikes when in the school grounds - there have been a few occasions this week when adults and children have had to jump out of the way of oncoming riders!



New Benches

Thank you to Whiteley Town Council who have agreed to fund £500 towards the new picnic benches in the school grounds.

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

You may be aware that funding for the universal free school meals for YR/1/2 children is based on the average meal take up on the two census days in Autumn and Spring, which is why we have always encouraged as many children as possible to have a school lunch on these days. This year, it is even more important that our take-up of meals is high on census days as the cost of school meals has risen but our funding for them has remained the same since they were introduced in 2014. When the meals were introduced, we were funded at £2.30 per meal, but HC3S were only charging £2 per meal. This meant that we were able to use the surplus funding to support the additional lunchtime staff needed to support the changes. With the cost of meals now at £2.30, the only way we can generate the additional funding needed to help support the midday staffing is by maximising the numbers who take up the offer of a free school meal on the census day. Last year, between 22 and 25 children in YR/1/2 didn't have a school meal on census day—if they all had done so, this would have brought in around £10,000 additional funding for the school—that would pay for 7 midday supervisors or another teaching assistant!

This year, we would like to try a different approach. On census day (Thursday 4th October), not only will we be swapping Thurs/Fri menus so that the most popular hot meal choice (fish and chips) is available, the kitchen have also agreed to offer a picnic lunch option for YR/1/2 children who do not like the hot choices. We are going to ask **all** YR/1/2 parents to sign up for one of the options for their child in advance. If your child would normally have their own packed lunch, and you are concerned that they will not like everything in the picnic box, we invite you to send them in items from home to supplement the school cold lunch that you select for your child. (The picnic box will include a choice of cheese or ham roll, vegetable sticks, a piece of fruit and a choice of desserts—similar to the lunches provided for school trips.)

We hope that all YR/1/2 parents will support us with this. We will be sending home an online form shortly so that you can select which option your child would like on the day to enable the kitchen to plan.

You may have heard recently that the government is planning to introduce a 'fairer funding'

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 2018—the on-line admissions form is already available for applications. 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. Most schools offer open evenings to visit with pupils.



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Use of the school grounds

Please can we ask all families to leave the school grounds promptly once children have been collected at the end of the day, rather than allowing them to play in the woods and playgrounds. I also need to make you aware that we do not have toilets available for public use after the end of the school day. The corridor toilets are closed for cleaning shortly after the children leave classrooms and for safeguarding reasons, the hall toilets are only available for children who are attending after school clubs.

Has your work or family situation changed?

Have you checked to see if your child is eligible for Pupil Premium Funding?

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, your child may be eligible for Pupil Premium funding. These include 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 and Universal Credit.

You can check eligibility 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.

Celebrating British Food

HC3S are running a themed lunch on Thursday 27th September. The choices will be Roast beef, Yorkshire pudding and gravy or vegetarian toad in the hole, served with roast potatoes and seasonal British vegetables. Dessert will be New Forest ice cream with British strawberry fruit ripple—yum! We will send out a reminder nearer the time.

Parentmail Forms

We hope that parents are finding our new Parentmail Forms facility easy to use. Forms have already gone out for some clubs and trips, and most people have found it quick and easy to submit a form, particularly from the phone App. If you have any difficulties, please do ask at the office as they can help you with this. We will shortly be sending out forms to all year groups to update our photo permissions following the changes brought in with the new data protection regulations so it would be really helpful if all parents could check that they are able to access this service. We will be rolling these forms out one year group at a time starting from Y6. Please do respond to this form as soon as you receive it—with 627 children in the school, it would be really helpful if the office don't have to chase the forms! Please also ensure that you do check any boxes within forms that are relevant—you will either be asked to select one option from a list or to answer 'yes' or 'no' in response to a certain question. When you have completed this, click on 'submit'.

Family Photographs

The school photographer will be available after school (3.30—6pm) on Thursday 27th September to take family or individual photographs in more informal poses. These photos make great Christmas presents, but there is no obligation to purchase if you come for a sitting. Any families who would like to book a time, please contact the school office. Younger/older siblings/parents are welcome.