



# Newsletter

January 2019

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new year! We hope you and your children are feeling refreshed after the Christmas break. The diary dates for this term will be out to you next week and we look forward to another busy term at school.

Events this term include the Upper School Production which is going to be held at Henry Cort School once again. As you are probably aware, Whiteley Primary School has a strong tradition of opportunities in music and the performing arts, and last term it was lovely to have news and photos of ex-pupils who are now at 3 of the local secondary schools who have all maintained their involvement—playing and performing in music groups and productions, with many of our ex-pupils taking on the leading roles! It is lovely to know that the foundations we put in place at Whiteley help children to continue to experience success beyond primary school.

I also had the pleasure of attending the Henry Cort presentation evening last term, where the Y11s of 2018 were awarded certificates and prizes. Again, it was great to see ex-Whiteley pupils receiving a number of the top academic and sporting awards. The speech given to the students was provided by Kelly Simm (UK gymnast) who is also an ex-Whiteley pupil—I'm delighted that she's agreed to pop back to Whiteley Primary School during the Y3 healthy living topic later this term to help inspire the children.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

#### Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Yasmine Pittaway who became the first citizenship award winner for this academic year.

#### Thank You

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.

#### Health Advice

At this time of year, we often get queries regarding whether children can attend school with common childhood ailments and illnesses. If you are unsure whether your child should be in school when they are under the weather, you may find this web link useful <https://what0-18.nhs.uk/parents/carers/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool> which gives advice on whether your child should be in school, and how to treat common illnesses. Don't forget that school policy now allows us to give liquid paracetamol to children to relieve mild symptoms— if you haven't yet signed to give permission, please contact the school office who can provide you with a form. Advice from the NHS states that children with mild headaches, sore throats, colds and earache can usually be sent to school once they have been treated with paracetamol. Please be aware that the school does follow the **NHS advice for diarrhoea or vomiting**, which is that children should not return to school until **48 hours** after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

INSET Day Reminder—The school will be closed to pupils on Friday 15th February.



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### Maths Challenge Winners

Last half term, some of our Y6s took part in a maths competition against local schools run by Explore Learning at Whiteley Shopping Centre. They won the first round against local schools, and were then invited to compete in the regional competition where they continued to perform well as a team, persevering with some complex challenges. Well done to all those involved.

### Keeping up with social-media and online gaming

We are aware that a number of children at school received new technology for Christmas. Many of you may already have parental controls in place, or have ensured that your child has limited access to the internet. However, as children get older, we are aware that you may feel increasingly under pressure to allow them to access a range of social media or gaming apps. If you are in this situation, or if your child is already using a range of apps, I would urge you to keep up to date with the pros and cons of different applications to help you make informed choices about what you allow your child to access. The NSPCC have a great website called [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk) where you can find out more about the most popular apps, including what children and parents say about the risks for each, and what other parents (and children) recommend to help reduce the risks.

I have frequently been told by parents of KS2 children that they've bowed to their child's 'pester power', allowing them apps and technology as they have been told 'everyone else has it' - and then regretted their decision. If you find yourself faced with that choice, I would urge you to stick to your gut feeling (it is highly likely that 'everyone' does not have it, and you will be doing other parents a favour by standing your ground!) If you do allow your child to have access to social media and apps which allow online communication (including through online gaming consoles), please keep informed about how your child uses these; take sensible precautions regarding ground rules for use; and keep an open dialogue with your child about their online activity so that they can discuss with you issues they may have. In school, we have to spend a considerable amount of time unpicking issues that have stemmed from inappropriate or unwanted online communications between children out of school. These issues can have a considerable impact on children's learning and friendships in school, and therefore need to be dealt with, but staff would prefer to be able to spend this time supporting children's progress in class. Your support in keeping an oversight of these communications at home and helping your child to behave appropriately online would be greatly appreciated.

### Internet Safety—Workshop for Parents

On Monday 4th February, we are delighted to be able to offer a free workshop for parents on 'Laying the foundations for positive internet use'. Lorraine is well regarded in the county and beyond for her workshops for parents and teachers, and is in great demand! Her workshops are usually charged to parents, but we are pleased to offer this session free of charge. Spaces will be limited and offered on a first-come, first served basis—one per family initially. Please only sign up if you are certain to attend—there were a number of no-shows for our parent workshops run internally last term and we want to avoid empty seats for this event. A parentmail form will be coming out shortly.

### Do you know any new dads?!

Developed in conjunction with the NHS, the 'dad pad' is a new resource for dads, providing knowledge and practical skills to help support them with a new baby. The app is available to download free of charge to anyone with a Hampshire postcode. If you know of anyone in your family or community who might benefit, please signpost them to [thedadpad.co.uk/app](http://thedadpad.co.uk/app).



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### Warm Clothes Reminder

Please can you ensure that children bring warm coats into school each day, and make sure any hats/gloves/scarves are named. Can I also ask that you ensure that your child has some tracksuit or jogging trousers in their PE kit as we continue to do outside games through the winter months. Thank you.



### Census Day—17th January—School Lunch Reminder

On Thursday 17th January, we will once again be asking all YR/1/2 children to take up the offer of free a school lunch as this is the second census day when the funding for the universal free meals is calculated. The numbers who take up meals on census day are used to work out our funding for the rest of the year, so it is really important that as many children has possible take up a lunch on this day. In the Autumn term, nearly all children signed up and if we can match this again, it will make a considerable difference to our school funding next year. As usual, we will be making some changes to the Thurs/Friday menus that week to encourage take up and KS1 children will also be able to order a picnic option if they would prefer a cold lunch. See the separate parentmail for more details.

### Risk Assessments after injuries / operations

Parents may not be aware that if your child sustains an injury such as a broken limb (in or out of school), or has undergone a medical procedure which may inhibit their movement or access, we need to carry out a risk assessment before they return to school. This is to ensure that we have considered their needs such as movement in corridors, toileting, whether they are able to go outside for playtimes/lunchtimes, whether any aids they've been provided (e.g. crutches) are being used appropriately, and if they need any support to access lessons. These risk assessments are carried out by Mrs Bunyan who can be contacted via the school office. If your child is returning to school under these circumstances, for example after receiving an injury at the weekend or during a holiday, it is helpful if you can contact the school in advance to arrange to meet Mrs Bunyan with your child on or before their return to school.

### Have your circumstances changed recently? Are you in receipt of any of these benefits?

**Income Support                      Income-based Jobseekers Allowance                      Universal Credit**  
**Income-related Employment and Support Allowance                      Guaranteed element of State Pension**  
**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) .

If you are in receipt of any of the above benefits your child may be entitled to free school meals. If you have not yet registered your child, please do so by going online at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/caterers/hc3s>. You just need your National Insurance Number and date of birth. Alternatively, a member of the office staff can check online for you.

### Encouraging Your Child's Reading at Home

Thank you to parents of Y1-6 children who have been encouraging them to take part in the reading rocket or reading ambassador challenge—some Y1-3 children have just received their gold badges and are now starting on the super sonic rocket award. In Y4, the children should be working on their house coloured award, followed by the Onyx award. In Y5/6, many children have now moved on to the Amethyst or the final Topaz award—I have plenty of lovely book prizes and so hope I will see lots more children coming to me with their completed Topaz award card this year! Please do encourage your child to keep going. We know that regular reading practice can build confidence and fluency, helping children to become readers for life.

### Staffing Update

Welcome to Mrs Rebecca Sibley who has joined the midday team.

We are still hoping to recruit an additional cleaner for 2 hours per day. Please contact the school office for an application form.



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### Children's Fun Run

Next week in assemblies, the children will be finding out more about the children's fun run being organised in support of Dan Hughes' London marathon run for FOWPS. We hope that lots of them will be keen to take part in this event which takes place on the afternoon of Saturday 9th March at the Meadowside. The children will be bringing home details of how they can sign up, along with an updated sponsor form.

### Snow and Ice Plan

The following information is taken from the school's 'Snow and Ice Plan' which, along with risk assessments, helps us to ensure the on-going health and safety of pupils, staff and parents during wintery weather.

Where possible, we aim to keep the school open in icy/snowy conditions. Measures to support this include

- gritting of main pedestrian routes into the school;
- warning signs of potentially icy conditions;
- regular assessments of the safety of playground areas etc. so that areas can be closed/cordoned off if necessary;
- closure of routes on to the school site which are potentially hazardous.

*Please note that the boardwalk entrance may be closed in icy/snowy conditions - this is not necessarily because of the boardwalk itself, but because access to and from the boardwalk requires use of the steps/slope to the all-weather pitch which can become unsafe in icy conditions. Any closure will be notified using signs at the entrance and through Parentmail/texts.*

- In snowy conditions, the site team's priority will be to clear the paths to the main entrance, YR playground and piazza to provide safe routes to classrooms. Fewer entrances may be used if necessary.

The decision to close the school is not taken lightly, but may be made in the following circumstances:

- when it is deemed unsafe for pupils/staff to access the school site (after a heavy overnight fall of snow, time may be needed to clear access routes and make the site safe);
- if there is a failure with the school heating;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for pupils to make their way safely to and from the school due to local road conditions;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for an adequate number of staff to travel safely to and from school due to road conditions.

We are fortunate that we have a number of staff who live locally. It may sometimes be possible to open the school with a reduced staff during snowy conditions, as long as there are enough staff to provide adequate supervision for pupils. Other measures which have been used in the past to support safe travel to school include a staggered or later start to the school day to allow more time for travel.

We aim to communicate any decisions regarding school disruption with as much notice as possible. Notification of school closure will be made using Parentmail, the school website and through local radio stations. Hampshire County Council website also publishes an up-to-date list of school closures and a message will be left on the school answer phone (if access has been possible!)