



Newsletter

February 2019

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

How lovely to see the sunshine! We hope you had a good half term break and we are looking forward to spending more time in the school grounds now that the weather has improved. We are also looking forward to the FOWPS Bunny Run which is taking place at the end of March and hope that the sunshine will continue until then! Further information about how you and your child can get involved will be coming out shortly.

Thank you to everyone who encouraged their child to get involved with the fun run in February, and for supporting through sponsorship. This event alone has nearly raised enough to purchase a set of iPads for KS2, which was our hope for the FOWPS fundraising this term, and we are looking to get these in place in the summer term. The second special event being organised by the Hughes family is the charity ball this weekend and this is also set to be a great fundraiser for the school. We are so grateful for the support of the wider community for these events (and especially to the Hughes family for all their hard work and commitment). As well as purchasing iPads, by the end of 2019, we need to have upgraded much of our IT hardware in school to enable us to move on to Windows 10. This is a huge investment for the school as you can imagine, and so we have asked FOWPS if all fundraising efforts this coming year can support the IT development. This includes plans for a new IT suite with 30 PCs which we are hoping to install in the current Oak Room along the KS2 corridor. The existing computer suite will become the 'new' Oak Room so we will still have a teaching space for larger groups. We are very excited about these developments and looking forward to sharing more news as they progress.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

KS1 Census Lunch—Update

Thank you so much to parents of YR-2 children who encouraged their child to have a school meal on census day—we had nearly 100% take up! This will have a really positive impact on our funding next year.

World Book Day Events

Just a reminder that to celebrate World Book Day next week, we are holding several special events. On Monday, our older pupil librarians are visiting Hamble Heights care home to share some of their favourite stories with the residents. The residents really enjoy their visits from our pupils, and it's lovely to see the children get so much from the interaction as well. During the parents' meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, we have an Usborne book fayre at the school and children will be able to use their World Book Day £1 token towards a book, if they wish. There is also a Potato Character Competition running next week—any entries should be brought into school between Mon 4th and Thurs 7th March for judging. Finally, on Friday, we are holding a dress up day with children encouraged to come to school dressed as a book character. We will be taking the opportunity to develop the children's interest in books and reading during the week, sharing some of our favourite stories and books as well.





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Lunch Money Reminder

Please can I remind parents that payment for school meals is expected in advance or on the day. As we are approaching the end of the financial year, we would appreciate parents making sure that accounts are settled. Where there are financial difficulties, we ask parents to make contact so that we can agree a payment plan, but parents are asked to provide a packed lunch for their child until dinner debts are cleared as it would be irresponsible for us to allow further debt to accrue.

IMPORTANT—Internet Safety Update

We hope you found the notes from the recent internet safety workshop useful. One useful piece of advice was to make sure that your child isn't your sole source of information about technology. If you require up to date information about a particular app your child has asked about, you may find this link useful <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>. This includes links to one page spread information about the most popular apps, including 'TikTok' (formerly known as Music.ly). <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/tiktok-all-you-need-know/> also provides useful information and links. Concerns about inappropriate communications via this app have been shared quite widely on social media recently, and this will help to update you on the risks around letting your child have access.

Momo Challenge

Another concern which is currently circulating widely on social media at present is regarding the 'Momo' challenge. It has been reported that the face of the Momo character has popped up on YouTube or other apps which children access, and encourages them to make contact with an unknown number through WhatsApp— some of the pictures and messages shared are disturbing. In school, we continue to regularly talk to children through their computing lessons about online safety and what to do if they come across something online that makes them uncomfortable, but it is also important that parents have these discussions at home. **However, I would urge caution about discussing this challenge directly with your child**—we have a number of children in school today who have been talking about being scared of 'Momo', as they have been spoken to directly about the character and the dangers associated with it. This has caused them upset and in some cases nightmares when I'm sure the parental intention was to protect their child. Once children hear about the challenge, they are more likely to want to 'google' it, and therefore even without being targeted by what police believe are hackers circulating this challenge, they are being affected by what they find out.

Police in Northern Ireland, where the Momo images have reportedly been seen by children, are appealing to parents to not simply focus on Momo, urging them to:

- Ensure they know what their children can access online
- Ensure children understand the importance of not giving personal information to anyone they do not know
- Tell their children no-one has the right to make them do anything they do not want to do
- Use parental controls to keep children safe

The NSPCC has some really useful advice about how to start conversations with your child about staying safe online

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/>



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Sporting Updates

Congratulations to the Y5/6 netball team who worked really well together at the recent festival at Henry Cort, qualifying for the next round. Our football team are also playing well in the Fareham 'Champion's League' and have several matches over the next few weeks. We are also hoping for further good news from the cross country teams with the boys and girls team currently in 2nd and 3rd place in the league with just a couple of races yet to run.

Exciting News from Robot Liz-ii!

We are delighted to share some exciting news about recent ex-pupils, Poppy and Lucas Flanigan, and Team Agile Supernova, run by Liz Stoneham (AKA Robot Liz-ii!) who runs the robot club in the Autumn term at Whiteley Primary School. As part of Team Agile Supernova, they won the First Lego League Tournament regional heat held at the University of Portsmouth in December and therefore qualified to compete at the FIRST® LEGO® League UK and Ireland Final Tournament held in Bristol during half term. The team is made up of pupils from a number of local schools, all of whom attended Liz-ii's robot clubs at their primary/junior schools in Y6.



FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) is a global science and technology challenge for teams of ten students aged 9 to 16 years, to encourage an interest in real world issues and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers. The students work together to explore a given topic and make a presentation as well as design, build and program an autonomous LEGO robot to solve a series of missions.

Below is an update from Liz-ii about the final:

“It was an incredible day at the UK and Ireland First Lego League (FLL) Finals at Bristol. Poppy and Lucas Flanigan were part of Team AgileSupernova and although we did not bring any trophies home, we returned with something so much more important...a group of young people with an incredible future ahead of them. I could not be prouder of them. Solving problems, giving presentations and working as a team boosted their confidence to achieve what seemed impossible to start with. They worked at it and got to the Finals – an achievement in itself.

There are three parts of FLL – the Robot Missions, the Project and Teamwork. Firstly, the team worked hard from mid-September 2018 designing and building the Robot then programming and running the Robot Missions to achieve as many points as possible. At the Finals we came 18th out of 60 teams in the Missions - a brilliant result.

Secondly, this year's INTO ORBIT challenge was all about space – the project was how humans survive for extended periods in this environment. AgileSupernova chose to research a sustainable food solution by breeding live cockroaches and crickets in space. Poppy and Lucas were part of the team that researched the project and gave the presentation to the judges.

Thirdly, the team worked well together to achieve the tasks. This is not easy when the team came from four different schools and did not know each other at the start. However Poppy and Lucas were an integral part of the team and fitted in well with the other members.”