



Newsletter

June 2019

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the final half term of the year. We hope you all had a good half term break. We are looking forward to lots of events this half term and you should have already received the updated diary dates.

You may have noticed that we have been a bit short staffed in the office recently. Mrs Binks had a hip replacement operation at Easter, and although she is making a good recovery, she will be off until mid June when she is hoping to start a phased return. She is likely to be having the second hip replaced at the end of the summer holiday so it won't be until later in the Autumn term that we are back to capacity in the office. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Binks a speedy recovery and wishing her back with a spring in her step before too long! In the meantime, I am grateful to the other office staff who have taken on extra hours to help hold the fort. Please bear with us if there are few more queues at the desk at the moment, though, particularly in the mornings. When Mrs Binks does return, she won't be supporting at the front desk to begin with so please don't think she's ignoring you if she remains seated!

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Dress for the Weather!

In light of our lovely, changeable British summers, please can you ensure that your child is equipped each day for sunshine or showers! They need a raincoat in school each day, but also should have their water bottle and a hat. 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.

Studybugs—Informing us of Pupil Absences

We have just realised that it has been 18mths since we launched the use of the Studybugs App and we haven't promoted this again with our newer parents. Studybugs is an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness which can be used instead of calling the school first thing in the morning. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

To get the app or register now, please visit <https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

Top 3 reasons to use Studybugs

1. It helps us know sooner if your child is unaccounted for.
2. It's quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted.
3. You'll be helping the NHS and other public health organisations improve children's health.

Please can I remind all parents that it is vital that you contact us on the first day of absence **before registers close at 9.15am** as we have a safeguarding duty to follow up on any absences. Studybugs can also be used to update us if your child is off for more than one day. If you have a child who has 1:1 adult support, we always appreciate notification of sickness absence as early as possible in the morning (by 8.15am) so that we know which teaching assistants might be available on the day to cover staff absences.



June 2019
p.2

School PE Tops—Available from the Office

The school office now have their own stock of the house PE T-shirts (sizes 5/6 up to 11/12) which can be purchased directly from the school. These can be bought in person for £6 (cash or cheque made payable to Whiteley Primary School). If you aren't able to come in person, please phone or email to check we have the colour/size required and the office can put one by for your child - money may be sent in a labelled envelope. Larger sizes, and the full range of uniform, can still be purchased direct through AJEmbroidery.

FOWPS Summer Fayre—Saturday 29th June—11.30am -3.00pm

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 but please note the slightly different earlier time slot this year, starting at 11.30am. It will therefore be really helpful to have a few more volunteers willing to help our site team with the set up! Please put it in your diary and consider offering a helping hand for an hour or so—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!

New Classes for 2018/19

Our class swap afternoon is on Thursday 11th July, when pupils will find out their teacher for next year. As our current Y2 cohort were mixed last year at the end of Y1, this year it will only be the Y4 cohort who will be mixed to make 3 new class groupings. 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.

Staffing Update—Some changes of face!

At the end of term, we will be saying farewell to several staff who have been with the school for a long time. Mrs Johns (TA), Mrs Pinches (senior midday supervisor) and Mrs Shelverton (midday supervisor) have decided to retire and we thank them for the many years they have served the school, and wish them happy term-time holidays! Mrs Anthony (LSA) is embarking on a new challenge, starting her teacher training at another local school in September, and we wish her the very best of luck. Just before half term 5P gave Miss Port a lovely celebration for her wedding - the new Mrs Saxby is happy to be known as Miss Port or Mrs Saxby for the remainder of the term in school. She has also made the decision to leave Whiteley at the end of the summer term to enable her to explore new challenges. We wish her all the best and thank her for her many years at Whiteley Primary. We will also be saying a fond farewell to Mr Evans (Y4/5 phase leader) at the end of term as he has secured a deputy headship at a school in Southampton. Mr Evans was one of my first appointments as headteacher at Whiteley, and I wish him all the very best in his exciting new role.

It is always sad to say goodbye to staff who have given so much to our school, but we also welcome the new ideas and experiences that come with new staff. We have already made appointments for September: Miss Rintoul will be joining the KS2 teaching team from another school; Mrs Paton (currently acting up as Y6 TA) has been appointed as permanent KS2 TA; and Mrs Brearley will also be joining the KS2 TA team. We have also appointed another experienced KS2 teacher for the year to give us time to advertise and appoint Mr Evans' replacement on the senior leadership team.