



Newsletter

September 2019

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you and your families have enjoyed the summer holiday. It has been lovely to see the children back in school and settled. On the first day back, I explained to the children in assembly that they are part of a big 'jigsaw puzzle' which isn't complete until they return after the summer. Now we are 'complete', we are looking forward to working together as a school this year!

Over the holidays, I'm pleased to say that our new ICT suite was completed and the children have started using it this week (just waiting for a delivery of stools!). The new set of KS2 iPads, purchased with the fundraising from FOWPS, are all set up and in use. We have had new carpet laid in the old IT suite, and have made this area into the new 'Oak Room' so that we still have a large group-work space for our Y5/6 maths splits groups. We have also renamed the Y5 shared area 'The Orchard'! I'm delighted to say that we have an ex-pupil, Lucy Savage, coming in this week to paint a new mural to help us remember the new name! Lucy is studying fine art at University and we are grateful to her for giving her time.

The site team have worked hard over the summer to get the school ready for the start of term. As you can imagine, with grounds of our size, this is not easy to keep on top of. We were therefore hugely grateful that a team from HSBC carried out a volunteer day at the school over the holidays, and it is thanks to them that the garden and greenhouse area are looking so much better. A big thank you to Rob Banfield and the team who made this possible. We are hoping to get the raised beds back in use this year.



As ever, there is a busy term ahead of us—look out for the diary dates which should be with you by Monday as we are still finalising some arrangements. This newsletter is a 'bumper' edition, but please do keep reading to the end! There is some important information about our curriculum on the final page.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Hampshire Education Awards

I would like to pass on my congratulations to 4 members of staff/governors who were nominated for a Hampshire Education Award in the summer term.



Although they didn't make it through to the shortlist for the awards, they received a card of thanks from the county and should be proud of their achievements which led to the nominations. Two teaching assistants, Mrs Burnham and Mrs Pointing, were both nominated in the 'Teaching Support' Award category. The YR team were nominated by the governors for their work in developing the Early Years since 2017. Finally, Mrs Maggie Coombes, our safeguarding governor, was nominated in the Governor category for the significant work she has put in to support the school in this area.

YR Admissions 2020

If you have a child who is turning 4 this academic year, applications for Reception school places open on 1st November. We have set a number of dates for school tours—please see the school diary dates or the website. Tours can be booked by contacting the school office. As an existing parent, you may not feel the need to book onto a tour, but please don't miss the deadline of 15th January for applying for your child's place. Even with a sibling on roll, if you apply late for a place there is no guarantee that your child will be offered a place at WPS—so please don't put off making your application!



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End of Key Stage Assessments 2019

Below is a summary of the results of our Y2 and Y6 pupils in their end of key stage assessments. We are delighted that at both key stages, the cohorts achieved above the National in all subject areas. We have also seen an increase in the proportion of children achieving at greater depth (high score) at both key stages. At the end of Y6, 39% of the cohort achieved a high score in reading, 40% in maths and 50% in the grammar, punctuation and spelling test.

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 (2018)	National % reaching the expected (2018)
READING	91 (88)	75 (75)
WRITING	80 (78)	69 (70)
MATHEMATICS	86 (81)	76 (76)
READING/WRITING/ MATHS COMBINED	73 (71)	65 (65)

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’.

KS2-SUBJECTS	WPS % reaching the expected	National % reaching the expected	WPS—Average scaled score	National—Average scaled score
READING	82 (83)	73 (75)	106.3 (105.9)	104.4 (105.1)
WRITING (T.Assessed)	87*(87)	79 (78)	N/A	N/A
MATHEMATICS	87 (91)	79 (76)	107.8 (106.6)	105 (104.2)
READ/WRITING/ MATHS	80 (69)	65 (61)	N/A	N/A
‘GAPS’	88 (93)	78 (78)	108.4 (107.9)	(106.3) (106.2)

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 ‘expected standard’ in reading, writing and maths.

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 2019—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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INSET Days
Thurs 3rd Oct
& Fri 4th Oct

Family Photographs

The school photographer will be available after school (3.30—6pm) on Thursday 26th 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.

Parking—Reminder

We have already received complaints this term from local residents in Java Drive and Hanoverian Way about double parking and blocked driveways at school pick up time. Please show consideration to the local community when you are on the school run and allow time to park slightly further from the school if necessary to be able to park safely and courteously.

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

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 always encourage as many children as possible to have a school lunch on these two days. Last year, thanks to your support with this, we had nearly 100% take up of meals on the census days which has resulted in increased funding for our school this year. Following this success, we are keen to continue with the same approach. We will therefore be offering some of the most popular lunch choices on the census days again, with the kitchen also offering a picnic lunch instead of the jacket potato option on these two dates.

This October, the national census day falls on one of our INSET days and so our KS1 meal numbers will be taken from the next normal school day which is **Monday 7th October**. That week, we will be swapping the Monday and Friday menus so that the fish and chips option will be on the Monday. 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, particularly if your child chooses the picnic box option. We hope that all YR/1/2 parents will support us with this. It is *so* important for us to receive the funding we are entitled to for meals through the census.

Reducing Single Use Plastic

I'm delighted that HC3S have agreed to the purchase of sturdy, re-usable plastic sundae dishes for our school kitchen so that they can reduce the amount of single use plastic (for jellies, fruit puddings etc) without limiting the offer to our children. We now just need to make sure the children know not to throw these away when they've finished their meal! A big thank you to Mrs Greaves for taking on board the children's concerns about plastic and for helping us to find a solution.



Collection Arrangements—YR Siblings

Our new YR children start full time next Monday and so I would like to clarify the arrangements for collection of siblings if you have children in other year groups as well as YR. If the older sibling is in Y1 or Y2, at the end of the day they may come down through the corridor to the YR classrooms and leave via their YR sibling's classroom door. We do ask that they wait by the cloakroom so that the YR children can be seen out first. Please let your child's class teacher know if this is the arrangement. If the older siblings are in KS2, they should leave by their own classroom patio door and make their way to the front of the school. Please make arrangements for them to meet you in a certain spot (for example, by the lamppost outside the office, or at one of the benches). This prevents the YR classrooms becoming too congested with older children at the end of the day.



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School Games Mark

We are delighted that the school has achieved the Silver School Games Mark for our commitment to extra-curricular and competitive sport.

Contact Details—Updates

If any of the contact details for your child have changed (including those for second/third contacts), please let the school office know asap so that our records are kept up to date. We increasingly find people changing mobile phone numbers (or swapping their phone with someone else in the family) which can delay us being able to contact someone in an emergency.

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.

Termtime Absences and Penalty Notices

This is a reminder that we follow the Hampshire Code of Conduct for attendance. If you wish to request an absence for your child during termtime, please complete a termtime absence request form which is available on the website or from the school office. Requests are looked at on a case by case basis, but be aware that requests for holidays during termtime are rarely authorised and only where there are exceptional circumstances. Where unauthorised absences are for 10 sessions (5 days) or more within a 100 day period, penalty notices are issued by the county (per child and per responsible adult/parent—so if both parents take two siblings out of school for the holiday, four separate penalty notices will be issued). Please be aware that if a family has unauthorised absences but have already had penalty notices issued in the past, the case may go to court rather than being dealt with through further penalty notices. Our attendance policy is available on the website, and there is further advice to parents on the Hampshire County Council website <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/behaviour-attendance-parents#step-6>.

Reading Challenges

Well done to all the children who've kept up with their reading over the summer. For those of you whose children have got out of routines during the holidays, now is the time to get back into those great reading habits! This week, we are launching our Bookworm reading challenge for Y1-3—your child should have brought home the bronze reading card and you should have received a letter about how the challenge works. We hope this helps to motivate your child to read aloud at home—if it doesn't, please speak to your child's class teacher for advice on how best to get your child excited about reading. It is such an essential skill that reading homework should be seen as a 'non-negotiable!' Children in Y4 will have received the first of the reading ambassador challenge cards which continue into Y5 and Y6. All children in the upper school are encouraged to continue with these challenges, reading independently as well as reading aloud or discussing their book at least once a week. If you have a Y5/6 child who had mislaid their card from last year, replacements can be requested from the office or your child's class teacher.



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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.

Curriculum Changes

Over the past year, we have been in the process of reviewing our curriculum policy in school, considering the aims of our curriculum, how we implement the curriculum and whether our curriculum remains relevant and interesting to the children, whilst also covering statutory requirements. Whilst much of the content we will teach remains the same, we have been looking at different ways to engage the children, making sure that children are given purposeful outcomes to work towards, and also thinking about how we make links across the curriculum. Teachers have a new planning format to use to support consistency across the school, and they have been thinking carefully about how to link subjects together to make coherent ‘learning journeys’ for the children.

The first change you may notice as parents is that instead of ‘curriculum newsletters’, you will receive ‘Learning Journey overviews’ from your child’s year group which will detail the cross-curricular learning that will be happening. All Learning Journeys have 5 elements:

- **Get them hooked, keep them hooked**—this is the enrichment activities or ‘hooks’ to help the children get excited about the learning.
- **Shape the learning**—staff will make decisions about which subjects to link together, ensuring coverage of the National Curriculum, but also considering other elements to focus on during the learning journey such as our school learning values, British Values or Rights Respecting Education.
- **Teach the Core**—this is the key knowledge or skills that we want all children to learn during the learning journey.
- **Give them a purpose**—each learning journey will have a purposeful outcome to enable children to apply the knowledge and skills learnt.
- **Give them a voice**—within each learning journey, children will have opportunities to express themselves, give opinions and/or make choices within their learning.

Some learning journeys will last for up to half a term—others might be just for a couple of weeks. You should receive a new overview as each learning journey commences. Alongside the linked subjects, other areas of the curriculum will continue to be taught discretely and these will also be detailed on the learning journey overviews so that you are kept updated with what your child is learning. The weekly home-learning sheets/Y5/6 pupil logbooks will continue to be used to give more detail about what your children should be practising at home in a particular week.

We will welcome your feedback on these overviews later in the year.

Your Park, Your Say

As part of the Council’s Play Area Improvement Programme, Clydesdale play area will receive an upgrade in 2020. Before any changes are made to the play area, Fareham Borough Council are carrying out a consultation to find out what equipment local residents would like to see there.

The consultation will run until Monday 7th October. More information about the consultation can be viewed at www.fareham.gov.uk/consultations.

