



Newsletter

April 2021

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

The sun is shining and it certainly helps to lift the mood! Our school grounds really come into their own at this time of year and it's been lovely to see classes out making the most of our environment since the holiday—whether that's Y6s practising their performance poetry, Y4s pond dipping, or our YR/1 children enjoying their daily opportunities for outdoor learning, it really helps to bring the learning to life. We have also been excited to be able to start some school trips this term, with Y4s attending a day trip to Stubbington Study Centre last week in lieu of their planned residential trip, and Y1 off to Hilliers Arboretum in May. We have fingers crossed that these little steps to normality will continue over the term.



We are obviously continuing to follow the DfE guidance regarding Covid measures for schools. There are no significant changes yet in the guidance, but we are adjusting some of the measures which we tightened during the Spring term due to the higher Covid rates and government restrictions. Once the latest risk assessment is confirmed, this will be updated on the website, but I will write to you of any significant changes as they are introduced.

Our staff and visitors are continuing to access twice-weekly lateral flow Covid tests to help pick up any asymptomatic Covid cases and we would encourage all families to do the same as all are able to take advantage of this via the local testing site or ordering online. If the adults in your household have not yet taken this up, please do look into it <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. Whilst rates are low, we know that there are still new cases in Hampshire and finding those who have the virus early helps to stop the potential spread which hopefully means we can all get back to normality quicker!!

We hope that you have managed to book and access a virtual parents' meeting this week—it's not our preferred method of communication, but hopefully it will help you to put a face to the names and voices of teachers. We know many of you have not actually met this year! We are so looking forward to being able to welcome parents more freely into school, but in the meantime, thank you for supporting us with the adaptations we are continuing to make to our usual practice.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Citizenship Award Winner

Many congratulations to Evie Kelly who was voted the Spring term citizenship award winner in Y6.

FOWPS Spring Competition

Thank you for all the fantastic entries for the FOWPS competitions. The overall winners were Zac Crutchley (YR) and Blake Boden (Y5) but there were also plenty of chocolate goodies for the runners up.

The Big Ask

Hopefully you have seen the separate Parentmail about 'The Big Ask' - the largest children's survey conducted in this country. Children in Y2-Y6 will be completing this in school over the next few weeks but we would really encourage parents of YR/1 children to help your child to access the relevant survey for their age group from home to give them a 'voice'. Google 'the Big Ask' and you will find the links.



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Reading Challenge Reminder

It has been great to see lots of children coming to claim their book prize for completing the Super Star reading challenge in Y1-3. Please do encourage your child to carry on working towards their next award. Children in Y4-Y6 can also be encouraged to keep working on their reading Ambassador awards. They can earn a House award, Onyx, Amethyst and Topaz award through independent reading. I've given out a flurry of Amethyst reading awards this term already (with lots of house points) but it would be great to be able to award some more prize books for those who complete the final Topaz challenge.

News from a former pupil



Recently, we have been sent some pictures of Joshua Harper who left Whiteley Primary around 9 years ago. He joined the army and is currently serving in the Household Cavalry, having never ridden a horse before joining the forces! Joshua was in attendance at the funeral of HRH Prince Philip and can be seen on duty on Remembrance Day in the picture on the top left .

It's always lovely to hear news from our ex-pupils, and to find out how their lives and careers have developed, and we are grateful to Joshua's family for keeping us in touch with this news.



Tick Advice

Just a reminder that during May and June, the whole of the Whiteley area is prone to ticks. Parents may like to familiarise themselves with the advice on our school website regarding prevention, identification and treatment. You'll find this in the parents/health advice section.

Pearson 'Teacher of the Year' Award

We are excited to announce that Ms Sutton is a finalist in the Pearson 'Teacher of the Year' Awards 2021. She will be highly embarrassed that I'm sharing this news with the whole school community but she should be very proud! We wish her all the best for the final round of judging in May.

A plea from residents of Java Drive

If you use the cut through from Gull Coppice to Java Drive, please can you ensure that your children remain on the path and avoid cutting across land owned by the properties. The residents are finding that their front garden and driveway is regularly being used as a cut through by families and this has caused damage to shrubs and trees in the area. We have spoken to the older children to make them aware, but would ask that parents help their younger children to keep to the boundaries. Thank you.

Online Safety Signposting for Parents

Over the past year, children's use of online resources has increased hugely, and whilst we are now back to face-to-face learning, we are aware that children may be continuing to have access to devices at home that previously weren't available for their recreation time. It is therefore really important that parents remain up to date with the latest advice and guidance on keeping children safe online, and ensure that there is regular communication in the home about children's use of the internet. It's never too early to be thinking about online safety in your home—better to have the conversations before there are issues! You may find the following links useful:

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/hot-topics/parental-controls> (advice on setting up parental controls on various devices)

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-watching-videos-online/> (practical advice on how to talk to your child about inappropriate content and ways to help them stay safe when accessing videos online).