



Newsletter

January 2021

A place to
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Although the start of term has been consumed with the logistics of school closures, special provision and remote learning, it would be shame for us to not to continue celebrating and sharing the news which we would usually do through the half termly newsletter. I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter—there is deliberately nothing Covid-related included!

I very much look forward to a time when we can all be back together in school, but in the meantime I will continue to send my weekly updates to parents to help keep you all in the loop regarding the latest developments until schools are fully re-opened again.

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Jack James who became the first citizenship award winner for this academic year in the Autumn term. The Whiteley Primary School Citizenship Award is to be given to a Y6 pupil each term who has been an example of model citizenship in our school. Nominations are put forward by the staff, based on the following criteria:



- They are thoughtful, kind and considerate to others, helpful to younger children in school and show respect to staff and visitors.
- They are full of common sense, organised and conscientious in class, working to the best of their ability and always prepared to participate fully in school life.
- They are a willing helper around the school, volunteering for the 'chores' as well as the 'treats' and carry out their responsibilities with enthusiasm and commitment.
- They are excellent role model for all the children at our school.

Hampshire Education Awards 2020



You may remember me letting you know that Mrs Bunyan had been nominated for the Teaching Support Award at the Hampshire Education Awards last year. I was delighted to be able to present her with the award at a virtual ceremony held last term.

There were three other nominations for staff at Whiteley Primary School and although they weren't chosen as finalists, I was pleased to be able to pass on cards of thanks to them which arrived earlier this month. Well done to the following:

- The Y6 teaching team who were nominated in the 'Teaching' category.
- Mrs Nicola Bevan who was nominated in the 'Wider Support' category.
- Mrs Amanda Mainwaring & the 4M classroom support staff team 2019-20 who were nominated for the 'Improving Life Chances' Award.



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Thank You from the Young Governors

The Young Governors were delighted that the Christmas Jumper Day in December raised nearly £200 for their chosen charity. The Young Governors consulted with children from across the school to choose how the money should be used, and an overwhelming majority wanted it to go to the NHS. We were therefore pleased to be able to send off a cheque to the Children's Bubble Fund who raise money for the children's ward at QA hospital. Thank you for your support.

Update about Mrs Skipp—Inclusion

As many of you know, Victoria Skipp, our inclusion manager, has taken some time away from her role for the last year due to sad personal circumstances. She has now made the difficult decision not to return to her post, and instead to take a break from education to focus on her family. Mrs Skipp will be greatly missed by all at Whiteley Primary School but we understand her reasons and wish her all the very best for the future.

Mrs Skipp joined the school as a KS2 class teacher over 17 years ago, and in her many years at Whiteley Primary was instrumental in helping to develop our provision for special educational needs and also our wider pastoral support—she set up the nurture provision, developed the pastoral support team and was a key contact for our families with children with educational health care plans.

If any parents who worked closely with Mrs Skipp in the past would like to drop in a card or contribute to the collection we are making for her, please do contact the school office before half term.

Fundraising Thank Yous!

Despite the challenging circumstances, we are so grateful for the support for the FOWPS fund raising events last term and to our FOWPS team who adapted to the new world and found ways to continue to support the school. Many thanks to Sarah Powell for her organisation of the Christmas card project—this was really well supported and raised over £1500 for the school. The Bag2School clothing collection raised over £200 and the 12 days of Christmas raffle raised over £1700. At a time when we know lots of people are really feeling the pinch, we are so grateful for the support.

A special thank you must go to our 'Head Elf' Louise Frampton who has run Secret Santa for a number of years, and who was determined to ensure that the children benefitted from the special Christmas shop this year. Thanks to her and the dedicated team of 'elves' on the day, this was another successful event, and brought a much needed bit of Christmas cheer to school. Louise has now passed on the 'head elf' responsibility—thank you for all your hard work over the years, Louise. We hope you enjoy gaining back space in your house from all those gifts!

As well as supporting the development of our accessible play areas, FOWPS funding last term has also been used to increase our library and reading book stocks; to pay for the heavy-duty gazebos in the Year 1 outdoor classroom, providing a covered area for outdoor play; to purchase 'chair-bags' for the Y3 classrooms (to enable pupils to have individual storage on the back of their chair for water bottles/stationery etc); and to fund a workshop visit from the 'Life Bus' who support age appropriate health education.

The Life Bus was due to visit in January, but we have rearranged their visit for later in the summer term. This year, for the first time, we have added an extra day to the Life Bus visit to enable children in KS1 to also benefit from a workshop. The Life education team have assured us that they will be able to offer virtual visits, or sessions in the hall rather than the Life Bus, if the risk assessment at the time requires it.



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INSET Days

Just a reminder that the school will be closed to all pupils on Friday 12th February due to an INSET day.

The final INSET day for this academic year will be on **Friday 9th July 2021**.

There will also be an INSET day on **Thursday 2nd Sept 2021** —we have yet to set any other dates for 2021-2022 but will update you when we have further news.

New Tarmacking—YR Path

Over the Christmas holidays, we were able to arrange for re-surfacing work to be carried out to the path from the office gate to the Reception classrooms. They have also slightly changed the camber so that hopefully we won't have the issue of the huge puddle to paddle through after a downpour!

News from Ex-Pupils

It's always lovely to find out news of our ex-pupils and we were delighted to hear that Erin Guest was selected last term to be one of the Head Prefects on the student leadership team at Fareham Academy.

School Kitchen—staffing change

Just before Christmas, we said farewell to Mrs Greaves who has been our cook and kitchen manager for a number of years, helping us to put in place many improvements to our lunch offer here at Whiteley Primary School including the separate servery for our older children, taster lunches for Year R parents and the ever popular salad cart! We thank her for all her hard work over the years and wish her all the very best in her new job.

This term, we welcome Mr James Seymour as the new kitchen manager—it's a strange time for anyone to be starting a new job, but we hope he will enjoy this new challenge!

New Site Assistants

In December, we were pleased to appoint two new site assistants to support our site manager with the maintenance and caretaking of the school site.

We are grateful to Mrs Perri Pringle and Mr Rob Parker, experienced members of our cleaning team, for stepping up into these roles.

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.

We are currently issuing weekly food parcels to families of children who are eligible for free school meals—where these are not required, we are arranging for them to be 'gifted' to other families in need so do let us know if you are finding things difficult at present as we may be able to allocate you a weekly food parcel, even if your child does not qualify for free school meals. Feel free to contact Mrs Bevan, our home school link worker, if this is something your family needs at present.