



# Newsletter

June 2021

A place to  
**SMILE**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that June is here already. I hope you had a lovely half term and enjoyed digging out the summer clothes, finally! This week, you will receive a list of diary dates so that you can see that there is lots going on for the children this half term, even if we are still unable to welcome parents for our usual events. We will keep you posted if/when things change but hope you will appreciate that our priority and focus is on helping to gradually get the children back in usual routines. It has been lovely to start seeing the younger year groups together in the hall for some assemblies—and especially to hear the excitement from the children at the idea of seeing me in person instead of on the screen! (Although I'm not sure any of them are quite as excited as I am at being able to see all their faces together in one place!)

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

## New Pick Up/Drop off Arrangements

Thank you for adapting to the revised drop off/pick up arrangements—it has already helped us to recover 10 minutes a day of learning time for classes which mounts up over the week and will make a real difference. Now that the earliest collection time is 2.50pm (for Y1), please can I ask parents to stay outside the gates until a couple of minutes before this, as it gives more time for our classes to use the grounds freely for outdoor learning in the afternoons.

## Parking on Rookery Avenue



It's great to see more people using the rear entrance now. Please can I remind parents who park on Rookery Avenue to use the roundabout to turn around and park in the direction of the traffic to help keep all road users safe.

## FOWPS Clothing Collection

Thank you to those who contributed to the FOWPS clothing collection last month. We raised £81.60. Every little helps, especially as we are currently unable to run our usual fund raising events at present.

## 6F Song for the Mayor

Some of you may know that the new Mayor of Winchester, Councillor Vivian Achwal, is the first mayoral appointment to be made from the Whiteley community. We are delighted for her as she has a long standing connection with Whiteley Primary School from the early days of the school. Councillor Achwal was a school governor at WPS for many years, volunteered in classes, was the school crossing patrol for a time as well as supporting us as a parent (I remember teaching her daughter myself in the early years of WPS!)



As soon as she knew about her mayoral appointment, Councillor Achwal approached us as she hoped to have the choir singing for her mayoral ceremony. Unable to do this in person, she asked for a recording of the children to use, and I'm delighted to say that 6F were very willing to record a version of the song 'Make Your Own Kind of Music' which was played during the ceremony. She was delighted with their efforts and is looking forward to coming in to school in a couple of weeks time to say thank you in person. She will be joining us for our special school celebration on 'Thank a Teacher' Day on the 23rd June (see over for more information).



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### HC3S—School Meals

This is just a reminder that an easy way to access the menus for school meals is to follow the HC3S Facebook page as they post daily what the two main meal choices are for the next day. This is also a way to find out more about the meals and to provide feedback about the menus. You can also email [HC3S.support@hants.gov.uk](mailto:HC3S.support@hants.gov.uk). HC3S change their menus twice a year and do welcome feedback from parents and schools to help them develop their choices.

### National 'Thank a Teacher' Day—Wednesday 23rd June

This year, we are going to celebrate the National 'Thank a Teacher' Day which is organised by Pearson to help recognise the efforts, not only of teachers, but of all school staff, after what has been a particularly challenging 15 months. I feel incredibly proud of the efforts of the whole team at WPS to adapt and make the very best of a difficult situation. We felt this would be a great opportunity for us to do something as a whole school, celebrating as a team, especially as we start to see some 'normality' return. To help celebrate, we will be having a non-uniform day and we have invited everyone to come in something sparkly, shiny, light or bright so that we can all 'shine' together!

As mentioned on the previous page, the new Mayor of Winchester will be joining us during the day and if the weather is fine, we are planning our first whole-school outdoor assembly of the year using the all weather pitch. We are excited about being able to come together as a school, even if we will still be sat separately in our class bubbles.

Those children who would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to someone in school have been invited to write a letter or poem, and we will be sharing a few at our celebration. There is also a way to send an e-card to a member of staff to say thank you via the Pearson website <https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher-day/>. These require an email address for the member of staff you wish to thank—feel free to use the year group email address, or they can be sent via the [adminoffice@whiteley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@whiteley.hants.sch.uk) address and we will forward them.

### A Message from Mrs Gibbons

*I have loved being part of the Whiteley family for the past 10 years and proud to have ended my teaching career at such a wonderful school. A huge thank you for your wonderful donations and cards. I was 'unusually' totally speechless! We are hoping to have a trip away as a family this month so thank you again. xxx*

### Hampshire Budget Consultation

I want to make you aware that Hampshire County Council are currently running a consultation on how they make further cuts to help them balance their books from 2022 due to increased pressures on funding. One of the potential changes being mooted is the withdrawal of county funding for school crossing patrols, and therefore I wanted to draw your attention to this so that parents have an opportunity to respond to the consultation and make sure their voices are heard. Please go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/balancing-the-budget>.

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Train to teach 'taste of teaching' events are being held via Zoom next week for those interested in finding out more about a career in teaching: 15th June (6pm), 17th June (10am and 6.30pm).