



# Newsletter

July 2021

A place to  
**SMILE**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, we made it!! What a year it has been! I hope that the sunshine continues so that staff and children can enjoy a well-earned break after what has been a year full of challenges.

Thank you for your continued support over the year—I know that all of our patience and resilience has been tested in so many ways, but working together as a community I believe that we have managed to ensure that for the children, the ‘new-normal’ was actually not so bad! You should be incredibly proud of your children—the young can often teach us a thing or two about adapting to change and as ever, they have made the best of the situation (with much credit to the staff who have worked so hard to make this possible).

We are all looking forward to being able to start afresh again in September, bringing back some of the things that have been missed, but learning from this experience to help develop our provision as we move forward. I will be sending out information separately for parents regarding the plans for September including revised start /finish times and how we will be gradually moving back to many of our old routines. We are obviously aware that the coming year will not be without its challenges—I am getting used to ‘expecting the unexpected!’ - but I have confidence that whatever next academic year brings, we will continue to face it with a ‘SMILE’!

To all our leavers—both in Y6 and across the school—we wish you all the very best for the future. We hope you have enjoyed your time at WPS, and that you will take what you have learnt and continue to strive to be the best you can be. With the very best wishes to you all,

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

## Citizenship Award

Many congratulations to Hayley Graham (Y6) who was voted for by staff as the final citizenship award winner of the year and wins a £10 book token.

## News from an Ex-pupil

It was lovely to hear that one of our ex-pupils, Isla Milnes, has been chosen as head-girl of Fareham Academy for September. Well done, Isla—it’s great to hear success stories from those who we knew so well as younger children.

## Reading Challenges

Well done to all the children who have continued to work on their reading challenges this term. Children in Y1/2/3 may wish to continue their star reader challenge over the summer holiday—this will end on Friday 3rd September, so there is still time to earn their next badge or complete the super star reading challenge to earn a book, before we launch the next challenge in the Autumn. Children in Y4 and Y5 may continue with their reading ambassador challenge into the next academic year as they have until they leave in Y6 to try to achieve their house, onyx, amethyst and topaz awards.

We would encourage all families to try to keep up with some reading over the summer when you can—enjoy books together ...visit the library ...access Bug Club... use reading in the ‘real world’ when cooking / map reading/ reading instructions / looking at brochures etc. Keeping your child going with key skills will help them to feel more confident when they return to school in September and also help them to understand that reading has a purpose.



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### Young Governors' 'Bend the Rules' Day

Many thanks for the support for the Young Governors' charity event—the children really enjoyed 'bending' the school rules for the day, and the final total raised was an amazing £1506. At the young governors' request, this will be split equally between Abby's Heroes, Wessex Cancer Trust and the school. The Young Governors have put together a wish list for some new trim trail equipment for the main adventure playground to replace the monkey bars that had to be removed, so we hope to be able to move forward with this project next year, and the funds raised this week will help to support this.

### Staffing Update

This term, we have said a few farewells to staff as they move on to pastures new. Earlier this half term, Mrs Evans (Y2 TA) moved on to an exciting new role working at an FE college. We have also said farewell to Mrs Jackson, one of the team of teachers who covers PPA in KS2. Mrs Jackson joined us as a newly qualified teacher over ten years ago, and we wish her all the very best as she moves to take on a new role closer to her home. We'd also like to wish Mrs Leech (midday supervisor) the best of luck as she starts an exciting new role.

We have made several successful appointments this term. As well as our new Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Gallagher, we welcome Mrs Hillier who will be our new Y2 teaching assistant. Congratulations also to Mrs Shrive, one of our existing LSA team, who will be commencing a new role as class TA in Y1 in September.

Finally, many of your children will have been taught by Miss Hemsley (YR/1 phase leader) over the years. I'm delighted to announce that she will be getting married in the summer and will return to school as Mrs Robinson!

### M is for Mutual Respect

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focussing in assemblies on the 'M' of 'Smile'—what it means and why it is so important. As a school, we shared in the excitement from the England football team's fantastic achievement to reach the final of the Euro 2021—we talked about sportsmanship and the symbol of shaking hands on the pitch. On the day after the final, there were lots of tired and disappointed children, but there was also, particularly amongst the older children, an awareness of how the excitement of the football had been over shadowed by the news that racist abuse had been directed towards some of the players, but also towards members of the Italian community—even within the wider community of Whiteley. Even in school, there were comments such as 'I'm never going to eat Italian food again' - this type of comment may be seen as 'harmless' by some, and not intended to cause offence, but we did challenge this in school as it's important we help our children to understand the potential impact of their words.

In school, it is important that we discuss current issues, and it was gratifying to hear many of the older children initiating the discussions about the abusive language, and calling out this inappropriate behaviour of adults, showing an understanding of why it's wrong. We want our school to be a place of tolerance and respect for all, and hope that parents will continue to support us with this important value.

### Hampshire Education Awards

Congratulations to Sue Banton (IT technician) who was nominated for the EdTech Excellence Award for Hampshire. Sue's support has been invaluable over the year as we adapted to remote learning, also overseeing the laptop loans for pupils. There was also a second nomination for Simon Ede in the Governance Award. Simon has been a governor for many years, firstly as a parent and then as a co-opted governor, and we would like to thank him for his many years of service.

### Staff Fundraising

Well done to Mrs Yeo and Mrs Sellars who undertook the 'Race to the Stones' event, raising over £700 for Wessex Cancer Trust. Mrs Yeo was devastated to have to pull out during the event due to injury, but Mrs Sellars continued solo to conquer the 63 miles in 17hrs—Wow!