



Newsletter

January 2022

A place to
SMILE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back. After a lovely long Christmas break, we hope that you and your children are adjusting with the return to usual morning routines! With the sudden drop in temperatures that we experienced last week, it's worth a reminder that the school does have a snow and ice plan in place—a summary of this is on the last page of this newsletter. Please can I remind all parents to make sure that your child has a warm coat in school. Our younger children continue to have regular access to the outdoor classrooms, and so warm hats, scarf and gloves are also desirable every day!

Regarding clothing, we'd like to say a big thank you to the family and friends of our Reception children who generously supported the children for their sponsored nursery rhyme event. The YR team have invested in new PE equipment for the year group with the proceeds, but there was so much raised, they have also been able to purchase a set of all-in-one waterproof suits which can be used by groups when engaged in their forest activities and outdoor learning—helping them to access the outdoors, whatever the weather!

Lesley Pennington—Headteacher

Citizenship Award

Congratulations to Jessica Williams 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, as nominated by the staff. Well done, Jess!



Staffing Changes

At the end of the term, we said a sad farewell to Mrs Sullivan (YR TA) as she moved on to an exciting new role working with FE students. We also said farewell to Mrs Mott who commences her well-deserved retirement after over 20 years of working at Whiteley Primary School. Mrs Mott was a parent volunteer in my classroom when I was teaching in Y2 (many years ago!), and she quickly became a valued member of the teaching assistant team. Both will be missed, and we wish them the very best for the future. We also wish the best of luck to Mrs Bambrook (admin assistant) who left at the end of November.

I am pleased to say that we have been able to make successful appointments to fulfil the above roles, some from within the existing staff team. Mrs Fiddler and Mrs Coffey have both increased their hours within Y3 to ensure continued support for 3W. In YR, Mrs Potter has been appointed as the TA for Squirrels class, with Mrs Winkworth supporting on Friday mornings.

We have also made several new appointments and welcome the following to the WPS staff team:
Miss Brown - YR LSA
Mrs Hendry - Y3 LSA
Mrs Frampton - admin assistant
Mrs Stevens and Mrs Cheng—midday supervisors

I'm sure that you will make them feel very welcome.



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Support from Barrett Homes

This year, we will be receiving donations from Barratt homes as part of their contribution to the communities they are working with. The gardening club had fun potting up the donated Christmas tree saplings and each class have the challenge to keep their tree alive until next year! They also donated some books for Y3 children which explored the different careers in the construction industry, and are making regular stationery donations—every little helps!

Census Day—20th January—School Lunch Reminder

On Thursday 20th January, we will once again be asking all YR/1/2 children to take up the offer of a free school lunch as this is the second census day when the funding for the universal free meals is calculated. The numbers who take up meals on census day are used to work out our funding for the rest of the year, so it is really important that as many children as possible take up a lunch on this day. If we can get all children signed up it makes a considerable difference to our school funding for the following year. As usual, we will be making some changes to the Thursday/Friday menus that week to encourage take up and KS1 children will also be able to order a picnic option if they would prefer a cold lunch. See the separate Parentmail form for more details.

Competition Winner

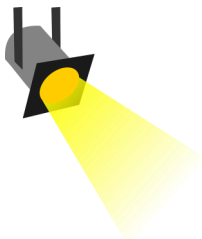
Congratulations to Isabella Penman (Y2) who won a county-wide competition run by the travel team. The judges loved her picture which showed 'My Perfect Play Street'.



JRSO Poster Competition

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have launched a poster design competition in school to promote pedestrian safety. The children have been told about it in assembly, and details are coming out on a separate Parentmail. Entries to the school office by Monday 24th January.

Spotlight on Inclusion—Update from Ms Bolton



Welcome to the first Spotlight on Inclusion! Communication with all parents/carers about Inclusion and SEND at Whiteley Primary School is very important to us as we continue to build on partnership working and improving outcomes for children.

In each newsletter, the Inclusion Team will share resources, information or training opportunities of interest to all parents/carers across the school. The first of these is to invite parents/carers to a Zoom event to introduce The Zones of Regulation®, an approach that supports children and adults with emotional regulation.

Whiteley has used The Zones of Regulation® with individual pupils for some time and its success has prompted us to use the programme in classes with Year R, 1 and 2 children this academic year. If you would like to find out more about the zones, how you can use them at home and how the programme supports emotional regulation, you can join one of the zoom sessions on 25th January 22 at 2pm or 6.30pm. More information about how to sign up for one of the sessions will be sent out via Parentmail.

If you have any queries about Zones of Regulation®, please contact Kate Bolton (DHT/Inclusion Manager) or for any other parenting queries, our Home School Link Worker, Nicola Bevan, is available.



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REMINDERS

INSET Day— The school will closed for staff training on Fri 18th February.

NUTS! Please remember that we are a nut-free school as we have a number of children with severe allergies. Please don't include nut products in children's lunchboxes or snacks—**this includes 'Nutella' products.**

MASKS—Although masks are not required to be worn outside on the school grounds, we do encourage adults who are collecting children to wear masks in places where it is difficult to keep your distance from others.

Internet Safety Update—FREE Parent Workshop

If you haven't already done so, I would encourage families to sign up for the FREE virtual workshop being run by Lorraine Lee on Tuesday 1st February at 8pm — 'Laying the Foundations for Positive Internet Use'. You can register by clicking [here](#) and you will then receive the Zoom link to the virtual meeting. Lorraine has run a number of sessions for both staff and parents at WPS and is easy to listen to, down-to-earth and practical in her approach. Lorraine usually charges £10 per place for her workshops, so don't miss this opportunity!

Life Education Workshops

Later this month, we will be welcoming back the Coram Life Education and SCARF team—we use the SCARF materials across the school to deliver aspects of our personal development learning (PDL). Parents of older children will remember that we used to have a visit from the 'Life Bus' mobile classroom each year, but the sessions have now been adapted for the classroom. The fun, interactive and age-appropriate workshops help children to understand the importance of physical and emotional health; they learn vital life-skills that are also known to help their overall achievement.

- Early Years and Key Stage 1: children learn about keeping their bodies healthy, managing feelings, being a good friend and the safe use of medicines.
- Key Stage 2: children explore emotional needs, choices that can affect health and wellbeing, qualities of friendship, how to cope with bullying and the influence of friends. They also consider the effects and risks of drug use, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco, in an age appropriate way.

Dave Henson—Visit to Y3

We'd like to say a big thank you to local Paralympian Dave Henson who came in to speak to our Y3 children to help hook them into their 'New Year, New Me' learning journey. The children were really inspired by



his talk, and came up with some fantastic questions for him. We are sure that it will help to inspire some fantastic writing over the next few weeks!

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.



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School Office

If you have come to the office this term, you may have noticed that enquiries are now dealt with at the window nearest the buzzer/front door instead of the one on the corner—follow the arrows! We are currently working with county architects to re-design the front entrance to provide a lobby space and accessible access door. We will keep you posted but hope that works for this can be carried out in the summer.

Snow and Ice Plan

The following information is taken from the school's 'Snow and Ice Plan' which, along with risk assessments, helps us to ensure the on-going health and safety of pupils, staff and parents during wintery weather.

Where possible, we aim to keep the school open in icy/snowy conditions. Measures to support this include

- gritting of main pedestrian routes into the school;
- warning signs of potentially icy conditions;
- regular assessments of the safety of playground areas etc. so that areas can be closed/cordoned off if necessary;
- closure of routes on to the school site which are potentially hazardous.



Please note that the boardwalk entrance may be closed in icy/snowy conditions - this is not necessarily because of the boardwalk itself, but because access to and from the boardwalk requires use of the steps/slope to the all-weather pitch which can become unsafe in icy conditions. Any closure will be notified using signs at the entrance and through Parentmail/texts.

- In snowy conditions, the site team's priority will be to clear the paths to the main entrance, YR playground and piazza to provide safe routes to classrooms. Fewer entrances may be used if necessary.

The decision to close the school is not taken lightly, but may be made in the following circumstances:

- when it is deemed unsafe for pupils/staff to access the school site (after a heavy overnight fall of snow, time may be needed to clear access routes and make the site safe);
- if there is a failure with the school heating;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for pupils to make their way safely to and from the school due to local road conditions;
- when there are likely to be significant difficulties for an adequate number of staff to travel safely to and from school due to road conditions.

We are fortunate that we have a number of staff who live locally. It may sometimes be possible to open the school with a reduced staff during snowy conditions, as long as there are enough staff to provide adequate supervision for pupils. Other measures which have been used in the past to support safe travel to school include a staggered or later start to the school day to allow more time for travel.

We aim to communicate any decisions regarding school disruption with as much notice as possible. Notification of school closure will be made using Parentmail, the school website and through local radio stations. Hampshire County Council website also publishes an up-to-date list of school closures and a message will be left on the school answer phone (if access has been possible!)

Reception Places Sept 2022

If you, or someone you know, has a child due to start YR in Sept 2022, the closing date for on-time applications is 15th January. Although we don't have any more organised tours scheduled, a member of the leadership team is happy to arrange a meeting or discuss our provision on the phone.