

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 2

- 4.12.19 & 5.12.19 Inservice Days 3 & 4 (School closed to pupils)
6.12.19 St Andrews Day Holiday
11.12.19 Christmas Concert P1- 7 1.45pm & 6.30pm
12.12.19 Christmas Concert P1 - 7 1.45pm
13.12.19 Christmas Lunch
17.12.19 Nursery Concert, 11am & 2pm
16.12.19 - 20.12.19 Christmas Parties will take place this week
19.12.19 Christmas Church Service, 10am
20.12.19 M & M Productions (Panto at Whitehills)
20.12.19 End of term, 3pm

Important
DATE!

Term 3

- 6.1.20 Back to school, Term 3 begins at 9am
8.1.20 WPP Meeting 6.15 - 7.45pm
13.1.20 Cuppie & Catch Up with DHT for Nursery parents/carers, 9.15am
17.1.20 Cuppie & Catch Up with HT for P1-P7 parents/carers, 9.15am
17.1.20 P5S Class Assembly, 2.15pm (Parents/carers of P5S will be invited)
20.1.20 & 21.1.20 Nursery Parent Meetings, 3.45 - 6pm
28.1.20 WPP Meeting 6.15 - 7.45pm

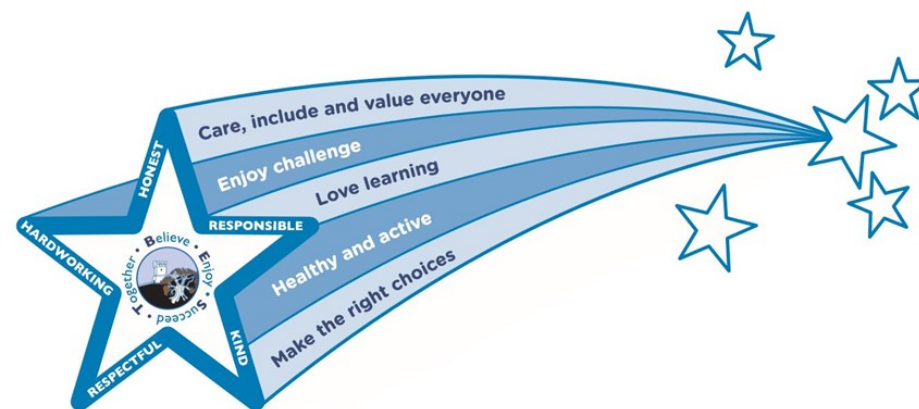
Mrs Coureen Peters & Mrs Elaine Gallon

Parent/Carer Comment

If you have any comments you wish to make, issues you would like to raise or successes you would like to share please do so below and return the slip to school.

Comments :

WHITEHILLS SCHOOL



November 2019 Newsletter

BEST at Whitehills
Believe, Enjoy and Succeed Together

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe we are mid-way through the Christmas term. As always Christmas is an exciting and busy time in school. We have planned several events to celebrate the festivities and I hope this newsletter will keep you informed.

Emergency Weather Arrangements

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to an emergency e.g. adverse weather conditions putting pupils at risk, heating failure etc we will use a variety of methods to alert you:

- Groupcall message; Twitter@anguscouncil; 'Current School Closures' page on the Angus Council web site www.angus.gov.uk; Facebook/anguscouncil

It is essential that we have up to date contact information for parents/carers to enable us to contact you by text/groupcall. **If you need to update your details, please pop into the school office to do this as soon as possible or email the information.**

School transport updates will be posted on: Twitter@anguscouncil and 'Current School Transport Disruption' page on the Angus Council web site www.angus.gov.uk

Emergency closures outwith school hours will be posted on 'Our Current School Closures' page on the Angus Council web site www.angus.gov.uk

If we are open during the bad weather but you don't think it is safe for your child to travel to school, you are entitled to keep your child at home, or come and collect them early if you feel the weather is deteriorating. You are the best judge of the weather and road conditions in your area.

Clothing For Winter

At this time of year the children love to get outside in the playground and play in the snow. Can you therefore please ensure children come suitably dressed in cosy clothes, a waterproof jacket with hood, hat, gloves, and waterproof footwear. As the children may get wet please send a spare pair of socks and trousers/joggers that the children can change into if they do get wet and cold. **Please label clothing.**

We thank you for your continued support and welcome any ideas you may have for developing links for our children within our local community.

Following on from our success with planting and growing our own veg last session, we are now taking forward the John Muir Trust Bronze Award. This requires the children to identify areas within their own school grounds that can be improved and developed. The children have come up with lots of ideas which we will be taking forward over the coming weeks and have already helped members of the Forfar Rotary Club to plant purple crocus bulbs in support of the Purple 4Polio campaign. Recently the children in the P1 and P2 Hive groups ran a Nurture Cafe where they invited their parents to come along and enjoy a cuppie, cake, chat and play. This was a highly successful event which we hope to repeat on a regular basis.

Mr Dunlop's playtime 'playground games' group has been a hit with both the older and younger children. The children have enjoyed learning new games that they can then share with their peers in the playground.

Looking forward to Christmas, all the children who come along to the groups in The Hive and Treehouse will be very busy making decorations for a 'Kindness Advent Calendar' which we hope to share with the residents at Finavon Court.

Excellence Award Winners - September

P1E Ella Fraser	P1M Ruby Hill	P1W Lois McCarroll	P2J Liam Fairweather
P2Z Nathan McDonald	P3S Freya Cameron	P3T Harrison Yool	P3/4 Harrison Gray
P4H Meghan Gourlay	P4R Lucy Richardson	P5J Ellie Thomas	P5S Brogan McCormack
P5/6 Lewis Atkinson	P6L Beth Scott	P6W Molly Matthew	
P7E Amelie Saddler	P7M Ben Trethowan		



Well Done!

End of term Church Service: Thursday 19th December

We would like to invite you to join our Christmas service at Lawson Church on Thursday 19th December at 10am. The service will be organised by our school Chaplain, the Reverend Karen Fenwick. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in school.

Successes and Achievements

Swimming Success

Three of our P6/7 pupils competed in the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships on Monday 11th November with great success. Eva Warburton won a bronze medal in the 50m butterfly, Megan Wilson was 4th in the 50m backstroke final and Lewis Strachan was 5th in the 50m butterfly final. They all swam fantastic races recording personal best times. Eva has now been entered to compete at the Scottish Schools Championships. Well done everyone and thank you to the parents for support at this event.

Athletics Competition

The P6/7 Athletics team attended the Fun in Athletics Cluster schools competition on Wednesday 13th November. The children performed a variety of track and field events and were delighted to finish in first place. This takes them through to the Angus final in January next year. Well done everyone and we wish you the very best at the Angus Final.

Netball League

The P7 Netball team competed in the first league festival at Webster's High School on Friday 15th November. They played well especially as some of the children have only been playing netball for 3 weeks. Well done to the girls for such great effort and commitment. Thanks go to Beth and Lucy who coach the girls every Friday. We look forward to the next league event along with a few friendly games too.

Nurture at Whitehills

Our Treehouse (P4-7) and Hive (P1-3) groups continue to be busy. A group of our older children have recently enjoyed a block of Outdoor Education where they participated in a range of friendship and resilience activities. These included team building games, mountain biking, dune sledging and fire making. Needless to say, these activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Allergies in School

We currently have Pupils who attend our Nursery and School who are known to have severe food allergies to PEANUT and TREENUTS or foods which have nut based products in them. Within the School setting, Nursery & Primary 1 to 7, we ask for your assistance and co-operation in minimising the risk of exposure to PEANUT and TREENUTS for these Pupils. To help us to achieve this, we request that Parents/Carers provide safe PEANUT and TREENUT free snacks for their own children during school hours, and no snacks containing nuts. We have also been sharing these messages at assembly.

We thank you for your cooperation with this.

P1 Enrolment for Session 2020-21

Letters will not be sent from Angus Council Headquarters to inform you of entry to P1. There will be a **1 week only registration period in school between 20th and 24th January 2020**. You have the option of enrolling your child into our mainstream P1 or our Gaelic Medium Class. If you would like to find out more about the Gaelic Medium Class please get in touch with the school office and make an appointment to come and visit the class. Please drop into the office during registration week and Mrs Low or Mrs Coull will provide you with the registration forms. **To complete registration you will need to bring your child's birth certificate and at least two proofs of address from the last 3 months.**

School Transport Applications for Session 2020 - 21 (Pupils enrolling in P1 and S1)

All transport applications should be completed online by Friday 17th January 2020. Paper transport forms are no longer accepted. Your child may be eligible for transport if: they are enrolling in P1 and reside two miles or more from their catchment school; they are enrolling in S1 and reside 3 miles or more from their catchment school.

Please visit angus.gov.uk and search free school transport to access the online form and more guidance related to this.

Please note, the above process is not for pupils enrolling in P2 -7 or pupils entitled to transport due to ASN.

Headlice

Just a wee gentle reminder to please check you child/children regularly for headlice. Thanks for your support with this.

School Carpark - Trial Closure Update

As you will all be aware we had a trial closure of our school car park gates in response to parents who raised on-going concerns regarding children's safety. During the trial closure evidence was gathered to assess the success of this trial through the following: safety site visits carried out by schools and learning staff, Road Engineers, representatives from the transport team and enforcement wardens. The trial has also been discussed at the Council's traffic coordination group (which includes representatives from transport, roads, schools and learning and the police). In addition a letter from the WPP (Whitehills Parent Partnership) has been submitted requesting that the gates are permanently closed at the start and end of the school day.

As a result a planning application has been submitted to overturn the planning condition so we can close our gates as we did in the trial period but on a permanent basis. As soon as we hear the outcome, we will communicate this with everyone.

Staffing Update

As you will be aware from recent communication, we have some up and coming staffing changes. Firstly we are bidding a fond farewell to Mr McWhirter as he leaves us to take up an exciting new teaching post in Australia. While we will be sad to see Mr McWhirter leave, we wish him bon voyage and all the best in this new adventure. Mr McWhirter leaves us on the 4th December. We have been informed that two new teachers are joining us, Mrs Bruce and Mrs Wrightman, both currently working in Dundee Schools. They will start with us after the Christmas break to cover P7M and long term absences. However, I want to meet with both members of staff first before confirming who will be doing what. I will update you as soon as I am aware.

You will also probably be aware that due to increasing family commitments Mrs Gallon is also stepping down from her post as acting Head Teacher. I (Mrs Peters) will remain Mon-Wed and the permanent post of Head Teacher Thurs-Fri is currently advertised with a view to an appointment being made before the end of term. Mrs Gallon will remain in post until a new head teacher starts. I will be sad to see Mrs Gallon move on as we have worked very closely over the past year, and Mrs Gallon has brought many new ideas to Whitehills. However, I look forward to welcoming someone new into the role and the stability that a permanent appointment will bring.

Up and Coming Events

In-service Training Days and St Andrew's Holiday

The school will be closed to children on Wednesday 4th December and Thursday 5th December. On the Wednesday we will be reviewing our procedures for end of session reports, revisiting our Relationships policy review and engaging in ASD in Mainstream training. On Thursday, the staff will be clearing and sorting resources and areas in our school environment to create spaces and areas for nurture and sensory experiences.

The school will be closed to staff and children on Friday 6th December for St Andrew's Day.

Christmas Party Dates - December

We have set the following dates in December for the Christmas Parties:

P1 Fri 20th at 1.30pm; P2 Wed 18th at 10.50am; P3 Mon 16th at

9am; P4 & Gaelic Class Wed 18th at 9am; P5 Wed 18th at 1.30pm

P6 Mon 16th at 10.50am; P7 Thurs 19th at 1.30pm

Nursery: Wed 18th am & pm

Christmas Concerts: P1-7 and Pre-school

Our P1-7 Christmas Concert will be on Wednesday 11th December in the afternoon (1.45pm) and the evening (6.30pm), and Thursday 12th December in the afternoon (1.45pm). All stages will perform a couple of Christmas songs. The Nursery Nativity will take place on Tuesday 17th December in the morning (11am) and afternoon (2pm). More details will sent out soon.

Christmas Pantomime Treat: Friday 20th December

M and M theatre company are visiting school on the morning of Friday 20th December. This will be for Pre School children (who are due to start P1 in Aug) – P7 pupils. There will only be a cost of £1.50 per pupil to contribute towards the overall cost. The children thoroughly enjoyed this last year and I am sure they will do so again!

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day : Friday 13th December

Our Christmas Lunch is always a very festive occasion. We hope all children will join in on Friday 13th December as we eat lots of Christmas goodies and listen to Christmas songs. On this day the children may wear a Christmas jumper, however, this is entirely optional.