

# WHITEHILLS SCHOOL

## and Pre-School



## November 2017 Newsletter

**Be our BEST at Whitehills**  
**Believe, Enjoy and Succeed Together**

**School website:** <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/an/whitehillps/>

**School twitter page:** @Whitehillps



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Term 2

16.11.17 P3N Class Assembly 9.20am (Parents/carers of P3N will be invited)

29.11.17 In service Days 2 (School closed to pupils)

30.11.17 In service Days 3 (School closed to pupils)

1.12.17 St Andrews Day Holiday School closed to all

6.12.17 P7 Fairtrade Christmas Café, 9.30 - 10.30am

14.12.17 Christmas Lunch whole school

Christmas Concert P1-3, 6.30pm

15.12.17 Christmas Concert P1-3, 1.45pm

18.12.17 Pre-School Concert, 11am & 2.45pm

**Last week of term, Christmas Jumpers can be worn all week if you wish**

19.12.17 - 22.12.17 Christmas Parties will take place this week

20.12.17 Pre-School Christmas Parties

21.12.17 Christmas Church Service, 10am - Lowson Memorial

Church and Children's Christmas Raffle

22.12.17 M & M Theatre Visiting

22.12.17 School closes 3pm

08.01.17 Spring Term Begins

### Question of the Month

We are looking at our values, visions and aims again. This is a statement that everyone involved in Whitehills helps to write and helps us to think about what we want for our children here and how we are going to achieve it. So we are asking firstly which three qualities you would like your child to have by the end of P7?

Comments :

Dear School Families,  
Thank you for taking the time to read our latest newsletter. As usual, time is flying! We have had our tattie holidays and have now entered what will be an incredibly busy term—full of exciting events and learning experiences. We hope to see lots of you in school enjoying them with us. Remember to follow us on Twitter (@WhitehillsPs) and Dojo for more exciting updates and photos! Mrs Thornton

## **Information Updates**

### **Parent Partnership**

**Christmas Fayre** - Thursday 23rd Nov 6.30 - 8.30pm. There will be fabulous stalls, Santa's grotto, Christmas Fairtrade café and best of all lots of lovely items for sale made by our pupils. All welcome.

### **Lost Property**

We have already gathered a number of items in lost property this term. To assist with the organisation of this, all lost property will be kept for 2 weeks. Items will be laid out in the entrance of the school on a Friday afternoon for pupils and parents to check. Please help with this by labelling all clothing and encouraging pupils to be responsible for their uniform. Many thanks for your support.

### **Ready for Winter**

As the weather gets colder, please remember to send your child with a warm jacket and hat/gloves where appropriate all with their name on please! The nights (and the mornings) are certainly getting darker. Our JRSO are helping us get ready for **Road Safety Week**. The JRSOs have been working on a competition, wall displays and a leaflet for National Road Safety Week which, this year, is from **20th - 26th November**. This year's theme is "**Speed Down Saves Lives**". We hope to encourage everyone to drive within the speed limit and to slow down around school.



## **PRE-SCHOOL NEWS**

We are taking part in the First Minister's reading challenge this term. We are all challenging ourselves to read more books that interest us. P5M, P5S and P7W have been helping us to read our books we choose in the library.

The children returned to begin their second term eager to re visit the learning we had been recording before the October holidays. The children continued to explore where statues were around the world and what the statues stood for. The children made their own statues with dough and discussed the details of their master pieces. Some children were keen to visit statues in the holidays after hearing about them in nursery or taking an interest in a story. Greyfriars Bobby and the Kelpies were two. We had postcards delivered from around the world and photographs of many statues in Spain, Poland and other parts of Europe.

The children have voted for groups. The groups are to maintain and safely manage the drop off and collection times for the children. We have more children starting nursery after the holidays therefore we have had to increase two groups to three.

The children voted for: Lions, Tigers & Monkeys – Cars, Lorries & Motorbikes – Stars, Moons & Rainbows. The later winning the vote beating Lions, Tigers & Monkeys by 2 votes!

The children were then given a choice of Stars, Moons & Rainbows for their group. The children moved their trays into their new groups on Monday 30-10-17. The staff will all take turns to supervise each group at pick up time and please remember you can approach any member of staff about celebrations, issues or concerns. The staff have appointments available if you wish to discuss or update your child's My World booklet, please speak to any of the team to arrange if you wish an appointment.

Thank you

As the weather begins to turn a bit colder, please can we ask that your child comes to Pre School dressed appropriately for going outside. We encourage the children to access the outside area every day so it is advisable for them to have a cosy jacket and warm clothes every day.

## Sporting Achievements

We were all very proud to hear about two of our pupils successes in the Tayside Schools Swimming Championships on Monday 7th November having made the qualification times for the competition. **Holly Shepherd** (7D) competed in the 50m backstroke and **Laura Skea** (6G) in the 50m breaststroke. Both girls swam a fantastic race recording personal best times. Well done girls.

On Wednesday 8th November the P6/7 Athletics team attended the Fun in Athletics Cluster schools competition and were placed first. The team, coached by Miss Donnachie and Mr Dunlop, now go on to the Angus Final on Wednesday 6th December in Arbroath. Well done everyone and we wish you the very best at the Angus Final. Thank you to the staff for their coaching skills!

## Dogs in School grounds

As a health promoting school we do encourage you to walk to school or park further away and walk to school. It's lovely to see so many of you taking a stroll in the morning and this helps with our parking issue too. However it has been brought to our attention that a dog has recently been brought into our playground. (Guide Dogs are the only exception). This is not permitted and should not happen. Its lovely to see dogs at the gates but no further please.

## In Our Classes

Primary 1 and Primary 2 visited the Meffan Museum to learn about the Forfar witches. We all dressed up and had a fantastic day. Thank you again to our marvellous helpers who came. P3 took part in the Roald Dahl Day celebrations. We dressed up as a character from a Roald Dahl story. We enjoyed the Author's Live event online. We made and drank the delicious drink 'Froboscottle' from The BFG.

## Playground drop off/pick up

Our Primary 1 pupils have taken the full time schedule in their stride and it is wonderful to see how confident they are becoming. We love to see them looking smart and ready for the day. May we encourage all parents and carers to drop off and pick up their children outside the school gates and encourage the children's independence after the October holidays.

May we also remind all pupils and parents that any bikes used to travel to school must be walked with when inside the school grounds and especially in the car park area.

## Parent evenings

Our parents evenings were well supported as usual and it was lovely to see so many of you in school. We have such hard working children and staff here its great to share the progress and learning that goes on. The new booking system was well received too and we have had very positive feedback regarding it.

## Bugs and sniffles

We are now in the season of colds, flus and tummy bugs. Can I just remind you that If your child does have sickness or diarrhoea then they should not return to school until 48 hours after their last episode. This helps prevent other children becoming infected.

## Class Dojo

We hope you are all enjoying sharing the children's learning and successes through Class Dojo. It is a wonderful tool for communicating and celebrating. Please can we ask that you do not contact the School Leadership Team through Dojo as we do not check all class pages every day therefore may miss your message. Absences and appointments should also not be passed on through Dojo as we can not guarantee that they will be seen before the start of the school day. These should be phoned into the school office as usual.

## **Successes and Achievements**

### **Class Assemblies**

Primary 6J and Primary 2H have presented fantastic assemblies this term. Primary 6J showcased their learning with a space theme while P2S taught us about firework safety and Halloween through catchy songs and dance. I was very impressed with how confidently the pupils performed and it was wonderful to see so many parents and friends in attendance. Well done to Primary 6J and Primary 2S!

### **Anti-Bullying Week 13th-17th November**

Our P7 pupils are keen for us to support Anti-Bullying week by asking all children and staff to wear odd socks for the week. This is to show the idea we are all different but the same- our socks aren't the same but they are still a pair of socks. I am looking forward to seeing all the different combinations! The parent group Free From Fear met with myself on Monday. This was a very worthwhile meeting and we look forward to working with you in future.

### **Free from Fear**

Free From Fear is a group set up by a collection of parents and carers with the main aim of tackling the issues of violence and bullying behaviour in our schools. Having had a number of meetings to discuss our goals and aspirations, we are now beginning to liaise with the school. We wish to help provide support to both pupils and parents/carers alike in how to tackle bullying and to provide links to appropriate services or professionals if necessary. In time, we will also try to open dialogue with our local authority and the Scottish Government to highlight and maintain focus of behavioural issues within schools, providing real life perspective on policy and actions. Ultimately, we want every individual in the school, children and adults alike, to be free from fear in their place of education. Our group is supported by Angus Council through The Communities Team.

We can be contacted via email at [freefromfearangus@gmail.com](mailto:freefromfearangus@gmail.com) or on our Facebook page Free From Fear.

## **An Clas Gàidhlig**

Tha a' chlas a sealltainn air na Bhictòrianaich airson an cuspair aca an teirm seo. Tha sinn air loidhn-tìm inntinneach a chruthachadh airson beatha Banrigh Bhictòria agus na h-ìomadh innleachdan ùra. Mar thà tha sinn cianeil toilichte nach eil sinn beò ann an tìm Bhictòria. Cuideachd tha sinn a' sealltainn air Forsaichean ann an saidheans agus tha sinn air a bhith mothachadh Forsaichean ann an cuspairean eile mar Ealain agus Cupaichean Corpóra.

The class are looking at the Victorians as their topic for this term. We've created a long timeline for Victoria's life and the different things that were invented. We've started looking at living conditions for children then and we are very glad that we weren't alive in the Victorian Era. We are also looking at Forces in science and enjoying noticing forces around us in Art and PE.

Here is this month's phrase - "Tha i uabhasach fuar!" (Ha ee oovasach foor - Its awfully cold!).

### **Halloween**

The children looked scarily good on Halloween thank you with your support with our dress up day. Lots of fun was had by all! I know that some pupils were disappointed there was no disco so the Parent Partnership will be asking the children later in the year when they would like to have their discos next session.

### **Staffing**

At the end of term we said goodbye and thank you to Mr Leith who has settled in happily to his new school. Mr Webb is thoroughly enjoying being back in class and teaching P7L. I am really grateful for the warm welcome I have received since starting. I am very excited about working with the fabulous team here. I am looking forward to meeting more of you! Next coffee and chat will be confirmed soon.

### **Children in Need Friday 17th November 2017**

Whitehills Primary are raising money for Children in Need this year. The P4-6 Charity Pupil Group invite the school to dress up in spots for the day, for a £1 donation. They are also organising Spotty Discos for the children on Friday 17th November. The P1-3 Disco will take place at play-time and the P4-7 Disco will take place during lunchtime. Admission is a donation of 50p. Thank you in advance for your support. P4-6 Charity Pupil Group and Mrs Wyllie