

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term 2

20.12.17 Carol singing in back playground, 2:30pm
21.12.17 Christmas Church Service, 10am
22.12.17 M & M Theatre Visiting - Robin Hood
22.12.17 End of term, 3pm

Term 3

8.1.18 Welcome back to school
11.1.18 P3W Assembly
25.1.18 P2R Assembly
8.2.18 P2H Assembly
15.2.18 In-service Day 4 (School closed to pupils)
16.2.18 & 19.2.18 Mid-term Holiday
22.2.18 GMU Assembly
8.3.18 P5S Assembly
22.3.18 P1J Assembly & P4/5 Concert
30.3.18 End of term, 3, School finishes at 3.20pm
16.4.18 Back to School, Term 4



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.

WHITEHILLS SCHOOL and Pre-School



December 2017 Newsletter

School email: whitehills@whitehills.angus.sch.uk

School Twitter page: @Whitehillsps

Dear School Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2018. I would like to thank everyone in Team Whitehills for all their hard work and efforts this year.—all the staff, our Parent Partnership, volunteers and our pupils. I hope everyone has a fabulous holiday, enjoy your family time and see you raring to go in 2018.

Kindest regards, Elaine Thornton

Clothing for Winter

Please may we ask that all children come to school suitably dressed in cosy clothes, As the children may get wet, a spare pair of socks and trousers or jogging trousers that the children can change into if they do get wet and cold are also helpful to have in their bag. **Please can I also ask you to label all items of clothing.** Thank you for your co-operation. Lost property is now at our First Aid room and not in the school entrance.

Parent Contact Evenings

We had a super turn out at our November Parent Contact Evenings. Thank you for attending and working in partnership with us. We hope you found the meetings beneficial. Thank you also to those of you who took the time to give feedback on our new booking system.

Christmas Raffles

Whitehills Parent Partnership organised two Christmas raffles, one for adults and one for children. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and contributed raffle prizes. Thank you to our wonderful partnership volunteers for organising and well done to the winners!

Whitehills Parent Partnership News

The Parent Partnership would like to thank everyone who helped and attended the Christmas Shopping Night, this was a great success and raised at total of £448.61. This was the first year we had Santa's Grotto and it proved a hit! Thanks to all the staff for setting this up and helping on the night.

The Partnership are now focusing on plans for the next disco in February and our next committee meeting on Monday 22nd January at 6.15pm. All welcome so please come along for a coffee and a chat.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2018!

New anti- smoking banner

I am sure you will have noticed our new anti smoking banner outside school. The eye-catching design is by Eilidh Milne when she was in P5 and was unveiled last week. The banner was produced in partnership with the schools team NHS and Angus Council. I am sure you will agree it is a very striking design and we hope that it will discourage smoking around our school grounds. Great job Eilidh!



PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

The pre-school class has been busy learning about the solar system. This started when children saw the huge moon on Halloween and began to discuss the stars and the moon and what else could be up in the dark sky. The lead into a wealth of research into the planets and especially the planet earth. Some of the children became extremely interested in this topic and began to ask questions about the earth and the earth's core. Through books and mainly the internet the children learned lots about the layers of the earth. Some children enjoyed learning about the planet Mars and the rocks on that planet. These are volcanoes and the learning redirected to what are volcanoes. Again the children used the internet to find out where, what and how. The children managed their own experiment creating a volcano and watching how it exploded. This experience provided them with real understanding of the eruption process using investigation and prediction skills. This learning has slowed as something special is happening in the world around us soon however we hope to re visit this learning in the New Year starting with an update on Bali.

On **Wednesday 20th December** we will have both parties. Normal session times however if you wish you are invited back to meet Santa at 11am for the morning children and 2.30pm for the afternoon children. Can I remind you that from January all snack monies will be paid through iPayment. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best wishes for 2018 and look forward to another busy term in January.



Christmas Concert

We hope you enjoyed our Christmas Concerts. The P1-3 classes gave a wonderful Nativity and the Nursery concert Donkey for Sale were both real Christmas treats. Well done to all the children and staff for their hard work. The silver collection raised £281 for Pit Stop.

Christmas Pantomime Treat: Friday 22nd December

M and M theatre company are visiting school on the morning of Friday 22nd December to perform Robin Hood. This will be for Pre School – P7 pupils. There will only be a cost of £2 per pupil to contribute towards the overall cost. Please send money in envelope with pupil name and class. The children thoroughly enjoy this event every year and I am sure they will do so again! Oh yes they will!

End of term Church Service: Thursday 21st December

We would like to invite you to join our Christmas service at Lowson Church on Thursday 21st 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. There will be a silver collection in aid of Water Aid. This charity was chosen by our P7 House Captains.

Gaelic News—An Clas Gàidhlig

Tha mòran spòrs air a bhith againn leis an cuspair againn, Na Bhictorianach. Bha latha air leth againn air na Verdant Works ann an Dun Dè agus bha e cho inntinneach. Cuideachd rinn sinn madainn Bhictorianach san sgoil far an robh sinn air ar sgeadachadh mar clann sgoile bhon linn sin. Fhuair sinn cothrom a dhol gu Obar Dheathain a dh'fhaicinn am panto Gàidhlig a tha air cuairt, Nighean Bheag a Chòta Dheirg. Abair spòrs! Cuideachd choinnich sinn sgoilearean bho sgoil Gilcomston agus theid sinn air cheilidh orra sa bhliadhna ùr uaireigin.

We've really enjoyed working on our Victorian topic and had a fantastic visit to the Verdant Works in Dundee where we were dressed as Victorian children for the day. We also had a Victorian School morning where our teacher, Ms Kennedy, was a strict Victorian teacher and we experienced what pupils would have learnt in the Victorian times. We also visited the Gaelic pantomime when it toured to Aberdeen and made some new friends there at Gilcomston Primary and we are looking forward to going back to do some joint learning with them in the new year. Here is this month's phrase - "Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr!" (Nollik Chree-ell agus Blee-in-ah vah oor - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!).

P1 Enrolment for Session 2018 - 19

Letters will **not** be sent from Angus Council to inform you of entry to P1. There will be a **1 week only registration period in school between 15th to 19th January 2018**.

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 office staff 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.**

Christmas Fairtrade Café

Primary 7 enjoyed hosting a Christmas Community Café on Wednesday 6th December. Visitors from the school community attended as well as many pupils from across the school. The pupils enjoyed serving drinks and biscuits but the Fairtrade chocolate proved most popular. Almost £300 was raised for the Fairtrade fund of the school.

The School Choir

The school choir have recently enjoyed opportunities to perform in our local community. The choir have performed in Brander Ha' sheltered housing, Whitehills hospital Prosen Unit, Tesco and Toll Crescent sheltered housing. The choir did a superb job and all represented the school impeccably. They should all be very proud of their efforts, Ms. Kennedy and Mr Taylor. Thank you to everyone involved in the school choir it makes me very proud to hear the children sing and spreading Christmas cheer around our community.

News from the classes

Five of our classes qualified for the most recent national Sumdog competition, where classes are invited to answer as many questions as they can correctly in one week. Pupils can access Sumdog at home as well as at school. **Primary 7L** topped the school's leader board as well as reaching 105th out of 1695 qualifying classes in the whole of the UK. Well done!

The **Primary 2** and **3** Digital Leaders made an internet safety poster with talking QR codes and a Christmas quiz which is in the lobby. Miss Ross made an advent calendar for us using QR codes too.

P5 and **GMU** have been learning about the Victorians so we decided to have a Victorian Day in school. We sat in rows and had to follow the Victorian class rules for the day. We were not allowed to talk to each other and had very strict teachers for the day! We took part in drills, handwriting, reciting our times tables and singing hymns. We had a great day as actors but prefer school nowadays!

Christmas Card Design Success

Louise Cruickshank (P5S) was the winner of the Christmas Card Competition by our local MP Kirstene Hair's office. Louise's design was selected from a competition for all Angus P5 pupils. Well done Louise, I am sure your card will be sitting on some very important fireplaces this Christmas.

Athletics Success - Wednesday 6th December

The P6/7 Athletics team attended the Angus Final on Wednesday 6th December. The children performed outstandingly and were delighted to finish in first place. The team now go through to the Angus, Fife and Tayside final next year. Thank you to our parent helpers and to our coaches, Miss Donnachie and Mr Dunlop. I was delighted to hear of the children's great attitudes as well as their athletic success. Well done to everyone and we wish them well at the next event.

Sport Scotland Silver Award

The school has achieved the Sports Scotland Silver School Sport Award for our commitment to engaging all pupils in sporting activity. As part of the National Lottery funded programme, the Award is a national initiative that is designed to encourage schools to continuously improve physical education and sport. The Award also encourages sporting links between schools and the communities around them. Stewart Harris, Chief Executive of sportscotland, said: *"Congratulations to all the staff and pupils at Whitehills, they should be extremely proud of this fantastic achievement. Not only have they put physical education and sport at the heart of their school and local community, but they have managed to do so in a way that encourages all pupils to engage in physical activity whilst having fun at the same time."* There are currently 212 Sport Scotland Gold School Sport Award schools. 336 schools have been awarded Silver and 84 with Bronze. To achieve a Bronze or Silver sportscotland School Sport Award, schools self-assess their current practice. It's an honour to be awarded the Sport Scotland Silver School Sport Award. Our staff work incredibly hard to deliver quality PE. We believe that physical education, physical activity and sport are important factors in the school curriculum.

The sport Scotland School Award is supported by the Active Schools Network.

For more information, please visit <https://sportscotland.org.uk/schools/school-sport-award/>

Head Teacher Award Winners - November

A major emphasis of our positive behaviour policy is recognising and celebrating achievements. As you will be aware we hand out weekly certificates to recognise successes, and six times in the school session we also present The Head Teacher Award. This is to recognise exceptional attitudes/efforts/behaviour/successes. The recipients are as follows: .

Pre-School am	Pre-School pm	P1H Nathan Hutcheon	P1J Marcy Mitchell
P1W Ethan Melnyk	P2H Marcus Luczkowski	P2R Freya Ramsay-Dolan	P2S Fraser Lindsay
P3W Robbie Murphy	P3N Dougal Jolly	P4T Darcie O'Neill	P4W Andrew Milne
P5S Amelie Saddler	P6G Dylan Wilson	P6J Erin Grant	P6S Benan Tair
P7L Andrew Russell	P7D Amber Richards	P7W Ellie Finlayson	GMU

Great effort everyone!

InService Days

Staff were very busy over the two days (29th and 30th November). Pre school staff all updated their first aid certificates and looked at observations. Support staff were busy with precision teaching and restorative practice. Support staff recently renewed their first aid certificates. Teaching staff undertook self evaluation, IEP training, HWB , updates from Education Scotland and Shirley Clarke. Just like our pupils we are always learning!

Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who bought books from the recent scholastic book fair at our Parent nights in November. Thank you to Miss Donnachie for organising. This raised £1049.23 for school funds. Spree books have raised £295.

