

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- 8.2.18 P2H Class Assembly (Parents/carers of P2H will be invited)
- 15.2.18 In-service Day 4 School closed to all Pupils**
- 16.2.178 Mid-term Holiday School closed to all**
- 19.2.18 Mid-term Holiday School closed to all**
- 28.2.18 Nursery Stay and Play session
- 22.2.18 GMU Class Assembly (Parents/carers of GMU will be invited)
- 1.3.18 World Book Day**
- 13.3.18 & 14.3.18 P1-7 Parent Evenings (4pm—7pm)
- 8.3.18 P5S Class Assembly (Parents/carers of P5S will be invited)
- 21.3.18 Fairtrade Café
- 22.3.18 P1J Class Assembly (Parents/Carers will be invited)
- 29.3.18 P4, P5 and P6 Concerts
- 30.3.18 Church service 10am all welcome
End of Term 3, normal finishing times
- 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.

Comments :



WHITEHILLS SCHOOL

and Nursery



January 2018 Newsletter

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

School twitter page: @Whitehillsp5

Dear Families,

I hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas break and a good New year. It seems such a long time ago now! It's good to see everyone back and ready to continue our learning journey! Kindest regards, Elaine Thornton

P7 Music Project, report by Connor Gore

On Monday the 22nd of January all the P7s went up to the Community Campus to participate in a music project. We started to sing "The Best Day of My Life" and to warm up we sang awesome songs. We were split into two groups, one group to sing the higher part and the other group to do the lower part. It was amazing. It was good to see the academy and to see the differences like the tables and the chairs.

Parent Focus Groups

We would really like to see more parents in school and gather your views about what's going on at Whitehills and how we can work together. To that end, after discussion with the Parent Partnership, I would like to start a parent focus group. There is no need to come to every meeting. The meeting will not last longer than an hour, There will be a single item to discuss e.g. homework and it will be I hope, very much a discussion group. We will try to meet on different days at different times to "catch" as many parents as possible. I hope this is something that you would support. The first meeting will be the 14th Feb at 9:30 am.



P4,P5 and P6 Concert

Our P4, P5 and P6 classes will take their turn to perform on Thursday 29th March. "Whitehills at the Movies" will have a matinee and evening performance. Tickets will be available from the school office as usual. We do hope you will be able to join us for some show stopping performances!



Nursery News

Recently the children have enjoyed learning about Scottish culture and traditions as part of our Burns Day celebrations. The children took part in a variety of art and craft activities such as making saltire flags, thistles and weaving their own tartans. They tried some Scottish dancing and also had the opportunity to try some Scottish themed snacks including haggis, neeps and tatties.

The children have also been finding out about wild animals. This was initiated by a group of children who found animal footprints in our snowy garden. They decided to investigate which animal might have made the footprints. A group of children were supported to carry out research using books and the internet. This led to an interest in polar bears.

We have also been learning about the importance of recycling. We have created a wall display about recycling and the children have been bringing in recyclable items from home to add to the display. We hope to find out more about recycling in the coming weeks.

We would like to warmly invite you to a drop in evening on the 1st March, 3:30-5:30 pm. More information to follow and there will also be a sign up sheet in Nursery.

Gym Kit

Please can you ensure that your child has a named gym kit in school. We are having to give out an increasing number of gym items for children to borrow and as they are not always returned our stock is depleted. Children are not always able to take part in gym for Health & Safety reasons if they do not have their full kit and this is an important part of the curriculum they may be missing. Thank you for your support with this.

Burns Celebrations

The children have been very busy learning Scottish poems and they have recited them to their class. Thank you for your help with this. Two from each class will have the chance to recite their poem to the whole school at our assemblies on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February. We are looking forward to hearing their poems. I hope you have had a chance to look at all the lovely Scottish artwork in our entrance foyer too.

An Clas Gàidhlig

Tha an clas Gàidhlig ag obair air seann dòighean obrach air croitean agus na h-òrain obrach ceangailte riutha. Bha sin a' feuchainn air bleith a dhèanamh le clachan bho muigh agus lentils. Abair obair chruaidh! Bha spòrs mòr aig a' chlas nuair a rinn sinn an aran againn fhèin le làimh anns an Hive agus rinn sinn ìm cuideachd. Rinn sinn cuid ann an crogan is ga chrathach agus an cuid eile ann am boghla le measgaichear-làimhe. Bha e cho blasta!

GMU are looking at traditional jobs on crofts and the work songs that went with each task, from milking to churning and carding to spinning. We tried to grind lentils into flour and realised its hard work. We also made bread by hand in the kitchen in the Hive and made our own butter. Some we did by hand by shaking jars of cream and the rest we beat with a hand-mixer. The end result was very tasty. Here is this month's phrase - "Tha e cho fuar ris a' phuirsean!" (Ha e cho foor rish uh foo-eeshen! - It's as cold as poison!).

Being good neighbours

Unfortunately we have had a few complaints from our neighbours recently about inconsiderate parking and children cutting across gardens to get home. Please can I ask you to be mindful that we are a proud part of our community and we want to encourage that responsibility and pride in our pupils. Please can I ask you all to be considerate. I have also noticed a large number of cars parking in the drop off layby. We have recently had an incident when a minibus could not get round the car park and a group of our younger pupils had to be escorted through our busy car park. If you cannot find a bay to park in, please park outwith the school grounds to ensure the safety of all. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Walk to School Wednesday

Our JRSO would like you to Walk to School not just on a Wednesday but every day if possible. We are seeing lots of traffic outside our school and it is not good for the environment. We want our school to be healthy and everyone safe. There will be prizes for the class who has the most walkers!

We would really appreciate your support with this. Let's get Whitehills walking!



Staffing Update

We sadly said goodbye to Mrs Lemanczyk this month. Mrs Lemanczyk had decided to step down as our senior EYP and an EYP position had become available at Carlogie which was perfect for her. Mrs Lemanczyk left with our very best wishes and thanks. Miss Henderson and Mrs Ellis will be job sharing the senior position until we are able to appoint a permanent senior. The post has now been advertised and I will keep you informed of the process. Mrs Ritchie is enjoying a phased return and we are delighted to have her back in Nursery. Mrs Ritchie should be back to her full time hours by the end of February. Mrs Garden is hoping to start her maternity leave at the end of this term.

Whitehills Parent Partnership News

Thanks to everyone that volunteered to help with the discos through the WPP Facebook page. The junior disco is well stocked with helpers but we still need more parents for the P4-7 Disco please from 7.15-9.15pm. They can't continue without your help! Please get in touch via the WPP Facebook page or email whitehillsparentpartnership@hotmail.com

Dates for the next WPP committee meetings are Mon 5th March 6.15pm & Mon 14th May 6.15pm.
P7 Leavers disco Fri 22nd June.

Class Assemblies

P3W and Mrs Ward did a great job of leading our first assembly of the new year with a very lively and fun performance. P2R did a great job especially since Miss Ross had been off school and missed their assembly. Both assemblies were well supported thank you. It's great to see so many grown ups in the classrooms afterwards. Its super to see confident performances and great teamwork from our pupils. Well done everyone!

Lunchtime and After School Clubs

Many of the children take part in lunchtime and after school clubs which are run by volunteer staff and Primary 7 pupils. We offer a range of clubs which aim to meet the interests of as many pupils as possible. The clubs offered and who they are run by are listed below. Thanks to everyone who gives up their time to facilitate these clubs. We would ask you to encourage your children to join in,

	Lunchtime	After School
Monday	P4 Music (led by P7)	Cross Country P6& 7 Miss Donnachie & Mr Dunlop
Tuesday	P3 Story Art Club (Primary 7)	P5-6 Scottish Country Dancing Mrs Boath & Mrs Motion
Wednesday	P1&2 Reading Club (Primary 7 supported by Mr Webb) P3 Signing Choir– Mrs Wyllie & Mrs Motion	
Thursday	P2 Football P6-7 Quiz Club– Miss Morrison	P7 Football Club Mr Scott
Friday	P5 Street dance P5-P7 Choir Ms Kennedy & Mr Taylor	P6 & 7 Basketball Club Mr Webb

Nursery Applications

Applications for Pre School places beginning in August are now being accepted. Forms should be accompanied by your child's birth certificate and two proofs of your address within the last three months. Please have your application in by Tuesday 28th February 2017. Thank you.

Pupil Absence

Some parents are communicating pupil absences and appointments through the Class Dojo. Please can you also inform the school office as teachers are not always able to pass this information down to the office first thing in the morning.

Sharing good practice

As you are aware French is being taught in all our classes as part of the curriculum. We had a visit from Mel Keles from the Authority on Friday 19th January to see all the fantastic work our children and teachers are doing, as Whitehills was highlighted as an example of good practice within Angus. Mel was very impressed with Primary 2 who were clearly enjoying their learning, and with the pupil focus group she spoke to who were articulate and engaged. She also shared that Whitehills is clearly well on the way to having French embedded in everyday school life and was sure many of the other schools across Angus will be keen to learn from our good practice. It is fantastic to hear such positive feedback about the Learning and Teaching that is happening within our school.

World Book Day (1st March 2018) and Sports Relief (17th march 2018)

We will be supporting both these events. Further details to follow but I know some of you like to get the heads up when thinking of and making costumes! There will be no theme for book day this year so let's get creative!

STEM Week

Whitehills Primary School are having their first whole school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) week commencing Monday 12th March. It is planned we will have inspiring visitors and activities throughout the week. If you (or if you know of anyone) who would be willing to come in