

June Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we embark on our final month of this current session, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you sincerely for the on-going and unwavering support that you have shown to myself, and all the staff during these demanding and uncertain times. The hard work, positivity and kindness shown through Teams and Twitter assures me that you are doing a great job. It's amazing to see all the wonderful things that our Whitelees pupils are achieving at home with your support, and how happy they are to be learning remotely. I don't take for granted the challenges this poses for adults juggling work, life and sometimes very challenging circumstances. For this, I thank you dearly for all you are doing and continue to do.

Before we come to the end of our final term I have some information that I would like to share with our current parents and carers and extend a very warm Whitelees welcome to our new starts ready for P1 in August.

Classes

As I am sure you are aware, next session will be a very different set up in comparison to what we are used to. As of yet, NLC have not advised us on the model that will be used across the authority, but as soon as I have the relevant information, I will share it with you.

Reports

Teachers are currently finalising report cards. Each year our reports are issued on Sports Day, however this year our final reports will be sent out electronically. As each report has to be sent out individually it will be a very lengthy and methodical process. We endeavour to have these out to you as soon as possible. We will begin this process on Friday 19th June and will continue this the following week. We will begin with Primary 1 children and work through the classes until all reports have been sent. Please ensure we have your most up to date email address, if you require to update your email please send it to enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk. Unfortunately at this point, I am unable to provide you with the name of your child's teacher as we would usually do when reports are issued. As soon as I know more details about how our school will return and details of staffing, I will be able to share this information with you. Your patience and understanding on these matters are greatly appreciated.



P1 Transition

Thankfully our new Primary 1 children have already had the opportunity to visit and spend time in our school before the school closure in March. All children had the opportunity for two visits, met with staff, completed activities in class and had a tour of the school. Additionally, we have provided a learning pack and PowerPoint with existing guidelines and video messages from our current P1 teachers and children to welcome our new starts and hopefully, alleviate some of the inevitable anxieties surrounding parents and children who are starting school this year. We have tried to offer a safe provision to support your child in this transition however, if you feel that your child still needs to visit the school before his or her start date, it is possible to facilitate entry to the building for your child and one adult in the next few weeks. This will be done on an appointment only basis. Please email enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk to arrange this.

P7 Transition

Our Primary 7 children are currently working on a variety of transition tasks. This will provide the opportunity to experience some of the events that they would usually take part in as they embark on the final weeks of their primary school journey. I am saddened that our Whitelees children are unable to experience the full Whitelees send off, that they most definitely deserve, but I hope that the activities we have in place will in some way comfort and enable us to celebrate our Primary 7 children's achievements so far. The children are creating a virtual yearbook with all of their 'best bits' included on our Teams Transition page and leavers' hoodies have now been ordered and will hopefully be available before the end of term. Additionally, Cumbernauld Academy have set up a P7 Teams transition page with information available on the Cumbernauld Academy Twitter page which is regularly updated with relevant information for new S1 pupils.

Awards

As usual, we will be nominating our Capacity and Subject awards this year. We will hopefully make certificates and capacity badges available for collection. It has been such a challenging year for our young people and their achievements deserve to be recognised and celebrated - possibly now more than ever. More information on this will follow.



Sports Day

Sports Day is usually a big event in our Whitelees calendar and is thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved. This will be greatly missed this session, however we have registered Whitelees with the NLC Active Schools Sports Day on Monday 22nd June and we will encourage all children to take part in this event. We hope this will give our children some opportunities to take part in sports based activities across the whole day and enjoy participating in a virtual sports day. More information on this will follow.

Assemblies

We were able to host a whole school assembly on Teams on Friday where we were joined by over one hundred children from the school! It was great to share some of the children's 'It's Good to be Me' achievements as well as celebrate the successes of our 'Stay at Home Superstars'. We will host another assembly on Friday 12th June at 11:00am, please join us if you can!

Summer Break

Our school will officially finish up on Wednesday 24th of June 2020 for the summer break. From this date there will be no remote learning uploaded to Teams by teaching staff; however, we may still set you some fun summer challenges! As always, we love to see what you are doing and would still like for you to keep us updated on Twitter and on your Teams page.

On a personal note, as Acting Head Teacher of Whitelees, it has been a privilege to guide you through these very uncertain and challenging times. I have an amazing team who, along with you and your children, epitomise what #teamwhitelees means to me. I do hope you feel supported by our school but if you feel that you could benefit from further support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The most sincere thanks for your continued support. Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Murdoch
Acting Head Teacher

