



Whitelees Primary News

November 2015

Whitelees Road, Abronhill, Cumbernauld G67 3NJ

Tel: 01236 794814 Email: enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

This month's Newsletter is a reminder of how quickly we are approaching the half way mark of what has been a wonderful school year so far. I do hope that you enjoy reading of the many learning experiences of our pupils. They are always so proud of their achievements as am I and our Newsletter offers you only a small overview of the life and work of our learning community. Our school website is fast becoming the preferred method of showcasing the work of our pupils, with each class updating their blog at least once per week! As we are now making plans for Christmas I look forward to seeing you and welcome your ongoing support in ensuring that our school continues to go from strength to strength.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter

Everyone had a spooktacular time at our Hallowe'en Disco and Parade! All of the children had a ball and we loved seeing all the amazing costumes! Thank you again for your continued support.



Suzanne Dolan from Specsavers came to visit Whitelees on Monday 26th October to donate 100 hi-viz vests to our Infant Department. We will be able to make great use of these to help ensure our children are safe and seen when out and about! Thank you so much Specsavers, look out for us in the Cumbernauld news!



If you wish to contact the school and feel that an email is appropriate please use our enquiries email address which is checked on a daily basis. Our address is enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk.



Primary 5 Swimming

Primary 5 continue to take part in the North Lanarkshire School Swimming Programme every Tuesday at the Tryst Sports Centre. I'm sure they continue to enjoy all of the experiences that the programme offers them! This is due to continue until Tuesday 17th November 2015. Please note this includes an extra week due to the October holiday.



Library Visits

Thirty pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 3 visited Abronhill Library on Thursday 29th October for an event called "Discovery Shorts for Wee Ones". Our children enjoyed a series of short films and we hear they were the best behaved children in the library!



World War II

To tie in with their topic Primary 7 had a visit from a Mobile World War II Museum in October. The museum was a fantastic resource and the children had an amazing day learning more about World War 2 and being able to handle lots of artefacts from that time!

Primary 7 will be hosting a World War II coffee afternoon on Wednesday 4th November from 1.30pm - 2.30pm. They will be serving authentic World War II baking along with refreshments. There will also be information, video displays and much, much more! We would be delighted to see parents, grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and anyone else who would like to come along and see what they have been learning!



Kilbowie April 2016

As you know we will be holding an information meeting for all Primary 7 parents on Wednesday 11th November at 6.00pm where you can come along, find out about Kilbowie and ask any questions you may have regarding the upcoming trip in April 2016. We look forward to welcoming you to this informative meeting.



Hallowe'en Parade

We had a fabulous Hallowe'en Parade on Friday with lots of amazing, fun and scary costumes! Clearly lots of effort and thought went into dressing up which made for a wonderful Parade! Many thanks again for your continued support!



Congratulations to Mr Young, our Primary 2/3 Teacher who was successful at interview for the post of Class Teacher at Whitelees Primary School. We are delighted to welcome Mr Young as a permanent member of our team!



School Car Park

Despite numerous reminders parents still continue to use the car park to drop children off. Please note that the school car park is for staff use only and should not be used as a drop off point for Breakfast Club or any other occasion. This request is made with our pupils' safety at the core and not to inconvenience you in any way.



Whitelees Website

Our website is now fully operational. You can keep up-to-date with everything that is happening in Whitelees and see what your child's class is up to. It would be great to establish a routine of checking the website regularly to ensure you are kept fully informed!



The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will be visiting the school on 4th November to speak to Primary 6 about Bonfire Night Safety. The talk is specifically targeted at this age category and will be delivered on school premises by an operational crew. We hope the children will find this informative. Please take care whilst enjoying all the fun that fireworks bring. We will be reminding all of our pupils of this very important message over the course of this week.



Start of Year Correspondence

As at the beginning of every school year we have sent out all forms to parents regarding contact information and various permissions. Whilst most have been returned some are still outstanding. We would ask that these be returned to the school as soon as possible. Non return may result in children not being able to participate in events held within and outwith the school if we do not have permission to involve them e.g. EV5 forms are required for children to participate in trips, ICT Acceptable Use permissions are required for children to be able to use the ICT facilities. As always we appreciate your co-operation.

Could we also take this opportunity to ask that you inform the office in writing of any changes to contact details to ensure we are always able to get in contact if required?

A huge thank you to all those who offered to support our Parent Council Halloween Disco. The Parent Council do an outstanding job and are a true asset to our School.



Parent Council

11.11.15	7.00-9.00
13.1.16	7.00-9.00
11.2.16	7.00-9.00

Julie McQuade - Chairperson
 Angela Mason - Vice Chairperson
 Donna Waddell - Secretary
 Natalie Quinn - Treasurer
 Michelle Chambers

20.4.16	7.00-9.00
1.6.16	7.00-9.00

Debbie Welsford
 Alexandra Merrick
 Ishah Imran
 Davina Duffy
 Alan Carroll - Co-opted Member



Email

As some of you may know already we are planning to further enhance our communication with parents by putting together a package whereby we can email correspondence directly to you. If you would be interested in being included in emailed correspondence please email your children's name/s and class/es to enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk. As I hope you will appreciate this is an immense task to put into place and may take some time to collate information and put together in classes, Council Groups and whole school. Please bear with us whilst we endeavour to put this into place. We will keep you fully informed as this progresses.

Some dates for your diary...

11.11.15 Flu Vaccinations	11.11.15 P7 Kilbowie Meeting	16.11.15 In-Service Day	28.11.15 Christmas Fayre
1.12.15 Whole School Panto	8.12.15 School Nativity (afternoon)	9.12.15 School Nativity (afternoon)	10.12.15 School Nativity (Evening)
11.12.15 Christmas Jumper Day	14.12.15 P6 & P7 Christmas Party	15.12.15 P4 & P5 Christmas Party	16.12.15 P2 & P3 Christmas Party
17.12.15 P1 Christmas Party	21.12.15 Christmas Service		



Flora Tubs4Tablets

We continue to collect tokens for the Flora Tubs4Tablets scheme. Tokens are available in tubs of Flora purchased from Tesco. Fifty tokens will get us one Samsung Tablet, it would be great if we could manage to collect enough tokens for a few tablets to enhance our learning in Whitelees.

After School Clubs

We will be running various after school clubs this session. Look out for more information coming soon!

Football	Art Club	Bikeability	Choir
Active Infants	Drama	Netball	Sign Language



Parent Helpers

We would be delighted to welcome parents to help within the school and are always hopeful that someone will respond to our appeals. If you are interested in helping by attending outings, running after school clubs, taking 'Me Time' groups, joining a school council....the list goes on! Please contact our lovely ladies in the office to make arrangements.

November/ December 2015	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
Dates for your Diary 4.11.15 P6 Bonfire Safety Talk 11.11.15 Flu Vaccinations 11.11.15 P7 Kilbowie Meeting 16.11.15 In Service Day 28.11.15 Christmas Fayre 1.12.15 Whole school Panto 8.12.15 School Nativity 9.12.15 School Nativity 10.12.15 School Nativity 11.12.15 Christmas Jumper Day 14.12.15 P6 & P7 Christmas Party	P1a	<p>Primary 1a have been working very hard to improve our handwriting and are trying really hard to make sure we use finger spaces and our letters sit on the line. We have been working hard to learn our common words and our reading is fantastic! In Maths we have been learning how to tell o'clock times. We have learned that the big hand has to point to the 12 and the little hand points to the hour. We can also recognise digital times too. In gym we have been improving our ball skills and are trying hard to make sure we have our hands ready to catch the ball. We can't wait to learn more songs and dances for our Christmas Nativity performance.</p>
	P1b	<p>As winter approaches, Primary 1b will be investigating seasons and how our environment changes in the winter time. We are learning about months of the year and telling the time using analogue and digital clocks. We will be learning about persuasive writing too and will be using our new skills to convince you to buy something from our stall at the Christmas Fayre at the end of November! We hope you can come along. Please check our blog for regular updates on our learning.</p>
	P2	<p>Primary 2 have begun their new topic "Entertainment in the Victorian Ages". We have been looking at Victorian toys and what they were made of. We were very surprised to learn that some of the toys Victorian children played with are still favourites today in 2015. Toys like dolls, dolls' houses, hoola hoops, skipping ropes and skittles. We have enjoyed painting some of these toys. In story writing we are writing reports about toys and in Maths we have been working hard on addition and subtraction. We hope that you like our own version of a spinning top!</p>
	P2/3	<p>Primary 2/3 have been hard at work after the October holiday. We have been learning all about our 5 senses and taking part in lots of exciting experiments. In Maths we have been learning about partitioning and doubling numbers, and also multiplication. On the day of the Halloween Disco we received a special letter from Hogwarts asking us to write instructions for making magic potions! It is a good thing we have been learning about this taught writing genre this term.</p>
	P3	<p>Primary 3 are learning about our senses. We are carrying out some exciting experiments to develop our understanding of these. Mrs Quinn and Miss Smith are really pleased with the progress we are making with our phonics. Spelling test results have been super. In Maths we have been working on addition and some aspects of division. Keep up the hard work. Outdoor gym is now on a Tuesday and we will be focusing on developing our gross motor skills. Christmas is just around the corner. We have already started our nativity songs and we will soon be making some great things for the Christmas Fayre in the next few weeks.</p>
	P4	<p>Primary 4 are currently enjoying learning about Time and perfecting our mental Maths skills. We have successfully completed our learning about Natural Record Breakers and are now learning about Fire Safety, with Bonfire Night in mind. We are excited to begin our Christmas Enterprise activities as we all have many different talents to offer. Although it's still in its' early stages, we are looking forward to practicing for the Christmas Show.</p>

<p>.....</p> <p>15.12.15 P4 & P5 Christmas Party</p> <p>.....</p> <p>16.12.15 P 2 & P3 Christmas Party</p> <p>.....</p> <p>17.12.15 P1 Christmas Party</p> <p>.....</p> <p>21.12.15 Christmas Service</p> <p>.....</p>	P4/5	Primary 4/5 have been learning all about shape. We are now able to confidently name and identify different 2D and 3D shapes and can state some of the properties of each shape. We made 2D robots using a variety of shapes then moved onto creating 3D robots using junk from home. We designed and built the robots then added paper mâché to make them stronger. Finally, we decorated them to make them look like real robots. Pictures of each step are on our class blog so have a look to see our robots taking shape!
	P5	Primary Five are currently investigating the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. We are going to be looking at what animals live there and the environmental impact that humans have had on the reef. Keep checking the blog where you will find some of our fantastic art work of a coral reef.
	P5/6	Primary 5/6 are working on 2 and 3D shapes. We are using our knowledge of tiling to create amazing images of Autumn scenes. We are starting our new topic and are looking forward to finding out lots more information on our local area. We can't wait to get outdoors!!
	P6	Primary 6 are working on 2D and 3D shapes. We are using our knowledge of tiling to create amazing images of Autumn scenes. We are starting our new topic and are looking forward to finding out lots more information on our local area. We can't wait to get outdoors!!
	P7	Primary 7 are beginning this term with a two week enterprise event linked to their World War II topic. We are hoping that it's a great success with a high turnout. Primary 7a have begun their transition programme to High School and Primary 7b will follow soon. Food technology began this week and pupils will further develop their cooking skills. We have begun a money topic in Maths which is helping us focus on our Enterprise topic. Primary Sevens are also working hard on their literacy programme, this will also require extended reading at home.

Let us know how we are doing...

We really value your feedback as it shows us what we are doing well and helps us to identify what we need to do better.

Just return the tear off slip below to our office and we will be delighted to hear your thoughts and ideas.



Date:

Please tick the relevant box:

Compliment

Comment

Welcome to the
Parent Council

WHITELEES PARENT COUNCIL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

whiteleespc@gmail.com



Trick or Treat.....

The Hallowe'en Disco was a massive success! The children had a fabulous time and the costumes were amazing! We would like to extend a warm and special thank you to all the parents who came along to help and to all the Teaching staff who stayed to lend a helping hand too. The night would not have been a success without their support!



Save the Date

Unbelievably it's that time again and we are planning our annual Christmas Fayre.....so save the date and tell all your family and friends that Santa will be visiting Whitelees Primary on Saturday 28th November 2015. Yet again we need Santa's little helpers to ensure the magic and joy of Christmas comes to Whitelees. We are looking for home baking, raffle prizes, arts and crafts and also volunteers to host the stalls on the day. If you're planning that annual clear out to make room for all the new toys we will happily take your old ones for our toy stall. Toy donations can be dropped off at school anytime from now. If you are able to support us in anyway please complete the form and return to the school to allow us to plan the event. As always we would love to hear new ideas and suggestions on how to improve the Christmas Fayre! Christmas Fayre prep will be every Wednesday in November from 5.00pm - 7.00pm. Volunteers welcome!



Christmas Cards.....

The children have been busy designing their individual 2015 Christmas cards and we're sure you will all be proud to distribute them to your loved ones and friends. Your child's design will be sent home along with the order forms to allow you to order your Christmas cards, mugs and lots of other goodies in plenty of time for the festive period. That's one task off your Christmas list - buy Christmas cards - tick!

AGM Meeting and Fundraising Update ...

The AGM was held recently, there is very little change to the members; we were delighted to welcome Alan Carroll as a co-opted member and look forward to working closely with him and other members of the local community to support Whitelees Primary School. The meeting gave us a great opportunity to reflect on last year's achievements and we would like to thank the entire Parent Forum for their fundraising support. We are proud to confirm that we raised a massive £7515. Below is a breakdown on how the money was spent. We continue to support fun learning experiences for every child at Whitelees. Our plans are to mirror the success of last year and hopefully add some other fun events for the children. As always your support is appreciated and I hope that you feel your contributions are well spent. If you have any fundraising ideas or suggestions please contact us to discuss it further, we welcome your input as members of the Parent Forum.

Funds spent...

Insurance	£42
School Trips	£2000
Enterprise Initiative	£350
Christmas tree	£400
Christmas party treats	£63
Outdoor area	
Primary 7 activity week	} £4719
Primary 1 welcome pack	
School Trips	

Name.....

Child's name.....

Class.....

Phone number.....

Able to help at Christmas Fayre prep/Christmas Fayre (mark as appropriate)