



Whitelees Primary News

February 2016

Whitelees Road, Abronhill, Cumbernauld G67 3NJ

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



WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted that so many of you have now opted to keep up to date by using our school website and class blogs. I am even more excited to announce the launch of our TWITTER page! You will find information on how to join us in this newsletter as well as our website. I have already been posting and look forward to keeping you well informed using this method, in the future.

We are set to have a very special visit from our school's Continuous Improvement Officer at the end of this week. He will be visiting classes and discussing the work of the school with both pupils and adults alike. Our school has a fine reputation and very much relies upon the support our parent body provide in ensuring that such positive messages are spread within our community. I am extremely proud of the pupils and staff of Whitelees and am confident that our school has continued to make significant improvements for the benefit of our learning community. I look forward to sharing the outcome of the visit with you.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter



Time for Tea!

Mrs Hunter invited twelve pupils to join her for a tea party in celebration of their hard work and efforts.

Look out for "It's time to take your work to Mrs Hunter" stickers in your child's jotter and ask them if they have managed to get a Tea Time Ticket to be entered into the draw.



All of the pupils enjoyed their extra special treat.

Our next Tea Party will be in February fingers crossed!

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.



Aviva Sportshall Event

Some of our Primary 7's took part in the Aviva Sportshall Event at Ravenscraig in January where they competed in various sporting activities against other Primary Schools. They all enjoyed the day and we were proud to have them represent Whitelees in such a positive way.



Kilbowie April 2016

Our Primary 7 pupils are off on their annual outing to Kilbowie Outdoor Centre in April 2016. Payment cards have now been issued and you can make payments of any amount at any time suitable to you.



P5/6 and P6 Trip to the People's Palace

Primary 5/6 and 6 had a fabulous trip to The People's Palace to learn about Scottish life past and present. They all thoroughly enjoyed this insight into Scottish life and were a credit to the school.



New Infant Intake

We were delighted to welcome our 2016 intake on Thursday 28th January and look forward to seeing them again during our induction programme.



Football Festival

Some of our Football After School Club pupils have been chosen to represent the school at a football festival at Broadwood Stadium on February 3, 2016. Good luck to everyone taking part!



Mid-Term Break

School will be closed for mid-term break on Monday 8th, and Tuesday 9th February. It is an in service day on Wednesday 10th February therefore children should not attend school on these dates.



Valentine Disco

The Parent Council are running their annual Valentine Disco on Thursday 11th February. Tickets are £2 each and are on sale from Monday 1st February. Look out for more information on our website and notice boards.



Class Photographs

The school Photographer will be at the school on Tuesday 16th February to take class photographs only. Could children be in full school uniform please?



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day

As it is World Book Day on Friday 4th March we have arranged for the Author Stuart Reid to visit the school again this year to read to the children. This was a great event last year and the children will enjoy a book reading as a whole school. Primary 5 and Primary 6 will then enjoy a creative writing workshop with Stuart Reid afterwards. Stuart Reid will visit on Thursday 25th February 2016.

Also to coincide with World Book Day we have arranged for the Scholastic Book Fair to visit the school from Monday 29th February to Thursday 3rd March. Children will be given an opportunity to peruse the books on offer before purchasing and the Book Fair will be available on the night of the Parents Meetings. Perhaps your child could be rewarded with a book for a good school report?

World Book day is on Friday 4th March and children can come to school dressed as a book character to celebrate this event. There will be no charge for this.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held on Thursday 3rd March 2016. Letters will be distributed in due course to enable you to make an appointment to meet with your child's Teacher.



Easter Family Fun Night

The Parent Council will be running their annual Easter Family Fun Night on Friday 18th March 2016. More information will be available nearer the time. We hope you can all join us for some good family fun!



If you're ordering anything online please remember you can help raise funds for the school when using the internet. All you have to do is log onto www.easyfundraising.org.uk, look up Whitelees Primary School and look for the shop you want to purchase from. If you open the website using the link from easyfundraising a percentage of what you spend will be credited to Whitelees Primary School. Some people have used it already and we thank you for this support.

Please remember to phone into the school office before 9.30am if your child is absent. This is mainly for the safety of all children but also ensures your child receives the correct absence mark. Parents who have not called in for their child will receive a text from the school requesting a phone call. If we don't receive a call in reply to this text your child will be marked as unauthorised.

Could you please ensure your child has their gym kit on their gym days? Increasingly children are coming to school without it. If you are unsure of your child's gym days please call the office and they will be able to help.



Huge Thanks!

We have been lucky enough to be gifted wellies, waterproof jackets and outdoor gloves for our Outdoor Learning groups. This will ensure our children are well protected in the Scottish weather!



Follow us!

You can now follow us on Twitter. Look for [WhiteleesPS](#) and you can keep up to date with everything going on at Whitelees!

Parent Council

Our Parent Council ran a competition recently to "name" our external doors! Seems strange eh? But not so much when you consider how much sense it makes! All 5 external doors will soon be displaying a plaque. Each plaque will have a name on it and will help you identify which door you can expect to either drop off or pick up your child. Our Parent Council will announce the winner in the next newsletter.

24.2.16	7.00-9.00
20.4.16	7.00-9.00
1.6.16	7.00-9.00

Julie McQuade - Chairperson

Angela Mason - Vice Chairperson

Donna Waddell - Secretary

Natalie Quinn - Treasurer

Michelle Chambers

Debbie Welsford

Alexandra Merrick

Ishah Imran

Davina Duffy

Alan Carroll - Co-opted Member

Some dates for your diary...

8.2.16 School Holiday	9.2.16 School Holiday	10.2.16 In Service Day	11.2.16 Valentine Disco
16.2.16 Class Photographs	25.2.16 Stuart Reid - Author visit	29.2.16 - 3.3.16 Book Fair Week	3.3.16 Parent/Teacher Meetings
4.3.16 World Book Day - come dressed as a character	18.3.16 Easter Family Fun Night	25.3.16 - 28.3.16 Easter Weekend	
4.4.16 - 15.4.16 Easter Break	18.4.16 - 22.4.16 P7 Kilbowie	28.4.16 Open Afternoon	



Parking

A huge thanks to all of you who have supported us in our request that you park sensibly during pick up and drop off times.

Unfortunately children are still being dropped off in the school car park especially on wet weather days. The school car park is for staff use only and should not be used by parents as a drop off point for breakfast club or on any occasion. This request is made with our pupils' safety at the core and not to inconvenience you in any way. Should you choose this option your child will be given a letter to remind you of our agreed usage of the car park.



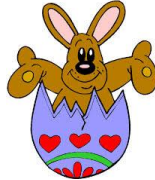
Whitelees Website

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! Our Twitter account will also allow you to link with updates provided through the website. We are doing what we can to keep you in the loop and the children love to check our web counter!



Email

The set-up of correspondence via email is still ongoing and we hope to be in a position to start using this shortly. If you haven't already done so and would like to receive correspondence via email please send an email to enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk stating your child's name and class.



Easter Holidays

Please note the Easter holidays this year are as follows:

Easter Weekend - Friday 25.3.16 - Monday 28.3.16 (inclusive)
Easter Break - Monday 4.4.16 - Friday 15.4.16 (inclusive)

Apologies for any confusion.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parent Helpers

A huge thank you to those of you who have offered your help and support this month. Miss McCrone came in to show Primary 6 how to decorate cupcakes, Mrs Wilson who accompanied primary 5/6 and 6 on their school trip and those who helped with costumes for our Scottish celebrations.

A parent recently informed us that some places of work have an allocation of time allowed to supporting your local community and in some instances this means that you can apply for a day off to attend school trips or as a school helper. Depending on your own circumstances, this may be worth enquiring about!



Whitelees is 40!!!

This year we celebrate our schools 40th year and we are hoping that some of you would help us by sharing your memories and photos of years gone by! Please contact us in the "usual way".

February 2016	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1a	Primary 1a have settled back into school well after our Christmas break. We have been working hard to develop our reading skills and can now read with some great expression. We have also been learning how to write instructions and know that we have to include a title, a list of materials and all our instructions have to be in the right order. In Maths, we have been learning how to count on and back and have been exploring adding more. We have enjoyed finding out a little bit about Scotland. We researched some facts about Robert Burns, listened to some Scottish music, tasted some delicious Scottish food and drew some symbols of Scotland. We have also really enjoyed learning how to dance the Virginia Reel in gym. We are looking forward to starting our block of gymnastics and exploring our local community.
	P1b	Primary 1b have been very busy learning lots since our return to school this year. We have explored different Scottish symbols and we had great fun tasting Scottish foods. We have learned to write instructions and are learning to spell new words every week! We have 5 Learn Its now, and we have enjoyed singing a song to help us learn them. We have also been investigating adding using salt dough, cubes, pegs and lots of other interesting things. We are looking forward to exploring our local area in the next few weeks.
	P2	Primary 2 have been working very hard since coming back to school after Christmas. We have been practicing spelling our words correctly and are delighted with our weekly scores. We have also had good scores for our "Big Maths" Beat That tests. We are learning our Scottish Poem "The Crocodile" by JK Annand and putting actions to this. We have also been learning about Scottish Castles, Cities and Rivers. In Maths we are counting money to 20 pence and next week count money to 50 pence. We are also learning the number story to 13 and can add and subtract within this number. A wee reminder to say that PE for P2 is on Mondays and Thursdays, Monday is outdoor gym and Thursday is indoor gym. We have been practising the "Circle Jig" on Thursdays but also working on gymnastics and full PE kit is safer on the equipment. Many thanks for your continued support in sending PE kit.
	P2/3	Primary 2/3 have been very busy learning all about Scottish Food. They enjoyed a tasting session and tried a range of foods, they then recorded their likes and dislikes. In Maths they continue to work hard with their daily CLIC programme and are learning all about using £1 and 20p coins. Very soon they will be starting their new topic "A Victorian Child". Please keep checking the P2/3 blog to see the fantastic work taking place in their classroom.
	P3	Primary 3 have settled back well into school after the Christmas holidays. We have been getting to know our new teacher, Mrs Finlay, and she has been getting to know us. We have worked together to write our own class contract about how to work and play safe, hard and fair in school. In Maths we have been learning about money - coin combinations to make a certain amount and calculating change when paying for items. We have also been continuing to practise our Learn It's and doubling 2 digit numbers. We have had fun learning more about Scotland too. We have learned about Scottish produce and have tasted a variety of Scottish foods. We have also learned and performed Scottish poetry and Scottish dancing. We have also written our own poems about Scotland, after discussing and watching footage of life in the highlands, islands, lochs and cities.
	P4	Primary 4 have been learning about the significant Scot, John Logie Baird. We have been fascinated by how his inventions have changed the world as we know it today. We also learned a lot about Robert Burns and have enjoyed learning our Scots' Poem, 'Lament for a Lost Dinner Ticket' by Margaret Hamilton. We are excited to perform it to the school at our Scottish Assembly. Remember to check our blog updates as we will post a video of our performance.
	P4/5	So far this term we have been learning about Scotland. We learned about the famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns, we tasted some different traditional Scottish foods and we also learned facts about some Scottish animals. We really enjoyed tasting the different foods and trying some new things! We had a great time practising for our Scottish assembly and enjoyed learning the words and creating a dance for 'Donald Where's Your Trousers'! Have a look on our blog to see our performance! This term we also started a block of Food Technology lessons and we are very excited to be cooking some different foods!
	P5	Primary Five have been very busy learning our poem for the Scottish Assembly. We have also been learning about the life of Robert Burns and what happens at a Burns Supper. This term we have also been investigating the River Clyde and the shipbuilding that took place along it. Remember to keep checking our blog to see what else we have been up to!
	P5/6	This month we have been very busy. We have been learning all about Scottish society in the past and present. We had an amazing trip to The People's Palace which gave us the opportunity to see first hand what it was like to live in the past. We are also taking part in the whole school Burn's competition which we are very excited about!
	P6	The children of P6 recently finished a mini-topic on Scotland where they interviewed family members about Scottish childhood and schools in the past and visited The People's Palace where they learned more about our local culture and history. In Maths the children are learning about decimals in context e.g. looking at money, weight and distances. They will be going on to learn about Influential People for an interdisciplinary topic.
	P7	Primary Seven are settling back into their third term. In Maths we have been working on division and long division. We have been reading and creating our own Scottish poems using Scottish dialect! We have been looking at the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and used his style to create our own pieces of art work including a lampshade. In P.E we have enjoyed learning various Scottish country dances with everyone participating enthusiastically. Some pupils from both classes represented the school at the Sports Hall Event final, everyone tried their best and enjoyed the experience. The remainder of the children took part in a challenge afternoon and showed that they were able to work as part of a team. The children have set themselves health and Wellbeing targets around improving their healthy lifestyle. Dojos will be given for healthy snack choices!

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 ☐

Please write your response below:
