



Whitelees Primary News

March 2016

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WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to report that our recent Improvement visit went very well with our NLC Officer commenting on the innovative and exciting ways in which 'Pupil Voice' is promoted through the School Council groups and ideas shared by the children of Whitelees. He was treated to the Culture Council's Gaelic skills and given a lesson on how we should 'Think Before we Drink' when our Health Council challenged our thoughts on how much sugar is contained in what we believe are healthy drinks! As always, the pupils of Whitelees were great ambassadors of the excellent work that takes place in our school! I would like to extend my gratitude to the hard working staff members of Whitelees as without their eagerness and dedication to the pupils, we would not benefit to such a rewarding extent.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter



Cumbernauld & District Annual Burns Competition

We would like to say a HUGE congratulations to our finalists in the Cumbernauld & District Annual Burns Competition.

Pupils from Primary 6 lifted two first prizes and a third prize in the Essay and Senior Artwork competition.

Adam won first prize for his essay entitled "The Walking Nightmare"

Carli won third prize for her essay entitled "The Monster Awakes"

Molly won first prize for her artwork, a fabulous picture of Prince Charles Edward Stuart!

Well done everyone, what an amazing achievement!



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.



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. The full amount must be paid by Friday 8th April 2016.



P7 Activity Week

We are currently organising our Primary 7's annual activity week. Letters have already been distributed keeping you up to date with where we are at present. This week will run from Monday 9th May until Friday 13th May 2016. Payment cards have now been issued if you wish to start making contributions to this.



Time for Tea!

It was Time for Tea again on Friday 26th February when Mrs Hunter invited another twelve hard-working, well behaved pupils to join her for a tea party in celebration of their efforts



All of the pupils enjoyed their extra special treat.
Our next Tea Party is scheduled for March.



Parent Council Disco

The Parent Council disco was a great success. A massive thank you to everyone who attended to help, this would not have been possible without your commitment! Everyone should have received their photo booth pics by now.



Easter Break

School will be closed for Easter on Friday 25th and Monday 28th March. School will re-open on Tuesday 29th March and will close again for the half term holiday from Monday 4th April until Friday 15th April inclusive. School re-opens on Monday 18th April.



Class Photographs

As you know the school Photographer was here on Tuesday 16th February to take class photographs. We are expecting the proofs to be with us in the next 2 weeks.



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day

Author Stuart Reid visited the school again this year to read to the children. This was a great success and the children loved his book reading. Primary 5 and Primary 6 enjoyed their creative writing workshops afterwards.

The Scholastic Book Fair is visiting the school from Monday 29th February to Thursday 3rd March. Children will have the opportunity to peruse the books on offer on Monday and Tuesday before purchasing on the Wednesday and Thursday. You should have already received a note home to say detailing the timetable for perusing and purchasing. Could you please send money with your child on the day they will be able to purchase books? The Book Fair will also 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 have already been distributed asking you to indicate which time slots would best suit you. We look forward to meeting with you then.



Easter Family Fun Night

As we are set to celebrate our "Whitelees 40th Year" our Parent Council have decided to add to the fun by organising a Family Fun Night to be held on 29th April 2016. This will replace the Easter Family Fun Night scheduled to take place on Friday 18th March!



High School Transition Visits

The proposed dates for Primary 7 transition visits to Cumbernauld Academy are Monday 16th May and Tuesday 17th May and half day Wednesday 18th May. These are currently only provisional and we will let you know if there is any change to this.

Transition visits for Greenfaulds High School are Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June 2016 and for Our Lady's High School are Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th June 2016.

Further information will be given nearer the time.



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.

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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.

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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.

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For children who come to Breakfast Club can you please ensure they have sufficient funds on their card to cover breakfast and lunch (if they go to school dinners)? Increasingly children don't seem to have sufficient funds on their card and the money is having to be covered by the office. Unfortunately, this cannot be sustained. Your co-operation is appreciated.

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Increasingly children are not attending school for a full day due to doctor/orthodontist/hospital appointments. Whilst we understand these may sometimes take a full day, more often than not they don't require the whole day. The school should be informed of appointments in writing with a copy of the appointment letter/slip included. This will ensure children are given the correct absence mark. Children whose appointment only requires a half day will be marked as permission for the half day and unauthorised for the other half as per North Lanarkshire Council guidelines.



Parent Council

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...

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	
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
29.4.16 Family Fun Night	2.5.16 Bank Holiday	5.5.16 In Service Day	9.5.16 - 13.5.16 P7 Activity Week
16th/17th May Cumbernauld Academy Transition Visits		27.5.16 - 30.5.16 May Holiday	



Infant Induction Programme

Tuesday 1st March 2016 11.00am to 12.00pm

I will meet my Primary 1 chum and my primary 6 buddy

Wednesday 30th March 2016

11.00am to 12.00pm

I will visit my primary 1 classroom for a Maths session

Tuesday 3rd May 2016 11.00am to 12.00pm

I will visit my primary 1 classroom for a Language session

Wednesday 18th May 2016 11.00am to 12.00pm

I will enjoy a purposeful play activity and visit the dinner school

16th 17th or 18th May 2016 (Date to be confirmed) 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Induction visit - parents and child can visit

Wednesday 8th June 2016 11.30am to 12.10pm

I will visit the dinner school and have lunch with my new school friends.

Wednesday 15th June 2016 1.00pm

I will visit my new school to see their School Show.



Email

We are pleased to announce our email alert system is now up and running. Those who have subscribed should have received our very first email containing information on our Twitter account and website. Our intention is to communicate with parents in this way in the future as we are an Eco school and keen to maintain our Eco status by continuing to find ways to be environmentally friendly. 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.



Whitelees Website

You can keep up-to-date with everything that is happening in Whitelees and see what your child's class is up to on our website. Our Twitter account will also allow you to link with updates provided through the website. As already mentioned our email alert system is also now up and running. We are doing all we can to keep you in the loop and the children love to check our web counter!



Whitelees is 40!!!

As we mentioned last month this year we celebrate our schools 40th year this year and we are hoping that some of you would help us by sharing your memories and photos of years gone by! We have received some fabulous old school photographs so far but would love to have many more. Any memories you could share with us would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school via the office or our email address enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk.



We need your help!

Since January, P5/6, P6 and P7 have been working really hard creating a wildlife area for our school. We have been creating bug hotels and shelters for the animals to use. Sadly, our plans have been taking longer than they should as there is a large amount of litter at the back of the school. We think it is coming from the lane leading from Whitelees to Lilac. We still have high hopes of animals visiting the area once completed as we have now removed all litter. We are trying to get more bins placed in the lane to help stop the litter but ask that if you are in the area surrounding the school grounds, that you dispose of your litter responsibly as the possible dangers to our wildlife could be fatal.

Thank you in advance from all pupils.

March 2016	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1a	Primary 1a have been working really hard in Maths and have been learning to use cubes and other objects to help us add. We know that we need to count all of our objects to find the total. We have been having lots of fun in the gym hall and have been investigating different ways of moving our bodies. We thought of some interesting ways to move our body along a bench! As part of our topic we went for a walk around Whitelees to look for different types of houses. We have also enjoyed visiting the library and finding out what we can do in there.
	P1b	Primary 1b have been very busy this month. They have been creating adding stories and have had fun adding cubes, beads, bears and plasticine shapes at Maths time. Our magnetic boards now have phonemes so the children are learning to spell lots of new tricky words! The boys and girls have been learning about the local area and have enjoyed getting outside to explore Abrohill. The children have been building models of different kinds of homes and making posters to advertise some of the local services. In the next few weeks, the children will be finding out about the people in the community who help them.
	P2	Primary 2 have been busy this month counting money to 20p, 50p and beyond to £1. We are becoming much more confident in this area of our work. We are looking forward to learning about fractions in Maths over the coming weeks. As part of our topic we have had a visit from Nurse McQuade who told us all about her job and showed us some of the things she uses to help patients. Two weeks ago we had a visit from two Police Officers who told us about their jobs and let us try on some of their uniform. We had a fun afternoon dressing up as Police Officers. We are working hard on our spelling and many of us are getting top marks in our weekly spelling test. We must remember to practise our phoneme and spelling words at home too.
	P2/3	Primary 2/3 have taken a huge step back in time this term to learn all about life in the Victorian Era. They have been learning about rich and poor life and working in the mines and factories. The class are able to talk about how they would have felt having to work down the mines and in the factories. In Maths they are learning to tell the time using digital and analogue clocks, and are continuing to develop their numeracy and mental agility skills in Big Maths. A big huge thank you to all of you who helped with the Victorian Houses, they look fantastic and look great on display in our classroom.
	P3	<p>In Primary 3 we have started our new topic about the life of Victorian children. The pupils have a rich or poor Victorian character, which will follow them throughout the topic. We have made character profiles and designed our own characters, using Ipads to research the clothing they would have worn. We have been experimenting with using charcoal in art, to create a portrait of Queen Victoria and to create a Victorian house or slum.</p> <p>We have also been learning about family life, work and play for Victorian children, and the differences between rich and poor children of the time, and also the differences between Victorian life and our lives today.</p> <p>In Maths we are excellent at adding and subtracting 10 from a 2 digit number, partitioning and doubling 2 digit numbers and adding tens numbers together. Our Learn It's and fact families are improving. We have been learning narrative writing and have written about a haggis, turning our teacher into a frog and a bubble adventure. We have been trying to improve our punctuation, sentence openers and use of adjectives to make our writing more interesting.</p> <p>In P.E. we have started gymnastics. We have been focusing on balance and coordination so far, using the mats, vaults and benches. In French, we have been learning the months of the year and the song, 'qu'elle et le dat de ton anniversaire?'</p>
	P4	<p>This term in Maths Primary 4 have been working on Division within 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables. We had great fun sharing out sweets and even got to eat them afterwards.</p> <p>Our new topic is Magnets and Electricity. We have learned lots of facts about magnets and have been doing different investigations to see how strong some magnets are.</p> <p>In Outdoor Learning we have been working with Brian to plant chillies and tomatoes. We tidied and weeded all the big planting boxes and laid down some new flowers.</p>
	P4/5	This term we started our new topic of Forces, Magnets and Electrical Circuits. So far we have learned about magnets and we are looking at different toys and games that use magnets - we have enjoyed exploring these different items. This term we have also enjoyed taking part in gymnastics using different equipment. It has been fun using the box and trampoline. Check out our blog where we update weekly with different aspects of our learning that we have enjoyed!
	P5	Primary 5 have been very excited to learn about people from the Victorian era. We discovered that the era was named after Queen Victoria and we investigated what it would be like to be a child in that time. Some of us were very shocked when we saw what school was like in the 1800's! In Maths we have been working very hard to learn our Learn It's and we are just starting to investigate fractions. Remember to keep checking our blog to see what else we have been up to!
	P5/6	In Maths P5/6 have been working very hard on multiplication and division. We have also been looking at influential people from Scotland and have been researching and debating what makes someone become influential. We will be presenting our ideas, thoughts and feelings in groups to our class.

	P6	In P6 the children are learning about influential people from Scotland from the past and will look at today's influencers too over the course of the term. They will have the chance to complete a personal project on an individual they feel is influential and will present their work to the class. For Maths the children have been learning about the relationship between division and multiplication and will go on to more complex division problems.
	P7	Primary 7 have been working on Time during Maths and have shown that they are able to read and understand timetables as well as create their own! We are completing our class novels and moving on to new ones next week. We are also looking forward to activities during World Book Day next Friday. We have been using our knowledge and understanding of dance to create our own dance and moves at gym time. Now that the weather is (a little) better we will be heading out for outdoor gym each week. Come prepared! At art we have been using shape and shade to draw still life and add detail and realism to our drawings. Lots of interesting, mature discussions around our R.M.E topic Divided City too. Keep up the hard work Primary 7!

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:
