



Whitelees Primary News

May 2016

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WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Break. It is great to see the children back and refreshed for their final term of this school year. As always it is a very busy term with summer trips, 40th celebrations, our school show, sports day and of course the P7 Leavers' Assembly coming up in June! We hope you can join us for some of these events and wish to thank those of you who came along last Friday to the Parent Council 'Awesome Since 1976' Family Night. It was a fantastic evening and served as a great opportunity to share the many photos and memories we have made as a school in the past 40 years. As our official birth date is not until 19th August, our celebrations are set to continue into the new session with a very special unveiling scheduled for that time. This month, we are preparing to welcome 4 NLC professionals who will be observing the work of the school and providing feedback on how well our pupils learn. I am looking forward to showcasing the work of the school and will share the feedback with you in due course.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter



Beat The Street

After a slow start due to our resources arriving late Beat the Street is now up and running. The children are loving joining in with this North Lanarkshire wide game and classes are going out on impromptu walks to build up our points and get some fresh air and exercise! The competition is running for a further 5 weeks so let's keep on beating the street and try to move Whitelees up the leaderboard. There are prizes for the top 3 schools, £1000, £500 and £250 of Decathlon vouchers for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Registered players could also win a spot prize by being a "lucky tap" winner! There are 89 schools participating and we have managed to stay in the top 10 since it began! What a great way to get out and about our local area getting some exercise and maybe even win a prize or two along the way!



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 were extremely lucky with the weather at Kilbowie and reports I'm hearing are that they all had an absolute ball and the experience will be something they will remember for some years to come! Their behaviour was fantastic and we are very proud to have had them represent Whitelees. Well done Primary 7! It was clear that the parents enjoyed our regular Twitter updates and photographs! If you don't already follow us please do!



P7 Activity Week

The P7 activity week is fast approaching. Full payment **MUST** be made by Friday 6th May. Letters were distributed today with further details.



Dig In Day

Our Dig In Day is on Saturday 14th May from 10.00am until 12.00pm. We would love as many people as possible to come along and pitch in to help improve our outdoor learning environment. Flyers were distributed last week, please return the tear off slip if you are able to come along.



Family Fun Night

Our Family Fun Night was a huge success, thank you to those who came along to help celebrate 40 years of Whitelees. Thank you to the Parent Council who did a great job of organising the night! Look out for more details of our ongoing 40th year celebrations!



High School Transition Visits

Primary 7 transition visits to Cumbernauld Academy have been confirmed as Monday 16th May and Tuesday 17th May and half day Wednesday 18th May. Wednesday will be a sports event so pupils should come equipped with their PE kit. There will also be a P7 Parents Information Evening at Cumbernauld Academy at 7.00pm on Thursday 12th May 2016.

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 distributed when we receive it from the high schools.



P6 Maths Fun Day

Primary 6 will be heading to Cumbernauld Academy for their annual Maths Fun Day Thursday 9th June from 9.15am - 11.45am. We hope they enjoy this event. Good luck primary 6!



Open Afternoon

As you will know our annual Open Afternoon is on Friday 6th May from 1.30pm - 3.00pm where your child will be showcasing their wonderful classwork and you will be able to see what learning experiences your child has had this year and participate in some Me Time activities. You will be free to take your child home with you whenever your visit finishes. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday.



Abronhill Bowling Club Taster Sessions

Our Primary 5's and 6's have been enjoying taster sessions at Abronhill Bowling Club. We hope they've had fun going along and trying their hand at this sport. Thank you to Abronhill Bowling Club for hosting this event.



In Service Day

Thursday 5th May is an in service day. Children should not attend school.



40th Year Summer Show

Rehearsals are well underway for our 40th year Summer show. Performances will be on 14th, 15th and 16th June. We will let you know when tickets will be on sale!



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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If your child has an appointment during school hours the school should be informed of the appointment in writing with a copy of the appointment letter/slip included. This will ensure children are given the correct absence mark.

Some dates for your diary...

2.5.16 Bank Holiday	3.5.16 P6 Bowling Taster Session	5.5.16 In Service Day	6.5.16 Open Afternoon
9.5.16 - 13.5.16 P7 Activity Week	12.5.16 P7 Information Evening Cumbernauld Academy		14.5.16 Dig In Day
16th/ 17th/18th May Cumbernauld Academy Transition Visits		27.5.16 - 30.5.16 May Holiday	
2.6.16 - 3.6.16 Greenfaulds Transition Visits		7.6.16 P2 Summer Trip	8.6.16 - 9.6.16 OLHS Transition Visits
9.6.16 P6 Maths Fun Day	14.6.16 School Show - 1.00pm	15.6.16 School Show - 1.00pm	16.6.16 School Show - 7.00pm
20.6.16 P2/3 and P3 Summer Trip	21.6.16 P1 - P3 Awards Ceremony	22.6.16 P1 Summer Trip	22.6.16 P4 - P6 Awards Ceremony
23.6.16 P4, P4/5, P5 Summer Trip	24.6.16 Sports Day	28.6.16 P7 Leavers Assembly	29.6.16 School closes at 1.00pm

P5/6 and P6 trip still to be confirmed.

Parent Council

1.6.16	7.00-9.00
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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



Infant Induction Programme

Tuesday 3rd May 2016 11.00am to 12.00pm

I will visit my primary 1 classroom for a Language session

Wednesday 18th May 2016 1.30pm - 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.

Please note the children will not now be expected to attend at the earlier time of 11.00am - 12.00pm on the 18th May!



Whitelees Website

You can keep up-to-date with everything that is going on 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!



Summer Trips

Summer trips have now been organised for Primary 1 to Primary 6 and letters were distributed on Friday with more information. We hope they all enjoy their days out!



Email

As you will know our email alert system is now up and running. We are now using the system regularly and it is our intention 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 you can sign up at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNLC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKNLC_107 to receive correspondence via email.



Price Increase

Further to this year's savings proposals please note there has been an increase in the price of a school meal. A school lunch will now cost £1.90.



March 2016	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1a	Primary 1a have been working very hard and have been busy learning facts for all the number stories to 10. They have continued to work really hard with their reading and can read lots of new words now. They are also experts at sorting words into alphabetical order. They have enjoyed designing an invention to help make their school day a bit easier. In PE, they have been learning how to hold a tennis racquet carefully and how to use it to hit a balloon.
	P1b	Primary 1b have been working hard to learn lots. We have explored number stories and can make adding sums to 10. The children know that if you switch an adding sum, it still has the same answer and they can also find the missing number in jigsaw sums. The boys and girls have been learning to spell lots of new words and they can use the sounds they know to have a go at new words. The children have had great fun hearing about Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and have been inspired to create some amazing inventions all of their own! During indoor P.E. lessons, the children have been learning about tennis and developing their balance and control. Please check our class blog to see some photographs.
	P2	Primary 2 are busy learning the two times table and number stories to 20 in Maths. We are participating in "The Daily Mile" challenge and trying to get a faster time each day. We are enjoying this challenge very much and know that we are becoming fitter and healthier each time. We have been thinking about "Inventions" that may make our life easier in the future and we have been drawing pictures of our ideas and have made models of these using art straws, pipe cleaners and coloured card, paper and glue. We are proud of our results.
	P2/3	Primary 2/3 have settled into their final term very well. They have been learning all about fractions, using halves and quarters. They made fraction pizzas which look good enough to eat. P2/3 are very excited for their new topic "Deadly Dinosaurs" and have helped plan their topic using their experiences and outcomes. P2/3 look forward to seeing you all at the open afternoon to show all their learning.
	P3	Primary 3 have settled back into school after Easter. We have all moved desks and are getting on well in our new groups. We have been doing an Inventors topic, following on from the Victorians. We have discussed our favourite inventions and we have been investigating Victorian Inventions, such as the telephone, post box, the light bulb and jelly babies! We have also been learning about the Jewish Passover festival and the story of the Exodus from Egypt, following the 10 plagues. The children have been quite fascinated by this story. In Maths we have begun to learn about fractions - halves and quarters and have been continuing with recounts in taught writing. Song practise has now begun for our school show extravaganza. We have also been busy out beating the streets and checking into boxes, around the local area, with our fobs; as well as keeping up with our daily mile!
	P4	Primary 4 have been learning about Position and Movement in Maths. This has given us lots of opportunities to learn outside. Check our Blog for photos! In Literacy, each group is creating their own Novel Study Book, using all of the reading strategies to create a variety of tasks to be displayed in the book. We have also been learning all about Willy Wonka and his weird and wonderful inventions. In doing so, we have learned about the need for inventions and the purpose they have in society. In Outdoor Learning we have taken all of the tomato plants we have grown and replanted them in larger tubs. We have given them to classrooms and individual staff members and will hold a competition to see who can grow the most successful plant. We wish you all good luck! Remember to keep checking our Blog to find out exactly what we are getting up to every week.
	P4/5	Primary 4/5 have enjoyed the beginning of our new inventions theme 'Willy Wonka's Wonders' - we have been investigating some of our favourite inventions from the movie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and wrote some information about some of them along with beautiful illustrations. We will upload some of these onto our blog so you can see our fabulous work. This month we were also introduced to Mrs Murdoch's Mega Money where we can earn 'pounds' by demonstrating high standards of work and effort, earning Dojo Points and being responsible. We have come up with some fantastic prizes and can't wait to earn more pounds!
	P5	This week we were very lucky to have a session at Abrohill Bowling Club which we all really enjoyed. Have a look at our blog to see some pictures from the day. During Maths we are working on finding the area and perimeter of shapes. We were very good at measuring the area and perimeter of parts of the playground. We are still enjoying reading Charlie and the Chocolate factory which has given us lots of ideas for our Inventors topic. Remember to keep an eye on our blog to see what else we have been up to.
	P5/6	Primary 5/6 have been enjoying the short lived sunshine and have taken a lot of our learning outdoors. We have also been working hard in Maths learning about volume and enjoyed estimating and measuring. In Art, we have been researching Vincent Van Gogh and are looking forward to creating artwork in his style.
	P6	Food Technology lessons have resumed for Primary 6 and the children are learning how to prepare food and kitchen space, cook and clean up afterwards. Some have already made shortbread while another group researched how different foods affect health. Everyone will be cooking during May. Already excitement is building for our summer show and a number of P6 pupils have key roles. The children are working well and have lots of fun learning planned for the last term in preparation for Primary 7.

P7

Both Primary 7 classes had a fantastic week at Kilbowie, the weather was kind and everyone threw themselves into all of the activities Kilbowie had to offer, (quite literary at times). The children were a credit to the school and this was commented on by the Kilbowie staff. We certainly have some talented children, who took to many of the activities like ducks to water. Our twitter feed with regular pictures and updates proved to be very popular. You can find pupil comments on the experience on our blog. Pupils who were not able to attend Kilbowie enjoyed a fun week in school. We are now settling back in to our class routines and pupils are busy working on their eportfolios as part of their transition to High School.

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:
