



Whitelees Primary News

June 2016

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WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can hardly believe we are in the final weeks of this school year and as always, they are packed full of activities and opportunities for you to share in the excitement of it all. As you are aware, our Validation Visit took place 2 weeks ago and I am delighted to announce that it went very well. Look out for a letter that details the outcome of the visit but in the meantime, I thought I'd give you a flavour of what was highlighted as some of the key strengths of our school: 'happy, achieving pupils', 'a wide range of teaching and learning approaches', 'the use of ICT to enhance learning and teaching' and the list goes on... Suffice to say our visitors were very impressed and have asked that our school be used as a model of good practice! A big thank you to all who offered their time in preparation and attended focus groups and also a huge thanks to all those who came along to our 'Dig In Day'! Another great success...I hope you would agree that the playground continues to offer our children a bright and stimulating place to learn and play!

Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter

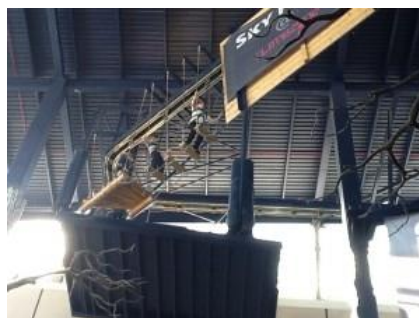


P7 Activity Week

Primary 7 had a fabulous activity week! It was a fun-filled week with lots of exciting, new things to have a go at. They tried their hand at trampolining, sledging and a climbing wall amongst other activities. They visited Soar at Intu Braehead, Dynamic Earth, the Scottish Parliament and M & D's to name but a few. They certainly got about! We hope they all take some fantastic memories of their time at Primary school with them to high school.



Outside the Scottish Parliament



Braving the Skypark at Soar!



Bouncing fun at Airspace!

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.



Open Afternoon

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Open Afternoon. It was a huge success and was very well supported. We hope you all learned lots about what your child has been working on in class and enjoyed some "Me Time"!



Dig In Day

Thank you also to everyone who came along to our Dig In Day! The Scottish weather was very kind to us and we managed to make lots of improvements to our outdoor learning environment. Our playground looks fantastic and we couldn't have done it without your help! A huge thank you to everyone who came along and gave their time, skills and resources! Thanks also to the Parent Council who were on hand with refreshments to keep everyone going! I think you'll agree our outdoor area has never looked better!



Cumbernauld Academy Transition Visits

Our Primary 7's have been very busy. They had their two and a half day transition visit to Cumbernauld Academy and reports are that they were very well behaved and the high school are very much looking forward to having them full time in August. The children were able to experience two days of a high school timetable and took part in a Sports event on the Wednesday. We hope they all enjoyed their visit and are looking forward to starting after the Summer holidays. The other schools transitions days have yet to come and I'm sure they will be as enjoyable as Cumbernauld Academy's.



Class Summer Trips

Our class Summer trips have now been arranged and letters have been sent home. If you haven't already done so please return your child's permission slip and payment to the school in their labelled polypocket. We would request that trips are paid in full before the event. We hope the children have a fabulous time on their well-deserved Summer trips!



Mini Olympics After School Club

Mrs Vass is running a Mini Olympics after school club for Primary 1 and 2 on Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd June from 3.00pm - 3.45pm. Letters were distributed last week and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. You should now know if your child has been allocated a place.



P6 Maths Fun Day

Plans are well underway for the Primary 6 Maths Fun Day at Cumbernauld Academy on Thursday 9th June from 9.15am - 11.45am. Good luck primary 6!



Email Alerts

It's not too late to sign up to our email alerts!

Log onto https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNLC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKNLC_107 to be kept up to date.



Our 40th Year Summer Spectacular Show!

Rehearsals for our Anniversary Summer Spectacular are well underway and it's going to be a showstopper!! Order forms for tickets have been distributed. Due to safety constraints we can only allow **3 tickets per family** initially. Tickets not sold by Wednesday 8th June will be on sale from **9.30am on Thursday 9th June at the office** on a first come first served basis. Tickets will cost £3 per adult and £1 per child. Order forms were distributed last week, you won't want to miss this! Dates for the show are:

Tuesday 14th June at 1.00pm

Wednesday 15th June at 1.00pm

Thursday 16th June at 7.00pm

Once tickets have been sold we will be having a **GOLDEN TICKET** draw! Each adult who has purchased tickets will be entered into the draw. Each **GOLDEN TICKET** winner will win a seat in the front two rows for their chosen performance! Once winners have been drawn you will be informed and asked to exchange ONE ticket for your **GOLDEN TICKET** to the best seat in the house!



In Service Day

Thursday 23rd June is an additional In Service day due to the EU Referendum. Children should not attend school.



Awards Ceremony

As it is nearing the end of another school year we will be holding our annual Awards Ceremonies this month. Parents are warmly invited to attend their child's ceremony. Awards will be given for the Annual Class Dojo Winner, 100% Attendance, Subject Excellence and Curriculum for Excellence Capacities. The ceremonies will be held as follows:

P1 - P3 Awards Ceremony Tuesday 21st June at 1.30pm

P4 - P6 Awards Ceremony Wednesday 22nd June at 1.30pm

Our P7 Leavers Assembly will be held on Tuesday 28th June at 1.30pm. Look out for your personal invitation. Bring your hankies!



Don't forget to use www.easyfundraising.org.uk/when ordering online. 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, no texts please. If we don't receive a call in reply to this text your child will be marked as unauthorised. If your child has two consecutive unauthorised absences the Attendance Officer will be sent to your house to investigate.

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We would rather children did not bring mobile phones to school however, if they must, phones must be switched off when they enter the playground and handed into the Class Teacher during registration in the morning. Phones will be held at the office and handed back at the end of the day. We cannot be held responsible if anything happens to your child's phone. Recently our office have been blamed for smashing phones and this is absolutely not the case!

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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 fund used by the office is now empty. Your co-operation is appreciated. Breakfast Club is 20p per child per day.

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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...

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd June Mini Olympics	1.6.16 Parent Council Meeting	2.6.16 and 3.6.16 Greenfaulds Transition Visits	
7.6.16 P2 Summer Trip	8.6.16 and 9.6.16 OLHS Transition Visits	9.6.16 P6 Maths Fun Day	14.6.16 Summer Show 1.00pm
15.6.16 Summer Show 1.00pm	16.6.16 Summer Show 7.00pm	20.6.16 P2/3 and P3 Trip	20.6.16 P4, P4/5 and P5 Trip
21.6.16 P1 - P3 Awards Ceremony	22.6.16 P4 - P6 Awards Ceremony	22.6.16 P1 Summer Trip	23.6.16 In Service Day
24.6.16 Sports Day	27.6.16 P5/6 and P6 Summer Trip	28.6.16 P7 Leavers Assembly	29.6.16 Non uniform Close at 1.00pm



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

Wednesday 8th June 2016 11.30am to 12.10pm

I will visit the dinner school and have lunch with my new school friends. Child plus one other welcome.

Wednesday 15th June 2016 1.00pm

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



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 available. We are doing all we can to keep you in the loop and the children love to check our web counter!



Sports Day

We will be hosting our annual Sports Day on Friday 24th June 2016 at 1.30pm. Parents are invited to come along and maybe join in the fun! Children will be involved in activities all day. Feel free to join us anytime after 1.30pm to take part in our final activity before the flat races at 2.10pm.



Welcome to our Monthly Attendance Statistics! Regular attendance at school is important and has been proven to be linked to improved achievements! This is how our statistics are looking this month:

Average Attendance: 95.93%

Number achieving 100% Attendance: 35

Average Latecoming: 41.45% of children have 1 or more instances of latecoming. We will be addressing this in the new school year.



Our recent two day validation visit was a great success! The Continuous Improvement Officers carrying out the visit were extremely complimentary about the school, staff, pupils, the quality of teaching and the practices we have in place. A letter providing more detailed information will be issued to parents in due course.



Our resident Oystercatchers have become parents! One egg hatched at the beginning of last week. Our children have been very respectful of their need for privacy and quiet and have been watching from afar using binoculars. It's an exciting time at Whitelees!



As you will know we are keen to support the new Cumbernauld and Kilsyth School Uniform Bank and have asked that you hand in any uniform to the school which may be too small for your children, indeed, we have already had a few donations, thank you! We are planning to have a free non uniform day on the very last day of term, 29th June 2016, and would ask that instead of throwing away your children's school clothes you hand them into the office on the last day and we will make sure they are passed to the Uniform Bank. If the clothes could be handed in washed and ironed we would be extremely grateful. Unfortunately we are unable to have a non uniform day on Wednesday 28th June as this is the Primary 7 leaver's assembly. Thank you so much for your continued support and we're sure this Uniform Bank will be a great asset to our community!

June 2016	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1a	Primary 1a have been enjoying reading non-fiction books. We have learned that they tell us lots of facts and they have a contents page and a glossary. In maths, we have been working hard to develop our counting on and counting back skills. In gym, we have been learning how to hold a tennis racquet properly and have been enjoying learning how to pass a balloon to our partner. We have worked very hard to learn our songs for the school show and have been perfecting some dance moves too! We are looking forward to our trip to the Safari Park in June.
	P1b	Primary 1b have been learning all about non-fiction this month. The children can recognise and read non-fiction books and can also write reports to share interesting facts that they have learned. The boys and girls have been investigating living things and have been taking great care of the tomato plant we are growing in our classroom. The children have learned to count on and back using different strategies and have also had fun counting to ten in French!. The class are working hard to perfect their performance for the school show and we hope you can join us to see just how talented they all are!
	P2	<p>We have been learning about under the sea creatures and food chains. We have been learning to measure length and area using paperclips, cubes, hand spans and paces. We have measured our corridor and gym hall.</p> <p>We are looking forward to our trip next Tuesday 7th June to Deep Sea World very much. We hope that the sun continues to shine for us!! Some children have still not paid yet. Please send both the permission slip and money together if you have not already done so.</p>
	P2/3	P2/3 are hard at work in the run up to the end of term. In maths they are learning all about measuring using standard and non standard units of measure. They are enjoying using the metre sticks and are excited to use their new skills to find out how big dinosaurs were. In IDL they are learning all about "Deadly Dinosaurs". P2/3 are able to describe and identify the features of carnivorous and plant eating Dinosaurs and are beginning to learn about the impact of these on food chains. Just a quick reminder that personal projects are due on the 13th of June. The children are looking forward to seeing and hearing about all the Dinosaurs their peers have researched.
	P3	Primary 3 have been submerged in their new topic, Deadly Dinosaurs. We have been learning all about the environment in the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods and created a class mural of a Jurassic landscape in the classroom, using paint and experimenting with different textures. We can identify the features and differences between carnivores and omnivores and have been working together cooperatively on challenges. We have also experimented with papier mache to create dinosaur eggs in art. In Maths we are learning about measure, using metres, half metres and centimetres, and are looking forward to measuring out different dinosaur lengths in the playground soon! We are also loving rehearsing for the school show and taking part in our daily mile every day!
	P4	Primary 4 are enjoying their last term of this school year. We have been involved in active learning when developing knowledge and understanding of Measure and Volume. Our Outdoor Learning opportunities will allow us to pick all of the food we have grown, then wash and prepare it to be eaten, using our Food Technology skills. Some of us are coming to the end of our current novels and will move onto Non-Fiction texts, we love learning about facts so are looking forward to choosing texts that really interest us. We are all excited about our school show, and are putting in lots of effort when rehearsing our songs and dances. Be sure to keep an eye on our Blog for other updates on our learning.
	P4/5	This month we have been learning about Measure in Maths. We learned about millilitres and litres and had a great time making up some new inventive potions that could be used by Willy Wonka! We have also learned how to measure using centimetres and metres and had fun competing to see who had the longest jump. We have also been very lucky this month as we were the winners of the Movie Afternoon Treat, we all dressed in our pyjamas and enjoyed watching the movie with some treats. Have a look at the pictures on our blog.
	P5	Primary 5 are very busy rehearsing for our summer show and are really looking forward to performing for everyone. In Maths our focus is coordinates and we have been using our outdoor area to help us practise our skills. Remember to keep watching the blog to see what else we have been up to!
	P5/6	Primary 5/6 continue to work very hard as they near the end of term. We have been enjoying practising for the school show and can't wait to see it all come together. We have also been learning about the human body and are able to name vital organs and parts of our skeleton. Let's hope we see more of the sun as the summer months approach and get to make good use of our outdoor space.
	P6	Primary 6 have begun learning about the human body and have been learning about the skeleton and sensory organs starting with the eye. They are beginning to understand how a healthy lifestyle can impact on many aspects of their health. The children recently finished paintings of a landscape in the style of Vincent Van Gogh and did a great job mixing colours and strokes.
	P7	Children in Primary 7 have enjoyed their two and half day visit to Cumbernauld Academy and some to other schools over recent weeks. Great feedback and reports again! The children worked hard to make their carnival day a success and make some money to pay their way towards their fantastic activity week. The hard work doesn't stop and we have been adding and subtracting negative numbers as well as using four quadrant co-ordinate grids in maths. In literacy we have been looking at poetry and reflecting back on our years at Whitelees as well as using some self reflection to assess our skills and qualities. In science we have been learning about variables and carrying out experiments, great work towards 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:
