



Whitelees Primary News

September 2016

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WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Since taking up my post as Head Teacher in August 2013, I have strived to improve communication and offer some of the most up to date means of including you in the day to day life of our school. I hope that 3 years on you are now able to see the progress and commitment that has been channeled in this way. We offer a wealth of information to you in the form of this newsletter and regular updates via Twitter and our school website. This is something I am very proud of and hope that you feel is a valuable investment.

As our first term is nearing an end, I wish to extend once more an invitation to you to offer your ideas and feedback on how we can build on this success. The last page of this newsletter can be returned or an email to enquiries is an ideal way to stay in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.
Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter



Time for Tea!

It was Time for Tea on Friday 30th September when the Head Teacher hosted her monthly tea party for children who have been working particularly hard and the lucky ones who received a voucher for the tea party in their school Birthday card! All the children had a great time at the tea party and enjoyed some yummy goodies! Check our website for more photographs!



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.



School Office

Please note we are currently short staffed in the school office which is putting considerable pressure on our office staff and their ability to meet our high standards. Some things may take longer than normal to process. We would ask you to please bear this in mind when calling the school or into the office. Many thanks for your co-operation.



Monthly Attendance - September 2016

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: 97.68%

Number achieving 100% Attendance: 203

Average Latecoming: 14.66% of children have 1 or more instances of latecoming

I hope you would agree that these figures so early in the school year are not conducive to ensuring children meet their full learning potential.

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.



Parent Council

Our first meeting of the Parent Council was held on Wednesday 21st September. We are pleased to announce we have some new faces joining our Parent Council this year:

Julie McQuade Chairperson
Angela Mason Vice Chairperson
Donna Waddell Secretary
Sarah Bradley Treasurer
Heather MacKintosh Clerk
Ishah Imran
Debbie Welsford

Nadia Gibson
Joanne McMaster
Aileen Sibbald
Arron Barnes
Michelle Chambers-Cran
Kirsty Clark
Sandra Merrick

The dates of future meetings are as follows:

9.11.16	7.00-9.00
11.1.17	7.00-9.00
22.2.17	7.00-9.00
19.4.17	7.00-9.00
31.5.17	7.00-9.00

27.10.16	Parent Council Disco
	P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm
	P7 - P7 7.45pm - 9.00pm
16.2.17	Parent Council Disco
	P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm
	P4 - P7 7.45pm - 9.00pm



School Uniform

Can you please ensure all uniform is labelled as we are having difficulty reuniting lost items with their owners and vice versa? We know how expensive items of uniform are and always try our best to return lost property to its' rightful owner however, this is proving difficult with so many items without labels. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter. Please note that the Cumbernauld branch of Scotcrest has now closed. Items can be ordered online and delivered to the school, your home or you can visit the Airdrie shop at 62 Clark Street, Airdrie ML6 6AP.



Parent/Teacher Meeting

Our Parent/Teacher Meetings have been arranged for Thursday 13th October from 3.30pm - 8.30pm. Letters were issued on 23rd September requesting your preferred appointment slots. Tear off slips should be returned to the school as soon as possible to enable the Teachers to put together their appointment times and issue appointment slips to you. We look forward to welcoming you all to the school.



Meet The Teacher

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet The Teacher event. It was well supported and we hope you found it an informative and helpful evening.

Thank you also to everyone who completed our parent evaluation forms. We had an overwhelmingly positive response to all questions posed. Only two parents ticked the amber box and nobody ticked the red box for anything other than being on our email alert system which can be easily rectified.

We also had some very positive comments:

"Was very good to see how much work they have done in such a short time."

"Very happy with the Teacher evening, lots of info shared, thanks."

"Impressed by the attitudes for my children."

"Feel very confident and happy with the school."

Informative and engaging."

"School is a great school and help from Teachers and Head Teacher is great."

"Looking forward to another fantastic year."



Primary 1 Fairyland Showcase

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Primary 1 Fairyland Showcase. The children loved showing off their skills icing fairy cakes, reading stories and making puppets amongst other exciting activities! Thank you for sharing this afternoon with us.



School Lunch

Could you please ensure your child has enough money on their card to cover their lunch and breakfast club (if they attend)? Increasingly the dinner school are sending notes home to parents whose children don't have enough money on their card for lunch.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs every day from 8.15am and costs 20p per day. The cost of the Club is deducted from the pupils' dinner card. The money must be provided either before or on the day.

If your child attends Breakfast Club please ensure they enter the building through the middle door of the playground in order to be registered.

All pupils are welcome, there is no need to pre-book!



School Ties

We have had a number of children coming to the office to ask to borrow a tie. Whilst we have some ties in stock for this very reason increasingly borrowed ties are not being returned and our stock is severely depleted. If your child borrows a tie from the school could you please ensure they return it to our school office?



School Contact

Remember to regularly check our website www.whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk for lots of helpful information which may or may not have already been sent home in letter form. This is kept up to date regularly so please feel free to view our website on a regular basis to find out what is happening in the school or your child's class!

We also have an email alert system where you can register to receive emails from the school. You can sign up at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKNLC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKNLC_107.

You can also follow us on our Twitter page @WhiteleesPS.



Our New Bike Shed

Many thanks to those who offered their assistance with the construction of our new bike shed. We are currently in the process of ordering it and will be in touch once it has been delivered to arrange a mutually suitable time for the construction to take place.



Our School Year ...

A copy of this year's calendar was provided for your convenience. Please note that this may be subject to change as the year progresses!

The North Lanarkshire School Holidays for the year are as follows:

October 2016

October break: Monday 17 October 2016 to Friday 21 October 2016

November 2016

In-service day: Monday 21 November 2016

December 2016 - January 2017

Christmas and New Year holidays: Monday 26 December 2016 to Friday 6 January 2017 (inclusive)

February 2017

Mid-term break: Monday 13 February and Tuesday 14 February 2017

In-service day: Wednesday 15 February

April 2017

Spring break: Monday 3 April to Monday 17 April 2017 (inclusive)*

*Good Friday 14 April 2017 and Easter Monday 17 April 2017

May 2017

May day holiday: Monday 1 May 2017

In-service day: Thursday 4 May 2017

Mid-term holiday: Friday 26 and Monday 29 May 2017

June 2017

School closes Wednesday 28 June 2017



Primary 7 Word War II Topic

Primary 7 invited the Mobile Military Museum to the school this month to coincide with their World War 2 topic. This was an amazing visit for the children who were able to see and touch many World War II artefacts.

Thank you to Ian Inglis who brought along this wonderful resource for the Primary 7's to enjoy!



40th Birthday Cont'd

We had an unveiling ceremony on Friday 30th September of our beautiful 40th Anniversary Sequoia Gigante tree gifted to us by SRUC and our lovely wooden inscribed plaque made and gifted to us by Palacerigg Country Park. Thank you to both for their generous gifts. They are a great asset to our outdoor area.



School Car Park

May we remind you that the school car park should not be used for pick up and drop off at the beginning and end of the school day. 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 any other occasion. This request is made with our pupils' safety at the core and not to inconvenience you in any way.



Fundraising

Primary 6 are planning a fundraising event on Friday 14th October at 1.30pm inspired by their Save the Whales topic. They will be having a fun day including stand-up bingo and a raffle. We would like to invite parents to come along to our tea/coffee shop from 1.30pm onwards to indulge in some tea, coffee and goodies. Primary 6 will be baking biscuits which they will be selling to the pupils in the school. Look out for your order form making it's way home this week!

We are looking for some prizes for our raffle, if anyone could help we would be extremely grateful. Please send them into school with your child.

We have learned that whales are becoming more and more endangered every day due to human activity and we would like to try and help Save The Whales by adopting our very own whale. The monies raised will help us to achieve this.



Kilbowie

All Primary 7 parents should have received a letter inviting you to a meeting about our annual Kilbowie trip. This meeting will be held on Thursday 9th November at 7.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you along to find out more about the exciting opportunity!



Primary 7 Cumbernauld Academy Social Enterprise

All Primary 7 pupils will be taking part in Cumbernauld Academy's 6 week Social Enterprise activity. Each group will be given £10 to invest and 6 weeks to make as much money using their Enterprise skills. All money raised may be donated to their own school or a charity of their choice. There will be prizes for the most innovative activity/product etc, most profit and best team work. Good luck Primary 7!



Whitelees Proposed Calendar Dates

Please note that these dates may be subject to change. Timings and final arrangements will always be confirmed closer to the event.

Thursday 13th October - Parent/Teacher Meetings

Friday 14th October - P6 Fundraiser

Monday 17th October - Friday 21st October - October Holiday

Wednesday 9th November - Kilbowie Parents Meeting 7.30pm

Tuesday 15th November - Flu Immunisation

Saturday 26th November - Christmas Fayre

Thursday 1st December - Whole school Panto

Tuesday 13th December - School Show 1.00pm

Wednesday 14th December - School Show 1.00pm

Thursday 15th December - School Show 7.00pm

Monday 19th December - Primary 2 and 3 Christmas Party

Tuesday 20th December - Primary 1 Christmas Party

Thursday 22nd December - Primary 6 and 7 Christmas Party

Friday 23rd December - Primary 4 and 5 Christmas Party

Monday 26th December - Friday 6th January - Christmas Holidays



March 2016	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1	Primary 1 have been very busy learning lots of new and interesting things. The children have been reading and writing new words and sounds and have learned about syllables and rhyming words too. They have been counting, measuring and creating patterns at Maths time. The children have enjoyed transforming their classrooms and corridor into Fairyland to help the Friendly Dragon. They have read lots of fairytales, grown beanstalks, built castles and created puppets. The boys and girls have also been developing their cooking skills. They have learned to chop, grate and spread and made delicious healthy pizzas and sandwiches.
	P2	This month Primary 2 have been learning about transport through the ages, we learned about the wright brothers and their first aeroplane. We made our own paper aeroplanes and decorated them with different types of coloured lines, we even flew them in the main hall to see how far they would go. WE were also learning about Viking Longboats and have drawn our own, which we are going to put on our transport display wall.
	P2/3	<p>Primary 2/3 have been enjoying learning about the rainforest this term. They worked together to create beautiful collage birds that certainly brighten up our room. They have been working together to research different animals that live in the Amazon and then using their new knowledge to write interesting reports.</p> <p>Food technology has been very enjoyable this term as we are developing our claw and bridge cutting techniques. The children chose to cut and taste some fruits from the rainforest (avocado wasn't very popular!) and make healthy sandwiches. Next week they have chosen to cut some raw vegetables and taste these with some dips.</p> <p>The children are working hard during Maths and are trying hard to recite their learn its - keep practising them at home boys and girls! They enjoyed developing their knowledge and understanding of information handling, especially going around the classes to survey the children.</p>
	P3	<p>Primary 3 have been very busy engaging in outdoor learning activities, we have been working with Brian Miller our visiting horticulturalist to learn about plants and gardening. We harvested vegetables from our school garden and had a tasting session. We had lots of onions left over which have been made into onion marmalade (this will be on sale at the school Christmas fayre).</p> <p>Brian has been teaching us how to identify different trees by their leaves and also how to identify different weeds. We have explored preparing the soil for planting. As part of our learning we have thought out a scientific investigation to explore what plants need to grow. We have also been enjoying our bikeability sessions. We are continuing to develop our numeracy skills with our Big Maths programme and have started to explore 3D shape. We set our own targets for this term and will be reviewing these soon.</p>
	P4	The children have had a fantastic experience harvesting vegetables from Whitelees' own vegetable patches, preparing them and eating them. They prepared and cut potatoes which were then cooked in the oven and ate them. They loved the experience of using our own home grown vegetables and thought it was delicious. Left over potatoes were used for learning printing techniques for autumn paintings.
	P4/5	Primary 4/5 have settled in extremely well into their new class. We have learned so many new things in a short space of time. We have just finished learning about Brazil. I'm sure the children will be able to tell you lots of exciting facts! In Literacy, we are enjoying our new group novels. Also, our new class topic focuses on the ancient Egyptians. We have just learned about the different roles in ancient Egypt and the children had a fantastic time acting out the roles. We can't wait to learn more about our topic!
	P5	Primary 5 are very busy exploring The Great Barrier Reef in Australia. We are looking at the habitat, food chains that exist there and how animals within the reef communicate with each other. In Maths, we are investigating 2D and 3D shapes and identifying common shapes within our local area. Remember to check the blog to find out more information.
	P5/6	Primary 5/6 are thoroughly enjoying learning all about the rainforest. We can identify many facts and have enjoyed researching these. We have also had a great time developing our skills in handball during our PE sessions.
	P6	Primary 6 are very excited to be planning our fundraising/showcase afternoon for October 14th! We have even created a song and can't wait to perform it for you all! Our learning about whales as an endangered species has inspired us to hopefully adopt a whale and for that we need your help! Please keep an eye out for more information as the date gets closer. In other work, we have been learning about counting in decimals, working out missing numbers to 1000 mentally and our daily countdown challenge is proving to be hugely popular. We are now on Twitter and will post updates often, keep checking to see exactly what we are getting up to!
	P6/7	Primary 6/7 have settled really well into the new school year and are already developing a strong sense of being a team. They have been learning all about place value and decimals, they can add and subtract a wide range of whole and decimal numbers. They are engrossed in their World War 2 topic, and are enjoying learning all about the key battles and events between 1939-1945. The Mobile Military Museum visited this week, the class loved every minute of the visit and enjoyed handling genuine Second World War artifacts.



After School Clubs

Further to recent feedback we are currently planning to run some After School Clubs for the children. These clubs will include:

Choir
 Movie Making
 Hoop Aerobics
 Drama
 Badminton
 Food Technology
 Homework Club
 Gardening
 Football
 Singing
 Taekowndo
 Bikeability
 Art
 Cross Stitch
 Mini Athletics
 Walking/Road Safety

As you will see this is quite a comprehensive list the clubs will be running at different times during the course of the school year. Please look out for further information in the future.



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:

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