



# Whitelees Primary News

February 2017

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WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to term 3. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year. We have another busy term coming up with lots going on in Whitelees. We have Fairtrade fortnight, World Book Week, Parents Evening, the Parent Council disco and a wide variety of After School Clubs to name but a few!

We intend to start keeping in touch using our new Groupcall service which we will be putting into operation during the month of February. If you haven't already signed up please consider downloading the app to your mobile phone/tablet. You can find more information at [www.parents.groupcall.com](http://www.parents.groupcall.com). All the school need is your up to date mobile number and email address!

Thank you for your continued support.  
Kind Regards,

*Mrs Bernadette Hunter*



## TIME FOR TEA!

It was Mrs Hunter's monthly tea party last week! Children who had worked extremely hard and those who received a special invitation in their Birthday card came along to join the fun! Well done to everyone who managed to get an invitation! We hope you all had fun.....and cake!



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](mailto:enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk).



## Monthly Attendance - January 2017

Regular attendance at school is important and has been proven to be linked to improved achievements! Here's how our statistics are looking this month:

Average Attendance: 96.51%

Number achieving 100% Attendance: 76

Average Latecoming: 35.76% of children have 1 or more instances of latecoming  
15.89% of children have 3 or more instances of latecoming  
12 children have more than 10 or more instances of latecoming

**As you will see, our instances of latecoming has increased again since last month. This is a major concern and something which we are keen to work on. Arriving late to class not only affects the late child's learning but also that of the rest of the class.**

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.



Our Parent Council for this year:

Julie McQuade	Chairperson	Nadia Gibson
Angela Mason	Vice Chairperson	Joanne McMaster
Donna Waddell	Secretary	Aileen Sibbald
Sarah Bradley	Treasurer	Arron Barnes
Heather MacKintosh	Clerk	Michelle Chambers-Cran
Ishah Imran		Kirsty Clark
Debbie Welsford		Sandra Merrick

The dates of our Parent Council meetings are as follows:

22.2.17	7.00-9.00	16.2.17	Parent Council Disco
19.4.17	7.00-9.00		P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm*
31.5.17	7.00-9.00		P4 - P7 7.45pm - 9.00pm*
*These times may be subject to change			



## School Contact

You can keep up to date at:

[www.whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk)

Follow us on our Twitter page @WhiteleesPS.



## 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:

### 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



## Kilbowie

Kilbowie is this month and we are gearing up for an exciting, busy week away. We would request that full payment is made by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February** in order that we can ensure payment is made to Kilbowie. Thank you to those who have already paid in full. As always your co-operation is greatly appreciated. The remaining paperwork was distributed to children on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January and we would ask that this is completed and returned to the school by **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. We're sure everyone will have a fun filled week!



## Birthday Cakes

Due to various allergies within the school we would like to remind you that we cannot allow Birthday cakes to be sent into school for children's Birthdays. This ensures that we can keep all children in our care safe. Thank you for your continued support.

## Gym

Just a health and safety reminder for gym days. Can children who have pierced ears either remove their earrings or cover them with medical tape or plasters to prevent any unnecessary accidents? As always your co-operation is greatly appreciated.



## Mobile Phone Policy

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our Mobile Phone Policy. We would rather children didn't bring expensive mobile phones to school but we understand parents may feel reassured that they can contact their child and more importantly their child can contact them should the necessity arise on the journey to and from school. To this end we have a policy that all mobile phones should be switched off once children arrive in the school playground and they **MUST** not be used to take photographs within the school playground or building. Once in class mobile phones should be handed into their class teacher and they will be kept at the office during the day until before 3.00pm when they will be returned to the classes. Could we request that you ensure your child knows what our mobile policy is? Thank you for your continued support.



## School Lunch

Could you please ensure your child has enough money on their card to cover their lunch. 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. **Could you please ensure your child has sufficient funds on their card for Breakfast Club, increasingly children are coming to the office for money and this is not being returned?** I'm sure you will understand that this cannot be sustained.

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!



## Parent Council Disco

Our Parent Council will be running their annual disco on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February with the theme "Whitelees Oscar Disco".

Primary 1-3 disco will run from 6.30pm-7.30pm and Primary 4-7 will be from 7.45pm-9.00pm. The cost of the disco will be £2 per child payable at the door on the night only and this will include a snack and a drink. There will be glow sticks and photos at the photo-booth to purchase on the night so children can bring a bit of extra money if they wish. We would love as many parent helpers as possible to come along and support this event. If you are able to help please let us know by dropping us an email at [whiteleespc@gmail.com](mailto:whiteleespc@gmail.com).

**Entry and exit for all children will be through both the infant doors. Children must be collected by an adult.**



## WORLD BOOK DAY

### World Book Day

In honour of World Book Day we have arranged for Author Stuart Reid to visit the school again this year to read to the children. This has been a great event over the last couple of years. The children will enjoy a book reading as a whole school. Primary 4 and Primary 5 will then enjoy a creative writing workshop with Stuart Reid afterwards. Stuart Reid will visit on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017.

World Book Day is on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and children can come to school dressed as a character from a book. This is always a fun event!



### Book Fair

As it was such a huge success last year we will be running a Book Fair event again this year. This will run from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March until Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Look out for more details nearer to the time!



### P4 Trip to Burns Cottage

Primary 4 will be visiting Burns Cottage on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Letters will be out in due course with further details.



### Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Look out for more information and details on how to book your appointment!



## P5 Swimming Programme

Primary 5 will be participating in the North Lanarkshire School Swimming Programme week beginning 13th March for a 12 week block. They will visit Kilsyth Pool and Garrel Vale Community Centre every Tuesday for 12 weeks. I'm sure they will enjoy all of the experiences that the programme offers them! Letters will be distributed in due course with further details.



## Online Payment System

Our online payment system is up and running!!! Letters were sent out with login details for your child and once completed you will be free to load your child's dinner card with money for their lunch or breakfast club. In future the intention is to use this system to pay for school trips etc and we will inform you of the opportunity to pay this way as and when trips are organised. We hope you will find this an advantageous way to make payments to the school.



## Pupil Appointments

If your child has a medical/dental appointment during the school day please advise our office staff by handing in the appointment letter which they will copy for our records. It is vitally important that we are informed of all appointments during the course of the school day as this will ensure your child receives the correct absence mark.





## 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 16<sup>th</sup> February - Parent Council Disco

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - P7 Kilbowie

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March - Fairtrade Fortnight

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Visit from Stuart Reid, Author

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March - Book Fair

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Parent's Evening

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March - start of P5 Swimming Programme

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Family Fun Night

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Showcase Afternoon

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Dig In Day

# February



## New Entrant Programme 2017

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

11.00am to 12.00pm

I will meet my Primary 1 chum and my primary 6 buddy and I can visit the Book Fair.

Parent and child to attend.

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017

11.00am to 12.00pm

I will visit my primary 1 classroom and join in Health Week.

Child only to attend.

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017

10.45am to 11.30pm

I will visit my primary 1 classroom for a Maths and Language session whilst my parent visits the Assembly Hall for an Induction visit.

11.30am - 12.00pm

My parent will join me to visit the dinner school and have lunch with my new school friends.

Parent and child to attend.

### Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017

1.00pm - 3.00pm

I will visit my new school to see their school show.

One parent and child to attend.



February 2017	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1a	Primary 1 have had a very busy start to 2017. We have had great fun learning about Robert Burns and enjoyed celebrating his birthday with a Burns Supper. We made shortbread, neeps and tatties and we got to taste Irn Bru and haggis too! We have learned new sounds and spelling words this term and we are also learning to write Instructions. Our counting skills are improving all the time and we are becoming experts at counting on and back. We have developed our cutting, tearing and sticking skills and have created some lovely collage art work.
	P2	In Primary two we have been learning all about Robert Burns and his poetry. We learned some Scots words and even wrote our own poem in the style of Burns called 'To a pound' with lots of rhyming words including some of our spelling words. We also learned a fun traditional song ' You cannie shove your granny aff the bus', something none of us would ever do of course. We also made some 3D Scottish thistles to decorate our class with. We have started our new class topic, Our Local Area where we are going to learn about Scotland and our own town.
	P2/3	Primary 2/3 have been enjoying learning about Scotland and I have loved reading the interesting facts the children have been writing for famous Scots. In Maths, the children have been developing their skills in measure and are working well together to investigate weight. They are making good progress with their writing and have been working hard to write instructions and poetry after learning about Robert Burns. The children are looking forward to learning about Knights and Castles this term.
	P3	Primary 3 have been enjoying learning about Scotland, we have explored our national dress and made beautiful kilts with sporrans. We made the tartan designs for the kilts using the wheels of toy cars to create different coloured lines. (thank you for the old car donations). Pupils have chosen to learn about animals that are native to Scotland and this led us to investigate Scotland's national animal, a great surprise! We have been inspired by the artist Steven Brown's McCoo art and have produced our own examples using different textures and materials. We have also been exploring Scottish dialect through poetry, pupils have created some wonderful poetry which we have had fun reading. Primary 3 gave a very confident performance at our Burns assembly. In Maths we are beginning to learn about time, while also continuing with our Big Maths learning. We will be beginning our next topic Castle Life with a focus on Stirling Castle, comparing life in the past to life today.
	P4	Poets, Scientists, Engineers, Explorers and Doctors. P4 have been learning about famous Scots and the impact they've made on us and Scottish culture. The children did a great job learning An Address to the Toothache and recited it beautifully at our Scottish assembly. For the next few weeks the children will be learning more about individuals that have shaped Scottish society. They will be learning more about time and number patterns too. Please check the blog for changes to PE times.
	P4/5	Primary 4/5 have been learning about famous Scots as part of their class topic. During Scottish week, we learned about Robert Burns life and how Burns day is celebrated. The class enjoyed performing 'Bonnie Wee Jeannie McColl' at our Scottish assembly. A class full of fantastic singers!! We are now looking at Scottish inventors and how they have had an impact on our society. Pupils have been carrying out lots of interesting research. In Maths, we have been learning how to read and tell the time so we can use these skills every day!
	P5	P5 have settled back into a new term and are working very hard. This term we are working with Brian in our outdoor area and have already been very busy preparing planters and planting garlic. We are looking forward to planting some vegetables over the next few weeks which we will then get to taste. We have also been learning about Scotland and how we use renewable energy. In Maths, we have been investigating grid reference and we are now looking at giving directions using compass points. Remember to keep checking the blog to see what we have been doing!
	P5/6	<p>Primary 5/6 have been thoroughly enjoying researching and learning all about Scottish artists. They have produced some beautiful artwork in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Jack Vettriano, Henry Raeburn and John Lowrie Morrison. The children also performed successfully at the Burns Assembly. Very proud teachers!</p> <p>They have been busy improving the mental recall of their learn it's! Well done for challenging yourself boys and girls! Keep it up!</p> <p>The children have been participating in science experiments with a specialist Science Teacher. Ask them why our classroom smells of vinegar!</p> <p>The best news so far....Mrs McAuley has welcomed a beautiful, bouncing baby boy into her family! Congratulations Mrs McAuley!</p>

	P6	<p>Primary 6 have been working very hard in the first few weeks of the term. They learned the poem "Sam the Skull" for our Scottish assembly last Friday, which they performed extremely well and were voted the best by the school. Well done P6.</p> <p>We have been studying time in Maths, digital times, 12 hour, 24 hour, timetables and intervals of time. Next, we move onto Fractions. We are also looking at the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year in RME and our new topic will be "Titanic - The Unsinkable Ship". We will be looking at this topic from a Technology perspective but also looking at the timeline of events and history of the ship. Homework continues as before with words and challenges changing fortnightly. PE days are Mondays for Indoor PE and Thursdays for Outdoor PE. PE is first thing on a Monday morning so having the children already dressed in their PE kit saves valuable teaching and learning time. Thank you for your continued support.</p>
	P6/7	<p>P6/7 are settled back into the routines of school and are preparing for the hard working term ahead. In Maths we have been completing our time unit and are beginning long multiplication, multiplying up to 4/5 digit numbers by 2 and 3 digits! We are enjoying our class reading books and are developing our literacy skills through this, P6 are reading a book which even gives big clues as to our next topic, we wonder what that could be? We are learning about Oban as part of our Scottish IDL topic, we are using mapping skills and research to learn more about this Scottish town that P7 will be visiting when we go to Kilbowie this month. We are excited to begin our ICT topic on internet safety, and have already produced some fantastic Internet awareness posters as part of our homework.</p>
	P7	<p>Primary 7 have had a settled start to the new term and have been working harder than ever! Our thoughts are turning to our adventures to come in Kilbowie at the end of the month and we are preparing ourselves with tasks which develop our team work, decision making and coping skills. In Maths we completed our block on time and have been working on long multiplication with great success! Our story writing is developing and we are working on inference and similes. Lots of children have been pushing themselves whether it be on improving presentation, increased participation, working with others or using the tools they need to improve and learn. A great start to a busy term.</p>

**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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