



Whitelees Primary News

March 2017

Whitelees Road, Abronhill, Cumbernauld G67 3NJ
Tel: 01236 794814 Email: enquiries@whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk
www.whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk



WhiteleesPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now well into term 3 and continue to be as busy as ever! I look forward to welcoming you all to our Parent/Teacher Meeting on Thursday 9th March 2017.

Our infant Enrolment Programme is well underway and we are enjoying getting to know our new Primary 1's.

William Collum, our Continuous Improvement Officer, visited the school on 9th February with an update on our Validation visit. He was very complimentary about the school and delighted by the volume of progress and improvements evidenced in his visit. I am sure you will be very happy to know your children attend a school where excellent values, together with a positive ethos and high levels of commitment are promoted by our staff team. Following this visit it is our mission to continue to develop our school in a positive and innovative way.

We have introduced our new app Groupcall Xpressions and I hope you are all finding it useful. If you haven't already registered please download the free app to your mobile phone/tablet. Search your app store for Groupcall Xpressions. All we need is your up to date email address and mobile number and you're all set to go. If you're unsure you can find more information at www.parents.groupcall.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Bernadette Hunter



TIME FOR TEA!

Mrs Hunter hosted her 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 chocolate 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.



Monthly Attendance - March 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: 96.47%

Number achieving 100% Attendance: 61

Average Latecoming: 39.75% of children have 1 or more instances of latecoming

17.88% of children have 3 or more instances of latecoming

16 children have more than 10 or more instances of latecoming

As you will see, our instances and average latecoming have 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.



Lepra Fundraiser

We now have the final total for the Lepra fundraiser and it's absolutely amazing! We raised a total of **£2050.40!!!** This is a phenomenal amount and we must thank you for supporting this fantastic cause, we know this will make a huge difference to fighting and beating neglected diseases around the world. Thank you for your continued support!



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:

19.4.17	7.00-9.00
31.5.17	7.00-9.00
*These times may be subject to change	



School Contact

You can keep up to date at:

www.whitelees.n-lanark.sch.uk

Follow us on our Twitter page [@WhiteleesPS](https://twitter.com/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:

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



Absence Policy

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.

Parents and carers are reminded to inform the school office before 9.30am if your child is unable to attend from the start of the school day on the first day of absence. Failure to do so will result in school staff sending a text to the main contact provided for the child. This is important for child safety and also ensures your child receives the correct absence mark.

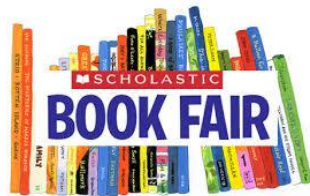
Parents and carers are required to inform the school by letter or telephone if their child is likely to be absent for some time, and to give the child a note on his or her return to school confirming the reason for absence.

Children whose attendance falls below an acceptable level will be notified in writing by the school.



Kilbowie

Primary 7 are currently at Kilbowie and we hear they are having a fantastic time enjoying all that Kilbowie has to offer. Keep up to date with all the activities on Twitter, our website and Groupcall Xpressions!



Book Fair

Due to the success of last year's event the Book Fair is returning to Whitelees again this year and will be here next week! Your child has already been given a leaflet detailing all the books for sale!

The Book fair will now be visiting the school from 6th - 14th March. Please accept our apologies for the wrong dates however this was due to an error with the Book Fair company.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to have a look at the books on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th March and will be able to purchase their books on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March.

P1a, P1b, P2, P2/3, P3 and P4 will be able to purchase their books on Wednesday 8th March.

P4/5, P5, P5/6, P6, P6/7 and P7 will be able to purchase their books on Thursday 9th March. The Book Fair will, of course, be available on Parents Night.

Children will all be given a World Book Day book token on the day which will give them £1 off any book costing £2.99 or more! If they opt not to use their token at the Book Fair they can take it home and use it elsewhere.

If possible could you please try to give your child the correct money as we will have a limited amount of change?

We hope you will support this event with the same enthusiasm as last year.

Thank you once again 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. Please remember you can top up online using our online payment system www.ipayimpact.co.uk.

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!



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March this year and as we always do children can dress up as their favourite book character for the day. This is always a fun day and we look forward to seeing everyone's amazing costumes.

In honour of World Book Day we have also arranged for Author Stuart Reid to visit the school again this year to read to the children. He will be visiting on Friday 3rd March. This has been a great event over the last couple of years. The children will enjoy a book reading as a whole school and primary 4 and 5 will then enjoy a creative writing workshop with Stuart Reid afterwards. Stuart Reid will also be offering his fantastic books for sale on the day! Our children will certainly be well read!



Fairtrade Fortnight

To mark Fairtrade Fortnight this year, pupils will be taking part in a Fairtrade Football tournament on Friday 10th March. Children will be representing countries that produce Fairtrade products and will be using Fairtrade footballs produced in Pakistan. Sports clothes can be worn that day and children should bring footwear that is suitable for playing football outside on the football pitch. Many thanks for your support.

Fairtrade Fruit Juice

The Fairtrade Council have persuaded the dinner school to stock Fairtrade fruit juice. This will cost 50p per carton and will be available throughout Fairtrade Fortnight. Please support this Big Switch and encourage your child to choose Fairtrade.

The Fairtrade and Enterprise Councils have also joined together for Fairtrade Fortnight and will be selling some produce during break week beginning 6th March 2017. They have a variety of snacks such as:

Geo bar shortbread	80p
Geo Cereal Bar (chocolate)	70p
White Chocolate Raspberry Swirl	60p
Divine Caramel Chocolate	£1.00
Large Chocolate Chip Cookie	£1.20

Please bring the correct change if possible. Thank you in advance for your support.



P4 and P4/5 Trip to Burns Cottage

Primary 4 and 4/5 will be visiting Burns Cottage on Wednesday 8th March 2017. Please ensure payment is made and permission slips are returned by **Friday 3rd March 2017**. Don't forget you can pay online using our new online payment system www.ipayimpact.co.uk.



Parent/Teacher Meeting

Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held on Thursday 9th March 2017. We look forward to welcoming you all to the school. This will take a slightly different format from previous years. Please see our office staff on arrival to sign out your child's jotters and after you have spoken to the Teacher please return the jotters and sign them back in with our office staff. We thank you in advance for your co-operation on this matter.



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 out this week with further details.



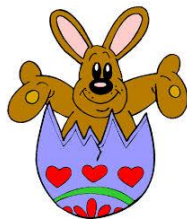
Online Payment System

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. We are now using this system to pay for school trips 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. If you require a second copy of the letter with instructions and login details please contact the office who will be happy to supply this.



P1 and P7 Dental Checks

The Dentist and Dental Assistant will be here on Monday 20th March to carry out the P1 and P7 dental checks. Letters will be distributed once we receive them from the Dentist.



Parent Council Family Fun Night

The Parent Council will be holding their annual Family Fun Night on Friday 28th April 2017. Look out for more details in due course.



Parent Council Disco

The Parent Council Oscars disco last month was a huge success. A massive thank you to everyone who attended to help, this would not have been possible without your commitment! Photo booth pics were distributed last week.



Parent Council Disco

The charity council are running an event for Comic Relief. Red noses will be on sale from 13th March for a cost of £1. These will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Comic Relief is the 24th of March and the children have been asked to "Dress Funny for Money" for a cost of £1. All monies from the noses and the dress down day will be donated to Comic Relief.



New Entrant Programme 2017

Wednesday 8th 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 25th April 2017

11.00am to 12.00pm

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

Child only to attend.

Tuesday 16th 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 13th June 2017

1.00pm - 3.00pm

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

One parent and child to attend.



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.

Monday 27th February - Friday 3rd March - P7 Kilbowie

Monday 27th February - Friday 10th March - Fairtrade Fortnight

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Friday 3rd March - Visit from Stuart Reid, Author

Wednesday 6th - 9th March - Book Fair

Wednesday 8th March - P4 and P4/5 Trip to Burns Cottage

Thursday 9th March - Parent's Evening

Friday 10th March - Fairtrade Football Tournament

Tuesday 14th March - start of P5 Swimming Programme

Monday 20th March - P1 and P7 Dental Checks

Friday 28th April 2017 - Family Fun Night

Friday 5th May - Showcase Afternoon

Saturday 13th May - Dig In Day



March 2017	Stage	What's going on in your child's class?
	P1	Primary 1 have been enjoying learning about the Vikings. We have learned what Viking houses looked like and what clothes they wore. We have enjoyed experimenting with clay to create some beautiful Viking brooches. Our number skills keep getting better and better and we can now solve addition and subtraction sums, explaining how we found our answer. In Literacy we have been writing some super imaginative stories about Vikings. We are trying hard to use connectives to add more detail to our sentences.
	P2	In primary 2 we have been learning about our local area, looking at maps and learning the compass points, North, South, East and West. We have also been learning about Judaism and hearing stories about Moses. We are working hard at our Maths to make our mental agility lightning quick. We have even made a rap to remember some of the rules in our Phonemes, it must be working as Mr Campbell is very happy with our spelling test scores.
	P2/3	As always, Primary 2/3 have been working very hard. The children are really enjoying learning about Castles. We had a great time on our trip to Abrohill Library and have come back with some fantastic books to help us with our research. The children are developing their computer skills using the laptops and iPads to find out more about castles. The children have just completed fantastic art using pastels, where they created their own version of Paul Klee's 'Castle and Sun' and they are going to look wonderful in our cloakroom. In Maths, we are continuing to work on measure and we are now focusing on length. The children are enjoying working together to measure and I am very impressed with their estimating skills! We have been reading non-fiction and learning lots of new things through our texts.
	P3	Primary 3 have started exploring life in the past through our Castle life topic, we are comparing aspects of life in the past to life today. Pupils have chosen to explore; clothing, daily life, dwellings and food. We have also been learning about Heraldry and pupils have created their own shield and flag designs. In art pupils have experienced modelling with clay and have created Thumb Pots which have been painted to match their chosen heraldry colours. In Maths we are continuing to learn about time and develop our skills in reading and writing both analogue and digital forms and using this knowledge to solve problems. Pupils have researched facts about Chinese New Year and have used this information to write a poem. We are continuing to work hard to develop our writing skills, our focus has been on developing description to add detail and more interest to our writing.
	P4	In P4 we're looking forward to two main events in March. Our class trip to Burns Cottage to learn about the Bard and to welcoming parents to our Scottish showcase at 2.15pm on the 2nd of March. The children have been learning to subtract 3 digit numbers using the vertical method. They have been learning the differences between weather and climate and comparing both of these measures for Scotland and Australia. PE days are now on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
	P4/5	Primary 4/5 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the outdoors with Brian. This week, we learned how to take cuttings from plants and use this to grow new plants! In Maths, we are learning about the importance of money and how we can pay and give change. We have also finished our topic on famous Scots. We can't wait to share our learning during our open afternoon next week! We look forward to seeing you!
	P5	P5 have been working in our outdoor environment planting a variety of plants and vegetables. We are hoping it will not be too long until we get to taste something! In Maths, we have been learning about time and how to read a timetable. Our focus in science has been inherited characteristics and we have been researching how certain characteristics are linked to survival and extinction. We have also enjoyed taking part in our Lepa event this term and are looking forward to lots of fun events in the next few weeks! Remember to keep check Twitter and the Blog!
	P5/6	This term we are excited to learn about the Titanic, when she was built and the jobs done by workers e.g. welders and riveters. Some of us have built fantastic models and we are doing artwork showing the Titanic sinking. In language we are continuing to practice to write beautifully as well as developing our fluency and reading with expression. We have fun during mental Maths practicing our times tables. Primary 5 are learning to divide with remainders while primary 6 are beginning to learn negative numbers.
	P6	We are enjoying our topic "Titanic", finding out lots of interesting facts about the ship. In Maths we have been learning about fractions, equivalent fractions and how to simplify fractions. Next we move onto decimals and percentages. We are continuing to work hard on our reading and daily writing tasks. We are enjoying the expertise of Mr Smyth who is an art teacher from the Academy coming to help us with our Art work. We look forward to displaying our prints very soon.
	P6/7	Primary 6/7 are diving head first into their new topic, 'The Titanic'. They have been learning all about the rights of 1st and 3rd class passengers, building up to discussing and evaluating whether the class system was responsible for the severity of the Titanic disaster in 1912. In Maths we have been learning all about co-ordinates. Primary 6 have been using this learning to create co-ordinate drawings of the Titanic. P7 have used these skills to locate the Titanic's journey and resting place on a map, and finding out whether the Carpathia or California should have come to the rescue based on map distance.
	P7	Primary 7 have been learning all about Oban and applying this knowledge across the curriculum using their co-ordinates knowledge to track journeys between Cumbernauld and Oban. In literacy we have been working using inference in our writing with fantastic results. We have been learning about the divisions that sectarianism can cause and developing our art skills creating images with foreground and background.

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:
