

1st July 2021



July Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems quite incredible that, a year on, we are still having to adapt and change our usual events, activities and movement around school due to the pandemic. The children have been amazing at adapting so well to the current arrangements and they are really making progress in their learning, closing learning gaps and thriving with challenges posed to them. The teachers are ensuring that the essential building blocks in each subject are covered this term so it enables children to 'step up' to the expectations required in the following academic year. We know that catch-up, due to COVID, will take time and we have carefully planned and adapted the curriculum to allow for this.

Green Fingers!

Our new growing beds have been put to good use:



Rabbit Class runner beans

Sunflowers on their way up (along with the weeds!)



Thank you so much to parents who have donated plants and bean poles – the children have loved watering and growing.

Irises of Hope – Diocese project

Our Irises of Hope focus week was very successful and the children produced some amazing art and written pieces of work. Our displays in school will be available for you to see on our Facebook page soon.

Reports

Reports should be ready for parents on Friday 16th July. We have made some changes to this year's report format to take into account the impact of COVID and the removal of all statutory assessments. A letter will accompany the report to explain the information and format in more detail.

Sports Day

Reminder: Unfortunately, due to COVID, we are unable to run a Sports day in the usual format this year. However, we will be holding a Sports Week for the children during the week beginning July 12th. This will involve each bubble taking part in a series of sporting activities on separate afternoons, so your child will still experience and enjoy a sports event. The scores from the Houses will still contribute to a final total and sports trophy for the week. Due to the current restrictions, we are unable to have parents and spectators on site, which is a great shame, but we will be taking photographs and sharing these with you after the event.

Moving on day

We usually organise an hour, towards the end of term, where the children spend some time with their new teacher in their new classes. We are awaiting changes to the COVID guidance on whether we can run these as usual. If the restrictions do not change, we plan to hold a short, carefully organised, 'Meet the teacher' session outside which keeps to social distancing. We will keep you informed of our plans in the following weeks.

Books at the end of the year

The children will be bringing their main learning books home at the end of the year. We hope that you will enjoy sharing them together at home as the children have not been able to share their learning with you at our usual Celebration of Learning. A small number of books will be kept by the class teachers for records of learning.

Joint Statement from the Governing Body and Miss Edwards

Following the announcement last week regarding the school restructure effective Autumn Term 2021, we wanted to emphasise the key points from the follow up zoom call that occurred on Monday night. The relationship between the school and our parent/carers is very important and your feedback has been gratefully received. We hope that some of your concerns were addressed during the zoom call and we are in the process of updating the FAQ section of the announcement with the questions submitted and this will be sent to you within the next week.

The Need for Change

Changes in how schools are funded has had a huge impact on our school finances and despite thorough scrutiny of all elements of the school budgets and reasonable adjustments already made, the school must make changes to ensure the schools' financial stability going forward whilst considering our ambition to continually improve the school. The Governing Body sub-committee Finance and Planning meet twice a term and validate their rationale with the Full Governing Body (who also meet twice a term). All Governors have been fully involved in identifying and supporting the school to implement savings and opportunities to increase income. For example, not employing a school caretaker, letting out the school grounds in the holidays and reducing IT spend. The PTA fundraising activities and private donations from individuals or organisations are a lifeline for the school and continue to allow enrichment opportunities for the pupils and purchase much needed items such as replacement reading books and curriculum enhancing items.

We are not alone in having to make changes, according to SchoolCuts three quarters of schools under their remit are in financial crisis. With these changes and current projected pupil numbers, Whitewater School will remain financially viable. We have been assured by HCC that there is no agenda to close small village schools such as Whitewater.

Change to Class Structure

A new four class structure will be put in place. This change does not affect how we accommodate EYFS or Key Stage 1. The maximum number of pupils in EYFS and KS1 cannot exceed 30. With the exception of year 5/6 the class sizes for 2021/22 are currently projected to be 22 pupils per class. Year 6 will still play a lead role in the school for example wearing a tie and taking on leadership pupil roles (House Captain/Sports Captains). Our PAN number will remain at 140 allowing us to move back to five classes, if pupil numbers permit.

Class	Years	Projected Pupil Numbers	Teacher (s)
Rabbit Class	EYFS/Yr 1	22	Mrs Joliffe & Miss Hairsine
Otter Class	Yr 1/ 2	22	Ms Lamble
Hedgehog Class	Yr 3/ 4	22	Mr Ralph
Fox Class	Yr 5/ 6	34	Mrs Basham + 1 another to be recruited

Governing Body and School Improvement

The Governing Body consists of parent, staff, foundation and co-opted governors. Two of our foundation governors are from the local diocese. There is a real mix of skills across all governors allowing us to create effective sub-committees focusing on key areas and reporting back to the full governing body. The committees are Finance and Personnel, Teaching and Learning and Headteacher Performance Review.

One of the main responsibilities of the Governors is monitoring and challenging the school's progress against agreed objectives in line with the Ofsted report of 2019. The staff and governors work tirelessly to improve those areas identified such as SEN and more able provision, the teaching of Phonics and ensuring a consistent standard of teaching across the school. The Governors carry out regular monitoring visits with the school on each of the main focus areas identified as requiring improvement. The school has also been receiving support from the school improvement team at HCC and the Hampshire Advisory Service for English, Maths and Early Years.

Ofsted have now resumed their inspections, so we expect to have one in the next year. The school's drive to continually improve remains strong and the team that will be in place in September are very motivated to help continue to deliver on our ambitions.

Communication

We recognize that communication between school and home needs to improve. We have already commenced this by including a joint piece in the newsletter from the governors and headteacher, updating the official Facebook page with children's work and school activities and showcasing our school in the local newsletter. We have two parent governors who are actively working on improving communication and visibility in conjunction with Miss Edwards and more details will be shared once available. We would like to reassure you that this is a key focus and we thank you for highlighting this.

Going forward

We are confident that the new structure will optimize our teaching and support staff to meet the needs of the current numbers of pupils at the school and enable us to continue to provide a high quality of education in a nurturing environment. These changes have been made in consultation with Hampshire County Council (HCC), in full consideration of our ambition to continually improve the school whilst ensuring financial stability. If you still feel you would like to discuss this with Miss Edwards and how it will affect your child(ren) please contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

PTA News July 2021

This school year yet again seems to have flown by and we hope that you are all looking forward to the summer holidays.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported the PTA this year. Although it has again been a very different year for us and we have not been able to offer our usual amount of events and activities we have still managed to raise **£2500** so far for the school – this is **AMAZING** so **THANK YOU!**

Stikins Name Labels

Are you looking for easy, non-iron name labels for your child's uniform and belongings ready for September?

Whitewater PTA is registered with Stikins, a family owned business, which promotes a school fundraising scheme through which we can receive 15% commission on every order placed quoting the school reference number (**25264**). The labels are a one-size, multipurpose label, which can also be used on school items such as clothing, shoes, plastic boxes, water bottles, pencil cases etc.

You can order online at www.stikins.co.uk

Your School Lottery – CURRENT OFFER!

WIN Fruit & Veg Box Home Delivery... For a Year!



On 17th July one lucky winner will receive 12 monthly fruit and veg boxes, delivered straight to their door. Get your tickets now - it's easy peasy!

If you would like to support the lottery and be in with a chance of winning this month's special prize along with weekly cash prizes and a jackpot then you can sign up at any time by going to: yourschoollottery.co.uk and searching for [Whitewater C of E Primary School](#).

Online Shopping

Please remember there are ways of shopping online that will raise funds for Whitewater PTA which do not cost you a penny!

EasyFundraising

Download the EasyFundraising app and select [whitewaterprimaryschoolpta](#) as your chosen cause.

Amazon Smile

Go to 'Your AmazonSmile' in Account Settings and choose [Whitewater Parent Teacher Association](#) as your charity.

We are hoping that from September we will be able to offer many more events and activities for the children and our local community so watch this space....!

Whitewater PTA

Celebrations!

Gold Book

Congratulations to the following children who have been in the Gold Book in June:

Rabbit Class:	Kallan, Olivia, Ava, George, Ryan and Theo
Otter Class:	Milly, Cohen, Amelie, Bianca, Adam and William Cu
Hedgehog Class:	Beau, Bertie, Daniel, Daisy, Isla and Seren
Fox Class:	Evie, Daisy, Jasmin, Holly, Ethan and Taya
Red Kite Class:	Harry, Zachery and Aston

Clubs and Outside School

Well done to the following children who have achieved sporting, musical or academic success outside school and in clubs:

Cohen (Otter Class) for gaining a Student of the Week certificate for martial arts;
Anouk (Otter Class) for moving up to Exmoor group in her horse riding.

Final word...

There will be a newsletter at the end of this term before we break for the summer holidays. This will include final dates, reminders and information to prepare for the new academic year in September.

Miss Edwards

1st July 2021

DATES LIST

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold our usual end of term school events due to the government's school COVID restrictions. If this changes, we will contact you through Parentmail.

Wednesday 7 th July to)	Year 6 mini residential
Friday 9 th July)	
Monday 12 th July to)	Sports week
Friday 16 th July)	
Friday 23 rd July		END OF TERM – School finishes at 2 pm