



## **Whitewater Newsletter - End of the Year**

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy last few weeks of the school year it has been. Temperatures have soared to record highs and our focus is now on getting everyone to the summer break fit and well. Finishing the year with uncertainty and debate about whether schools should close due to fears for safety seems all too familiar after the past couple years. I know that some of you will feel that school should have closed and others will agree that staying open was right. Ultimately, these decisions aren't made by anyone working on the ground floor. We take the same approach we always take. We follow our directions whilst ensuring we put the children, staff and community's physical and mental health first and do our best to keep everyone safe.

As always with this time of year, there's lots to report....

### **Fond farewells...**

As the school year draws to a close, we inevitably have a small number of staff move on to explore new avenues and opportunities.

Mr Greenley - as previously shared, Mr Greenley is taking his teaching skills, enthusiasm and energy to Bishopswood Junior School. Mr Greenley has been with us at Whitewater since January and has proven to be a hardworking, dedicated and knowledgeable member of the team who is well liked by everyone. As Mr Greenley will remain part of the wider collaboration, no doubt our paths will cross again soon.

Mrs Burningham – as SENCO, Mrs Burningham has had a huge impact across the school with a number of children having benefitted from her knowledge, expertise and passion for children's learning and development. Like Mr Greenley, Mrs Burningham will remain a key part in the collaboration as she becomes the SENCO at Bramley.

Miss Miles – Miss Miles has been with us for a relatively short period of time, but has had a great impact on the children she has worked with. Miss Miles begins her studies at University from September and we wish her well. We look forward to welcoming her back and hearing all about her adventures.

As staff leave, new staff join. We look forward to welcoming Miss Ouzanni and Mrs Norton to the teaching team, Mrs Evans as SENCO and Miss Pepper as our new Assistant Head.

### **Sports Day**

Last week was our Sports Day. The children participated and competed brilliantly showing levels of sportsmanship and respect that many professional sports could learn from. It's been amazing to see so many children actively engaged in sports and physical activity.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to join us for Sports Day on Friday. It was fantastic to be able to welcome you all back to support the children. We always aim to have a balance of ensuring all children take part as well as elements of more competitive events such as the sprints on the track. Mr Golding told me that it was the most enjoyable Sports Day he had experienced in many years and that was down to the children, staff and parents all creating an enthusiastic and supportive atmosphere.

Events like this take time and effort to plan, resource and prepare and I would like to express my thanks to all of the staff who have thrown themselves into this week. It's not easy when they are so busy with reports, transition meetings, assessments and much more. We really hope your children enjoyed themselves.

### **Summer Term Role of honour**

On the final celebration assembly of each term, we ask staff to select one child in each class for a 'Values Award'. This is a very special award for a select few children who demonstrate our school values of **Fellowship, Creativity** and **Courage** without fail. In recognition of their achievement, the children get a Values Award badge as well as a certificate. In addition to this, we arrange for a special treat. As a result, yesterday the 7 Values Award winners from the Spring Term, joined the 7 Values Award winners from this term on a trip to Hollywood Bowl at Basingstoke's Leisure Park. Mr Ralph, Mrs Brett and Mrs Owen had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with the children. Well done children...you are all superstars!

The winners of the Summer Term Values Awards are:

Year R – Tilly-May

Year 3 – William L

Year 5 – Lilly-May S

Year 1 - Olivia K

Year 4 – Freya H

Year 6 – Elliott R

Year 2 - Tommy G

### **Good Bye to our Year 6**

Although I have only known you for a short period of time, I can honestly say it's been a pleasure. You have experienced disruption to your learning due to school closures, changes in leadership, changes in teachers and more. Throughout this you have all demonstrated adaptability and resilience. The progress that you all have made as young people and as learners has been excellent. In seven months, you have shown us that you are ready to fly at secondary school. No matter how big the challenge that lay ahead...remember you can do it! Good luck to you all. I look forward to hearing all about your new adventures in the future.

### **Tennis Opportunity...**

I have recently been in touch with Rotherwick and Hook tennis coach Gary Stanford from Tennis and Children with a view to establish some tennis coaching as part of our extra-curricular after school clubs. The plan is to initially offer coaching to Year 2 & 3 pupils from September. We will be sending out more information after the summer holidays.

If you'd like to find out more, Gary will be running some tennis courses on July 26-28th and August 9-11<sup>th</sup> in Hook. For more information, please visit [www.tennisandchildren.com](http://www.tennisandchildren.com)

### **Librarian Opportunity...**

I'm sure there have been countless times when you've been at home during the school day daydreaming about being a school librarian! Great news...we are looking for a librarian for a couple of afternoons a week on a voluntary basis from September to help drive the next stage of the library evolution. If you would like to find out more, please contact the School Office for more information.

### **Thank you...**

Governors – You may not know many of the Governors but your child would have benefitted from their work behind the scenes. Since joining the Whitewater team, it became apparent very quickly that the Governing Body was a knowledgeable, skilled and incredibly committed group. They have made important decisions and offer great support as well as challenge to ensure your school continues to move forward. Their care for the staff and children is unrelenting and they are determined to continue to drive progress in the future. Thank you governors for welcoming and supporting us since December. It's been a pleasure getting to know you all and work alongside you.

Parents - This has been a tough year. With changes in leadership throughout the Autumn Term, your willingness to trust the school must have been challenged. The impact of Covid hit staffing and pupil absence

hard in the Spring term but we got through it. Most recently, we have experienced a heatwave beyond any heat anyone has ever experienced in the history of heat (if you read the papers). Despite all of this, you have shown such kindness, honesty and support as you welcomed us to your wonderful Whitewater community. We can honestly say that we have loved our journey with you all so far. There is lots more to do and to achieve but we are very excited about what the future holds for the school, the parents, the staff and most importantly, the children of Whitewater. Thank you for all your support.

Staff – It's an honour to work with such a committed, kind and skilled group of people. Although newly formed, the staff team at Whitewater are unwavering in their desire to put the children first and do their very best to ensure that every child develops academically, socially and emotionally. We've asked a lot since Christmas but whether it was the office team or the teaching and learning support team, sleeves were rolled up and smiles were put on their faces so they were ready greet every child with positivity every morning. If you get the chance before the summer, please make time to thank the adults who have supported your child. They don't expect it, but they do really appreciate it.

Children – I honestly cannot speak highly enough of your children. Each and every one of them have experienced interruptions to their education, missed birthday parties and been impacted by the past couple of years. Throughout this, they have all shown tremendous resilience and courage whilst they have adapted to whatever the 'normal' was at the time. The children of Whitewater are a special bunch and it truly is a privilege to work with you everyday. Thank you for the part you play in making us proud every day.

Finally, we can go into the summer holidays with a warm fuzzy feeling about what we have achieved together as a team. We have a new, engaging EYFS outdoor area, we have stunning Woodland Walk, we have a new IT infrastructure, we having a flourishing allotment area, we have a new Assistant Headteacher, we have a breakfast club and we very nearly have a minibus. We've accomplished so much working together in a short space of time. Well done everyone!

We have two days left Whitewater! It's been a year with immense challenges for everyone and everyone deserves a restful summer break.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore  
Executive Head of School  
Whitewater C of E Primary School