

5th September 2018

Start of the Year Newsletter



Fellowship, Courage and Creativity

Dear parents,

A very warm welcome back to the start of the school year. I hope you all had a wonderful break at home or away. A special welcome to our new Foundation Stage children and parents, we all wish you a happy and enjoyable start at Whitewater C of E Primary School.

The children have started today with excitement and enthusiasm and are beginning to settle into their new classes. It has been really lovely to walk around the school and see them all actively engaged in a whole range of activities.

We have produced a 'Who's Who' list of the staff at Whitewater. This has proved to be very useful for parents in the past and so we have updated the list for this academic year. It can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Whole School Focus

At Whitewater all the staff are constantly striving to make improvements so that your child has the very best possible experience during primary school and is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for their future. With this in mind we are always focusing on maintaining and building on the high standards we already have at Whitewater. This looks to enhance the teaching and learning in school but also includes high expectations for learning behaviours. This was particularly noticeable and successful last year with the introduction of our Whitewater Behaviour Steps.

The first three days of the year really focuses on expectations, establishing good groundworks for future learning and developing the ethos or 'feel' and culture of the school.



With this in mind, the children will be engaged in a range of activities connected to our School Values (Fellowship, Courage and Creativity), Growth Mindset and a new overarching tool: Heartsmart. Heartsmart is a primary school resource that builds character, resilience and emotional health in children. Further information for parents will be given out in the near future. All classes will be talking about this in a positive way this week.

You can support us in this drive to, 'get even better' through your involvement in your child's learning and behaviour. Thank you.

Communication and the end of the school day

Continuing on with the theme of school improvement, we very much want closer communication with you as parents. With this in mind, we are making a small change to the arrangements at the end of the school day. When the classteacher brings the children from the classroom to the playground at 3.30pm, instead of the teacher, 'spotting' you and sending your child across the playground, we would like you to come **to receive your child from the teacher**. We hope this will improve the opportunities for closer communication between the classteacher and yourselves.

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We are also slightly altering the bell and gate shutting time to 3.40pm. We had a number of behavioural incidents involving children playing unsupervised after 3.30pm, when children were given over to the care of parents, or the adults picking children up from school. We want every child to feel safe and happy whenever and wherever they are on the school site. Please remember that once the teacher has handed over your child, they are your responsibility. Thank you for your continued support.

Parent help and volunteering (including changes this year)

We welcome parent support during the school day and on our school trips as it enhances your child's learning and depth of experience in school. If you would like to support the school in this way, we are always looking for returning parent helpers and new parents to share some of their spare time. It could be help offered on a regular basis or as a one-off for a school trip or class project. Please speak to your child's class teacher – your offer of help would be welcomed.

All the adults who help in school are DBS checked and need to complete a short volunteering meeting with either Miss Chedzey or Miss Edwards. These steps form part of the updated safeguarding checks from September this year, which is a straightforward process. Please speak to Mrs Fox in the school office to organise this once you have spoken to your child's class teacher.

Class and Curriculum Information

At the end of the week, your child will receive a 'Welcome Letter' from your child's class teacher. This will outline the theme or topic for the term and also provide vital information relating to the class, such as homework and when your child has PE. A curriculum summary for each class will be available on the school website by the end of next week. You can find this by going to www.whitewater.hants.sch.uk clicking on 'Our Learning', then 'Class Learning' and selecting your child's class.

Useful Dates

Class Assemblies

These will take place on Fridays at 9.10 a.m. in the school hall, unless specified differently:

Class 3 16th November
Class 4 19th October
Class 5 12th October

Christmas Play

Class 1 and 2 will be performing their Nativity play on:

Tuesday 11th December at 2.15 pm
Wednesday 12th December at 2.15 pm

Celebration of Learning

Our Celebration of Learning events are always very well attended and give you the opportunity to see and share your child's learning. Your child will be able to show you their books and any work on display.

Thursday 18th October 3.15 – 4.00pm
Thursday 14th February 3.15 – 4.00pm
Thursday 23rd May 3.15 – 4.00pm

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Who's Who at Whitewater C of E Primary School

Miss Edwards Headteacher
Miss Chedzey Deputy Headteacher and Class 2 teacher

Teachers

Mrs Proctor	Class 1
Miss Chedzey and Mrs Zebedee	Class 2
Mrs Carter and Mrs Dienning	Class 3
Mrs Arrol and Mrs Moore	Class 4
Mr Grinham	Class 5

Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) – Teach classes during Teachers PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment)

Mrs Miles
Mrs Sharp

Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) – supporting classes and taking intervention groups

Mrs Baronne
Mrs Jolliffe
Mrs Miles
Mrs Sharp

Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) – supporting children on an individual basis

Mrs Overton
Mrs Owen
Mrs Nicholls
Miss Norman
Mrs Moya

ELSA (Emotional Learning Support Assistant)

Mrs Miles

School Office

Mrs Fox
Mrs Brinton

Many of the teachers and support staff have multiple roles and therefore appear in more than once section.

Photographs of all these people will be displayed in the corridor next to the school office in due course. There is also a board with the names and photographs of our school governors in the same place.

PTA News

Welcome back!!! We hope you all had a great summer holiday! A special welcome to all the new Year R parents with children starting today!

For those parents who are new, Whitewater PTA holds 5 key fundraising events throughout the school year. Each class takes on the organising of an event, with the support of the PTA committee and the help of the rest of the school parents to run it on the day. Last year we had the Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, Sponsored biathlon, Race night and Discos. More information on these will be discussed at the next PTA meeting.

PTA coffee morning: Wednesday 19th September, from 9am, we will be at The Falcon for an informal coffee and chat. Everyone is welcome to come along, meet some of the current PTA members, and find out more about what we do for the school.

PTA AGM: The PTA AGM meeting on Wednesday 26th September in the school hall at 7.30pm where the 2018/19 committee is elected. Please do come along, we really look forward to hearing your comments, support and help.

Next PTA Meeting: The general PTA meeting for this term is on Wednesday 10th of October, 7.30pm in Class 3. Everyone is welcome, we look forward to seeing you there.

Other news:

Rachelle Edwards and Amy Evans will be stepping down as Co-Chair's of the PTA this year. The Edwards family are moving to South Korea at the beginning of October. Rachelle has loved being involved with the PTA for the past 5 years, and along with her children Isla & Jake, will be sad to be leaving such a great little school! Amy is having to reign in the amount of time she can give due to increased work commitments. Amy has really enjoyed being Co-Chair of the PTA with such a great team of parents and teachers and will remain on the PTA as a member. If anyone is interested in putting themselves forward for the elect committee, please come and speak with Rachelle or Amy in the playground to find out more.

Final word...

I hope that you settled into the school routine and busy mornings once again! Remember that if you have any concerns or questions about your child's new class or school activities, please speak to your child's class teacher. They are best placed for up-to-date and detailed information about your child.

Miss Edwards