Whitchurch C of E Primary School

School Matters

18/09/26

Dear Parents,

I am incredibly proud to share that **Whitchurch Primary School has been named the second-highest performing school in Hampshire for the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge.**
Our children collectively read more than 600 books during the summer holidays and represented the school superbly through their enthusiasm and love of reading.
Participation in the challenge continues to grow at Whitchurch. This year, 159 children started the challenge, the highest number of any school in Hampshire, and 105 children successfully completed it. These figures are particularly noteworthy because overall participation across Hampshire libraries declined this year. Whitchurch was one of the few schools to buck the trend and achieve increased numbers of both starters and finishers. This remarkable achievement reflects the commitment of our children, the support of our families and the dedication of our staff in fostering a genuine love of reading. Congratulations to everyone involved. We couldn't be prouder.

Clubs and Enrichment Opportunities
We are committed to providing our children with a wide range of affordable clubs and after-school activities that enrich their experiences and support their wider development.
We continue to expand our provision and are in discussions with a variety of providers to offer even more opportunities for our pupils. We recognise that there has been a gap in provision since we stopped working with R&R; however, we are pleased to continue our partnerships with Simply Out of School, Karate and SportsXtra Dance.

This term, we have introduced a new Classics Club and a Chess Club, which started this week. In addition, staff are running a number of clubs, including Year 5 Football, Year 6 Football, along with Gardening and Computing Club soon. We are also in talks with other providers to increase the range of sporting opportunities available for younger year groups. Our aim is to offer a broad and varied programme of activities that caters to a wide range of interests, and we look forward to sharing further developments with you soon.

Vision and Values Survey
Last week, I shared that we are reviewing our school vision and values. As part of this process, I sent a link to a short survey to give parents the opportunity to share their views on the values that could help shape the future direction of our school.
So far, we have received only a small number of responses. I will therefore keep the survey open for another week and would strongly encourage all parents and carers to take part. You are a vital part of our school community, and it is important that we hear as many voices as possible as we take this significant next step together.
Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your views.
New Values – Fill in form

Have a lovely weekend

Kind regards,



Mr D Ware
Headteacher

Key Dates

New dates in yellow
Lunches next week – Week 3
KS2 hot dog Fridays – the first Friday in **school of every month**
Tue 22 September – Year R Phonics and Reading Information Evening 6pm
Thu 24 September – FOWPS AGM
Thu 1 October – Whole school flu sprays (info to follow)
Fri 2 October – INSET Day
Wed 7 October – individual photos
12-15 October – Parent consultations (info to follow)
Thu 22 October – FOWPS School Disco
Wk beg 9 November – book looks
23-27 November – Y6 Calshot
Fri 12 February 27 – INSET Day
Fri 16 April – Year 1 visit from Jungle Jonathan
Fri 28 May 27 – INSET Day
School holiday dates | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council

Phase Leader and SEN Contacts

EYFS Lead - Mrs Wersby - **YearR@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk**
KS1 Lead – Mrs Meade - **Year1and2@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk**
LKS2 Lead – Mrs Glynn - **Year3and4@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk**
UKS2 Lead – Mr Rutledge - **Year5and6@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk**
AHT Inclusion Lead – Mr May - **Senco@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk**

Celebration

Year R Stars of the Week

Pelicans
Monday – Ozzy
Tuesday – Cicely
Wednesday – Roman
Thursday – Madeleine

Puffins
Monday – Naevi
Tuesday – Eyva
Wednesday – Theo
Thursday – Ernest

Lead Learners

Seahorses – Evie
Turtles – Ellis
Dolphins – Maya
Seals – Felix
Jaguars – Harry
Leopards – Meadow
Pumas – Finnian
Tigers – Elliot
Doves – Leo
Kingfishers – Emmett
Eagles – Amelie
Kestrels – Esme M

Roll of Honour

Seahorses - Lyra
Dolphins – Izzy
Jaguars - Darcie
Pumas – Phoebe
Kestrels – Freya

Focus Year Group – Year 1

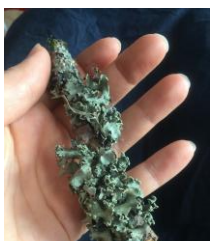
We have had a wonderful week of learning in Year 1! The children have been turning into fantastic scientists as we begin our new topic on the seasons. We have been investigating our changing environment and thinking carefully about the season we are currently in. The children did a brilliant job spotting clues outside, noticing clear signs of Autumn including crunchy brown leaves, colder weather, and bright berries growing on the bushes. Alongside our seasonal changes, we have been exploring the work of the famous British sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. Inspired by his incredible environmental art, the children became artists themselves this week! They collected natural resources from our outdoor areas—such as twigs, leaves, and stones—and worked beautifully to create their own stunning nature sculptures. We are so proud of their creativity and teamwork. Next time you are on the walk to school or visiting the park, see if your child can spot any more signs of autumn to share with the class!















Thank you God for Jesus the teacher and for everyone who teaches us day by day. Help us to open our eyes, ears and minds to see, listen and think so that we can learn more about you and about your world. Amen

DoodleMaths Summer Challenge
Well done to the following children for completing the DoodleMaths summer challenge:

William B, Arthur N, Ernest G, Harriet L, Lily K, Paxton C and Tobia D.

School Fundraising with FOWPS

A few things on in the next couple of months:

- **FOWPS AGM, Thursday 24 September** – Come along to hear about our plans, share ideas, or see how you can get involved.
- **FOWPS School Disco, Thursday 22 October** – Details on timings and tickets will follow soon.

FOWPS is run entirely by parent and staff volunteers, and every penny raised goes directly toward enhancing our children's school experience. Whether you can give an hour at an event, help behind the scenes, or simply come along and enjoy the fun, every bit of support makes a huge difference. For more information, please check out https://fowpswhitchurch.co.uk.
We wish all the children a fantastic start to the new term, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Thank you for your support.

Have a lovely weekend – FOWPS PTA

Whitchurch CofE Primary School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr David Ware and the Deputy DSLs are Mrs Michelle Dunwell, Mr David May and Mrs Emma Cooke. The Designated Safeguarding Leads can be contacted through the school office on 01256 892755 or email to adminoffice@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk marked for the attention of one of the safeguarding leads.



