

WHITEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015



Merry Christmas Whitehill Primary School

I can not believe that I have been here nearly a whole term at Whitehill, the time has flown by !! I hope all of your children are looking forward to the break and spending some special time with their families and carers. This is our new newsletter and it is my intention that you will receive one at the end of each term to tell you what we have done and what we are doing the following term.

I have brought a number of new staff to the school this term who are already making a massive contribution, and we welcome Fraser Skimming (PE teacher); Jake Berthelson (Student Support Officer); Lianne Pond (PA); Dave Forsyth (assistant caretaker); Annie Dalton (TA); and Jess Jobson (TA). I also have Jane Patterson, an extremely well qualified SENCO, joining us in January and Sarah Higham, Specialist Leader of Education, and Will Forder joining us to teach key stage 2 in April.

I reinforce my commitment to improving communication and hope that many of you feel that this has already improved dramatically.

It is my aim that all parents feel that the school knows their children well and that children are supported to achieve their potential.

Next term the biggest change that you will see is the schools increased emphasis on reading. The school has purchased new reading books from Oxford Press (these are available to buy from retailers and I would encourage them as Christmas presents). All students will take a book home with them and will be expected to read everyday with their parents or carers. Parents and carers will be able to sign off the new reading log every day in their children's brand new bespoke contact books.

The leadership group with support from Mr Ames is looking at making the house system more prominent. House systems allow students from different year groups to get together as well as compete against houses in different competitions such as sports day. I will send you more details of this under separate cover.

At the time of writing we have just

started our Christmas programme and the students of year 4, 5 and 6 have just been over to the Gravesend Grammar School to see the Pantomime Aladdin. A number of activities from this term are pictured in the following pages and I thank all staff and parents that have contributed to such a rich experience.

I would like to make special mention of the efforts of the Parent Teachers Association in organising a wonderful Christmas Market at the Elite venue in Gravesend. Pictured above is Santa in his Grotto with his little helpers.

Next term, I will be increasing our extra curricular provision. We will have a Gymnastics club starting and a range of games activities provided by Mr. Skimming. I am also looking to increase the music and drama provision afterschool. I will send out booking forms when we have all of these activities in place.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and I look forward to working with you all again in what I hope will be a happy, helpful and hardworking school in the new year.

M D Moaby
Acting Head Teacher



HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...



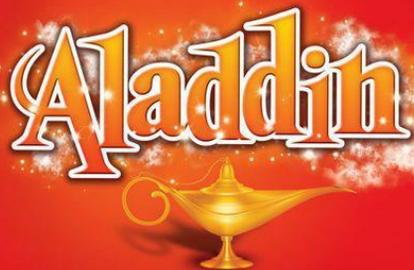
This term Reception have been learning all about 'People Who Help Us'. They have learnt about vets, doctors and paramedics. They were lucky enough to have two paramedics visit and talk about their job and how they help to make people feel better. As you can see from the pictures they were able to have a look at all of their equipment inside. Louise, one of the paramedics, took some children's blood pressure and we told her what the numbers were on the monitor. Lewis, the other paramedic even turned on the siren (which surprised some of the other children that were inside the ambulance!)

They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and have learnt to write key words and make their own class ambulance (although it wasn't as big!)

Tudor Times

Year 4 travelled back to Tudor times and spent a morning trying their hand at a range of Tudor jobs. They made oil lamps and sewed by hand. Farm work was incredibly mucky, while writing with quill pens required a steady hand. Some of the children thought they'd make good apothecaries and everyone loved the hand-made bread and butter.

In the afternoon they dined in style as they were invited to court for a feast. Not only did they enjoy the food they also had fine entertainment laid on. They enjoyed watching the dancers and jesters, but were a little concerned by the travelling magicians who seemed to possess strange powers!



OUR TRIP TO THE GRAVESEND PANTOMIME

Years 4, 5 and 6 went on a special trip to the Gravesend Grammar School Pantomime. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed their performance of Aladdin. Dezharny thought that their performance was even better than the pantomime in Woodville halls, but they did copy some minor details from it. But other than that, thumbs up to them. We all thought that they were great actors/actresses. Alice D's favourite character was Wishy-Washy, Dezharny's favourite character was Abanaza and Alice N's favourite character was Widow Twankey (Aladdin's mum). The scene with the Swinging Axe looking very realistic. Naughty Nobby (the Panda) was very cheeky. Poor Wishy-Washy, having to look after him all the time. One of the funny parts was when the emperor got arrested. Everything was great but the part that they could have improved on was louder singing. But to sum it all up, we have a GREAT time and want them to make a part 2! Well done Gravesend! Great Job!

*Written by Alice D, Alice N and Dezharny
Year 6*



ALSO TRAVELLING BACK IN TIME WAS YEAR SIX

Arriving at school dressed in their best wartime outfits, the children not only looked amazing but learnt about and experienced activities of the past. There were four separate sessions for the children including dance, food tasting, 'make do and mend' and time spent on the visiting Home Front Bus. We were all impressed at how well the children embraced mixed partner dancing. They learnt the tricky jitterbug – a difficult forties dance with some challenging moves. When food tasting, we quite meanly omitted to tell the children all the ingredients until after they had tasted certain foods, one particular example being the chocolate spread – yum, yum! Nearly all the children loved it until they were

told it was made with mashed potato (even Mr Moaby was surprised).

A simple sewing task kept them quiet during their make do and mend session and kept the adults busy threading needles! The final activity was led by our visitors on the Home Front Bus. Mr Burnett kept all the children entertained with his facts about the war, it is truly amazing how much can be fitted inside a double decker bus. Would you believe there was a shop, a living room, an Anderson shelter and an unexploded bomb? But don't worry, it didn't go off while we were on board and all the children made it safely through the day.

What an experience!

PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET



On Sunday 6th December the Whitehill Primary PTA hosted this years Christmas Market at the Elite Venue in Gravesend.

The team of 23 volunteers helped put together an impressive array of stall and tables covering games and activities for the children, arts and crafts, homemade cakes and even a chance to meet Santa himself.

With the addition of support from local businesses the hall looked great and generated a bustling atmosphere all day which helped to generate funds to be used to help support the school. After the success of this event, the PTA are already looking forward to planning next years calendar of events.

DO YOU REALLY KNOW US?

INTRODUCING YOU TO SOME OF OUR MEMBERS OF STAFF



Tony Bishop our new caretaker previously worked for the Imperial War Museums on HMS Belfast, a World War 2 Light Cruiser now a floating museum. Mr Bishop, who worked there from 1999-2013 helped look after the fixtures and fittings of the ship as well as Facility Management.

Mr Bishop still enjoys helping with 'Kip on the Ship' - the opportunity to have groups spend a night sleeping on 2 mess decks of the ship itself. His duties include : staying overnight and giving educational talks in the morning about what life was like on board.

When asked about what he enjoyed most whilst working on HMS Belfast, Mr Bishop described how he liked talking to the veterans and hearing their first hand accounts on life during World War 2.



Paul Lorraine, our very own local legend. Up until 2014 Mr Lorraine was the Captain at Ebbsfleet united FC, prior to that he has also played at AFC Wimbledon and Woking FC where he was also captain. Before and during his football career Mr Lorraine studied and achieved a 2:1 degree in PE and Sports at Greenwich University. In his first year at Ebbsfleet United FC, 'The Fleet' won promotion and his first Son was born.

Before coming to Whitehill Primary School Mr Lorraine has worked at two other Gravesend Schools where he gained a Diploma in Behaviour Management.

Mr Lorraine still enjoys playing football part-time and is currently playing for Whitehawk FC.

Mr Lorraine is the Senior Student Support Officer, he is enjoying his role, keeping the communication between children, teachers and parents open. Mr Lorraine said of his role at Whitehill Primary school 'although playing football was a privilege, I get as much satisfaction working with the children and staff here'.



MR LORRAINE
SENIOR STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER



MR B
STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER



Jacob Berthelsen, came to Gravesend in January 2015 from Nelson, New Zealand to play for Gravesend Rugby Club as a number 10, Fly Half. Mr B (as he is known at school) is working with Mr Lorraine as a Student Support Officer.

When asked what his plans are, Mr B explained that he plans to study to become a Qualified Teacher and hopes to be able to do that in England, as moving to England was the best decision he has made! Mr Lorraine said, 'Jacob is a welcome additional to the team'!

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Monday 02nd May
Monday 30th May

Term 3 Tuesday 05th January-Friday 12th February

Half Term Monday 15th February-Friday 19th February

Term 4 Monday 22 February-Thursday 24th March

Half Term Friday 25th March-Friday 08th April

Term 5 Monday 11th April-Friday 27th May

Half Term Monday 30th May-Friday 03 June

Term 6 Monday 06th June-Thursday 21st July





Stay Connected

Acting Head Teacher
Malcolm Moaby
Whitehill Primary School
Sun Lane
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 5HN
01474 352973

admin@whitehillprimary.kent.sch.uk

www.whitehillprimary.kent.sch.uk



Wednesday's 13:00-15:00
Term time only drop in
Refreshments available



Lost property
Please remember to name all your children's clothes



North Kent Ju-Jitsu Kai
Infant School Hall
Children aged 7+
Monday 15:30-16:30
£4 per lesson

£24 yearly insurance (payable after 2nd session)
Welcome to come to watch and see
Contact: Ann 07777 651820



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What did the snowgirl do to the snowboy?
She gave him the cold shoulder
Amber Rose Yr 1, Mr Khader