



WHITEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

World book day was a huge hit with the students. I witnessed many costumes from wizards to William Shakespeare. Can I thank all the effort that parents put in to support this day. Can I also thank Mrs Savage for organising the book safari and other activities. Not only did children dress up but so did the staff. I saw many authors represented but I thought the costumes representing Alexandre Dumas, Roald Dahl, P. L. Travers, Jack Kirby, Dr Seuss and Eric Carle were especially creative. My favourite though was the one that had terrible tusks, and terrible claws, and terrible teeth in her terrible jaws. She had knobby knees, and turned-out toes, and a poisonous wart at the end of her nose. Her eyes were orange, her tongue was black; she had purple prickles all over her back!

This has been a very short term and looking back I still cannot believe how much we have done. World book day; 2 disco's; year 4 production; Palm service; netball competition; gymnastics competition and 16 extra curricular clubs whilst we are trying to improve academic standards across the school.

I hope you are starting to see the increased rigor and expectations we have for our children at Whitehill. For some children their reading has improved exponentially and I thank the parents who have devoted the time to ensure that their children are reading at home. Can I please ask all parents to write regularly in the contact book and use it to guide our choice of books and levels. We are also starting to see improvements in writing. We are bringing in a new concept called the 'Power of reading' that we hope will give the students more opportunity to improve their written communication.

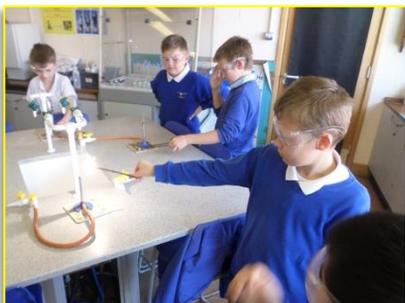
Children have told us they want more homework. Parents have told us they want more homework for their children. So we are going to give them more homework. We are currently discussing what this will look like but expect more work going home in term 5.

At last I have found the time to teach a lesson! I had great pleasure in taking a year 5 class over to the Grammar School science labs and teaching the children about separating mixtures and making compounds. All the students made Magnesium Oxide by burning Magnesium ribbon at high temperature. The children also separated ink into different colours using a process known as Chromatography. I found all of the children to be intuitive and excited to learn.

Mrs Mills' Mean Machine

The school is in the process of purchasing a minibus. I hope that this investment will lead to an increase in sports fixtures; visits to other schools; forest school work; and other trips and visits. 3 members of staff recently attended a minibus driving course that included safety awareness and driving skills. Mrs Mills was described as a natural!

Mr Moaby, Headteacher





At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to two members of staff. Mr Taylor and Miss Abrahamsson both joined Whitehill at the start of this academic year. Mr Taylor has decided to travel the world and explore new experiences whilst Miss Abrahamsson has chosen to return to her native Sweden. We thank both teachers for their

contributions to the children's learning. Miss Trevarrow will also be leaving us but I have talked her into staying for two more weeks after the Easter break. Unfortunately for Whitehill Primary we have to say good bye to a very talented and caring teacher and wish her luck in her next teaching experience. We have recently welcomed two members of staff Mrs Kerry Holmes who joined us as an assistant in the kitchen and Mrs Julie Gaffney has joined us as a Literacy Specialist.

We also look forward to two members of staff joining the school at Easter and we wish them both every success at Whitehill Primary school. Miss Higham is an experienced teacher of upper KS2 and a SLE in English. She brings with her a proven track record in preparing children for secondary school and improving standards in English and Maths. Mrs French re-joins the school to lead the Early Years provision. I am sure that the experience that she has developed in quite a difficult context will mean she can quickly make an impact in Nursery and Reception.

Year	Class	New Teacher	Replacing
Year 5	Cornbread	Miss Higham	Miss Kirk
Year 4	Knackebrot	Mr Baker	Miss Abrahamsson
Year 3	Ciabatta	Mrs Jones	Mr Taylor
Year 1	Anpan	Miss Kirk	Miss Trevarrow
Reception	Farl	Mrs French	Mrs Jones

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

The new season of extra curricular clubs kicks off on the first Monday back after Easter with exciting new additions to the rota. I have brought in a professional Dance Teacher from local organisation Bounce and Beatz who will deliver classes to students covering many different types of Dance. Chloe Simmons is local to Whitehall Primary and I am hoping that this is the beginning of a long relationship with the school in which he can offer dance and performing arts on a regular basis.

Pro Soccer Academy is a organisation based in Maidstone that I have worked with and coached for before. They have strong coaches and very close links to the game at professional and non league level. Many of their coaches are still

playing or have recently retired form full time football. Also being introduced are athletics, cricket/rounders and tennis. I will run these and will make them fun and enjoyable for all involved. I am particularly looking forward to athletics as I have already seen some excellent athletes in PE lessons. There is a cricket tournament in June so the cricket/rounders club will be ideal in preparation for that. Tennis will follow on with the rackets theme after a very successful badminton club held throughout the winter. You may have noticed something called ' elite sports' on the timetable. Although my aim is to encourage as much participation in sport as possible, I am also keen to develop those children who have extra ability and talent. These

sessions will be used to work with identified students to extend their sporting ability and prepare them for any upcoming fixtures. I would like to see a few more trophies in the cabinet! Please support you child with all of the extra curricular clubs on offer. They offer fantastic opportunities to explore new interests and hobbies as well as important things like team building and fair play.

Mr Skimming



SCHOOL LUNCHES AT WHITEHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



School lunch is an integral part of the school day in any school and many children look forward to lunchtime. The importance of a nutritionally well balanced school lunch is vital to ensure that the pupils are ready for learning in the afternoon and sees them through until they get home. It is also an important social time and the mid-day supervisors and staff who join the children for lunch, encourage good social behaviour at the table and teach them how to tidy up after themselves.

Wendy Hollins, our cook, and her team are responsible for developing

a varied menu which has the essential components of a nutritionally balanced meal. All school meals include protein for growth, (meat, vegetarian protein such as Quorn and cheese), carbohydrates for energy, (potatoes, pasta, rice), vitamins and minerals for a healthy immune system and organ function, (fruit and vegetables) and a source of dietary fibre (fruit and vegetables and salad). All our kitchen team meet the requirements of health and safety and all of the ingredients bought into the kitchen are checked for suitability in relation to allergens. Obviously, not all children have school lunch and many bring a packed lunch. The school encourages a healthy approach to packed lunches and would urge parents and carers to ensure that their child's packed lunch does not

contain too much sugar and salt. It is also important to recognise that some children have allergies to certain foods which can cause very serious health problems and could be potentially life threatening. We have several children in school who are allergic to nuts and we would like to become as much of a "nut free school" as possible. The ingredients which come into the kitchen are thoroughly checked to ensure that no traces of nuts are present in the school kitchen. The school would like to encourage parents and carers to avoid using products containing nuts in their child's packed lunch including peanut butter and chocolate spread. For more information on nut allergies and other common allergies, please look on the Allergy UK website.

Mrs Patterson, SENCO

GLOBE THEATRE



On Monday 29th February, all Year 4 went to London to see the Globe Theatre, because we are doing a play about Shakespeare.

We went by coach and it took one hour and thirty minutes to get there. After that all of us went to the Tate Modern to eat our lunch.



Later, we went to see the Globe Theatre. Outside a lady was talking to us. She said how the first Globe Theatre had burned down.

A while later, we went inside the Globe Theatre and all of us watched some actors preparing for their show. Next, we went to a rehearsal



room and we acted like actors. We played games and we acted out Macbeth.

I enjoyed it when we were acting, because it was fun. I also learned a lot about Shakespeare.

Szymon Hermanski, Year 4

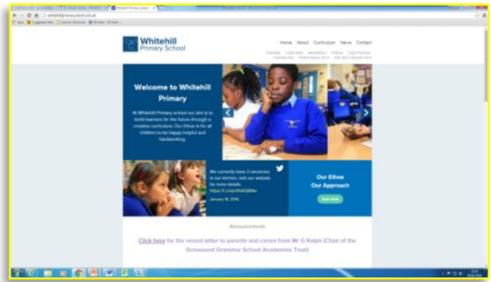


STAY CONNECTED

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Keep up-to-date and see our twitter feeds by visiting our website



VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for two midday supervisors. Please look at our website under vacancies where you will find more information and also the application form.

www.whitehillprimary.kent.sch.uk

24 MAY

The School Nurse will be running a drop-in clinic.

To make an appointment please contact smannings@whitehillprimary.kent.sch.uk



PARKING REMINDER

The police have asked us to kindly remind people not park on the yellow markings outside of the school. If this continues then they will be forced to issue penalty notices to motorists. Also, those parents that drive

down the lane at the back of the school to please slow down and be very vigilant of pedestrians and in particular of our children.

Please be considerate of our local residents in the nearby roads.



What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?
He cracked up.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Half Term Friday 25th March-Friday 08th April

Term 5 Monday 11th April-Friday 27th May

Half Term Monday 30th May-Friday 03rd June

Term 6 Monday 06th June-Thursday 21st July

Friday 22nd July – Staff Development Day



Monday 02nd May
Monday 30th May