



WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

This term is an unusual one with so many bank holidays, however, despite the short term, we have lots of activities and events for our school.

CORONATION

On Friday 5th May, we will have a coronation picnic where parents and family members can join their child for lunch. This will be from 12.00pm to 1.00pm. EYFS, 2HH, Year 3 and Year 5 eat at 12.00 – 12.30pm. Year 1, 2CH, Year 4 and Year 6 eat at 12.30pm. You may stay for the whole hour should you wish to. Access to the school site will be from the carpark entrance only. We would love as many of you to join us. This will be weather dependant. We would also like all our children to wear red, white and blue – not school uniform on this day. Kingswood Catering, our hot lunch providers, have sent information to you regarding their special coronation lunch menu.

Our school will be closed for the bank holiday on Monday 8th May and re-open on Tuesday 9th May at 8.50am

NEAR MISS

Sadly, a parent has informed me of a very near miss involving two large 4x4 vehicles. A child was nearly knocked down on Link Road as neither driver slowed down and if it was not for the swift action of the parent, there would have been a serious injury. I despair when I get emails or telephone calls from distressed parents when they have encountered such terrifying experiences. I appreciate that people need to get to work and may be in a hurry, but we really should be considering pedestrians, our residents and the local community. I do fear it is a matter of time before we do have an accident. Please, if you can, walk to school. If you need to drive, park further away from the school and give yourself enough time so you are not under such pressure. I do believe that we all want to ensure that our children are safe. We all play a part in achieving this.

LOCAL AUTHORITY VISIT SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

As part of our drive for improvement, the local authority visited the school to ascertain our strengths and areas to develop. We are continuing to develop our curriculum and our focus was on science. This was a successful day with our lead teacher, Senior Leadership Team and the representative from the Local Authority visiting classrooms and speaking to the children about their learning. Our children were passionate about science and enjoyed the lessons. We still need to ensure that our children's use of scientific vocabulary is enhanced and we will be working on developing this over the forthcoming terms.

SUPPORT

We always want to support our families at Whitehills. As we are faced with higher cost of living and inflation, I am aware that some families may be struggling financially. Below are some links that may help.

- Food bank details: <https://www.kingsthorpechurches.co.uk/churches/our-nominated-charity/>
- General support, including affordable haircuts <https://mccarthydixon.org.uk/>
- General support: <https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk/>
- Free school meals application <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium>
- Spencer Contact (furniture) 01604 587589



It was this time last year that our school council set up our pre-loved school uniform project. This has been a huge success and I know that many families have supported and benefited from this.

ASSESSMENTS

This term is a busy one with assessments for Years 1, 2, 4 and 6. Years 1, 3, and 5 will have internal assessments later in the year.

YEAR 6 SATS

On Tuesday 9th May to Friday 12th May, our Year 6 children have their SATs assessments. We will be having a breakfast club for the children to attend on these days. Children can arrive from 8.30am and meet up with their friends and teaching staff to calm any nerves. We will offer a drink and some toast and ensure that the children have a positive start to the day.

It is really important your child attends each day of the tests because they cannot complete the assessments at another time. As these are national tests, we are directed by the Department for Education on when these take place and strict guidance on how we administer them is given. The assessment results in July are shared with secondary schools and these are used as a baseline on entry to Year 7. Ultimately, the children have worked incredibly hard on the build-up to the assessments and I know they will do their very best on the days of the tests.

MULTIPLICATION CHECK YEAR 4

Year 4 will be taking the statutory national Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) tests from the 12th June. Please encourage your children to practise their times tables regularly using TT Rockstars as we want our children to achieve the best outcomes they can and be able to recall timetables quickly. The Standards Testing Agency has produced an explanatory leaflet for parents, which is attached.

White Rose maths have a free APP which encourages children to use the four operations for calculation. The link will direct you to more information <https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths>

YEAR 2 SATS

These tests will take place from 15th May. We do try and keep these assessments low key. The children will be assessed in reading and maths. Writing is assessed by teachers, based on the work the children complete in their lessons.

YEAR 1 PHONICS CHECK

These tests assess your child's ability to read words and pseudo words (nonsense words). We do these assessments individually and the children have already had experience of this. Please see your class teacher if you need any further advice. The assessments will take place starting from June 12th.

Finally, huge congratulations to Mr Duffy who completed the London Marathon last week. He completed the run in 3 hours 40 minutes... impressive, especially as he was suffering with an injury. We are very proud of him. Thank you to those who donated to his charity, Cynthia Spencer Hospice. He exceeded his target by £48, raising £1,048 and he is thrilled with this total.

Enjoy the bank holiday.

With best wishes,

Natalie James
Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

MAY	
1 st May	Bank holiday school closed
3 rd May	Year 3-4 target festival Benham Sports Centre



5 th May	Coronation picnic lunch parents invited 12.00 – 1.00pm
8 th May	Bank holiday school closed
9 th May	Year 6 SATs am Spelling punctuation and grammar test Year 5 Bikeability
10 th May	Year 6 SATs am Reading test Year 5 Bikeability
11 th May	Year 6 SATs am Maths Arithmetic test and reasoning test Year 5 Bikeability
12 th May	Year 6 SATs am Maths Reasoning test Year 5 Bikeability Year 2 Nocturnal Day
15 th May	Reverend Sarah assembly Pentecost Year 2 assessments start
17 th May	Year 3 athletics competition at Moulton College
18 th May	Visit by Word Guerrilla
24 th May	Year 5 -6 netball competition at Duston School
25 th May	Year 3 multi-sport event at NSG
26 th May	Pre-loved school uniform donation day SCHOOL CLOSSES for end of term break and reopens Monday 5th June
31 st May	School meal ordering deadline for after half term
JUNE	
6 th June	Sports day Years 1-3 AM, Years 4-6 PM
8 th June	EYFS new parents visit 4.30pm and 6.00pm
11 th June	Year 6 residential to Osmington, Sunday – Wednesday
12 th June	Y1 phonics screening assessments Y4 Times tables assessments
14 th June	Year 5 quad kids competition
16 th June	Pre-loved uniform collections
21 st June	Year 4 residential 21 st - 23 rd
27 th June	Year 5/6 SAS project
28 th June	Sports day FS2 PM
29 th June	Year 6 production TBC

