



WHITEHILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

Our new adventure playground has been a great success. It is lovely seeing the children playing on it before and after school and during break and lunchtimes. I am sure you will agree, it is being enjoyed by children across the school. It is amazing how quickly the year goes by and the changes that occur during a year. To support some of the changes, we are extending our transfer time to new classes for two full days and two mornings; similar to last year but the days are scheduled over 4 dates rather than a full week. When we canvassed parents, children and staff, they wanted to be with their class teachers in the last week of school. The details of the transfer days are below:

CLASS TRANSFER AND ANNUAL REPORTS TO PARENTS

Our Year 6 children will have their transition days next week to their secondary schools and we do hope they have a super time at their school. (Some secondary schools have different transfer dates so please check your child's new school details as they do vary.)

If your child is in EYFS – Year 5 they will also have two transfer days on **Monday 3rd July and Tuesday 4th July**. We will also have two extra morning transfer sessions on **Thursday 13th July and Tuesday 18th July**. We are having the extra time in the classrooms to support a successful transition into their new year groups. It also means that staff get to know the children prior to starting in September and it will give you an opportunity to share any concerns you may have regarding your child. This week, staff will have an opportunity to meet up with their colleagues to discuss the classes in detail. This enables any specific information to be shared to support consistency for your child.

Our Year 6 children, on 13th and 18th July, will be have some Forest School time and some interclass sporting activities, which I know they will enjoy.

This year we will not be splitting the children and they will go up to their new class with their current peers. Our teaching assistants will support transition by attending transfer days with their current class as this will support the children having a known adult with them. However, in September, this may change as we have several staff members leaving us and I am in the process of recruiting new staff.

On Monday 3rd of July, your child will go to their current class to start the day. Please can the children just bring their book bags, lunches and water bottles only on that day. We will have an assembly at 9.05am and the children will be escorted to their new class for the day. **You will need to collect them at the end of the day from their new classrooms.** There will be boards outside to guide you and members of SLT to get you to the correct collection point at the end of the day.

On Tuesday 4th July, you will need to drop your child at the new classroom and collect from the new classroom at the end of the day. On Wednesday 5th July, the children will be in their usual classrooms.



On the other transition mornings, we will have assemblies on both mornings and staff will take the children to their new classes. As these are only morning sessions, the children will return to their usual classrooms for collection at the end of the day.

On Friday, this week in assembly, the staff will make themselves known to the children.

In preparation for September, please can I remind you that children in years EYFS – Year 3 only need to bring in a book bag. We do not want ruck sacks or large bags in school. Thank you.

REPORTS

Your child's annual report will be sent home on **Friday 14th July**. This will be sent electronically via Parentmail. Should you wish to discuss the report with your child's teacher, please contact them before we break up; this can be via Dojo or email.

SPORTS DAY

Thank you for those who attended Sports day for KS1, KS2 and our youngest children from EYFS this month. The children had a great time and it was lovely to see so many family members attend the events to support the children.

SCHOOL DISCO

On Friday 14th July, our children will have an opportunity to attend the FOWs school disco. It is pay on the door and tickets are £2.50. Entrance to the disco is from the office entrance and collection will be from the Year 3 classrooms (by the side of the main car park.) Thank you to the team of volunteers who ensure these events happen. We have already sent this information out in an earlier Parentmail.

RESIDENTIALS

This month, Year 6 and Year 4 attended their residential. Both year groups had a wonderful time. We will be running residential again next year for these year groups and will be contacting current Year 5 and Year 3 parents before we break up regarding next year's residential, with a view to paying a deposit in September to secure your child's place as they move into Year 6 or Year 4. We do encourage all children to attend as it builds resilience and team-building skills for those who go.

CLUBS

As part of our offer for children we have Mark Pittam who has run Kickboxing for the last year in school. He wanted me to share this with you: *'huge congratulations to the Kickboxing group as 17 more pupils attended their grading on Sunday at Rough N Ready Gym. This now takes the group up to 40+ gradings since we began across White, Red and Yellow Belts which is absolutely amazing.'*

HOLIDAYS

It is very important to stress that no holidays are taken during school time, but particular emphasis in May 2024, for pupils in Year 6 as this is when SATs testing takes place. It is very difficult to "catch up" on work missed through holiday absences, so we urge you to avoid booking holidays during term time. I would also politely remind you, I am unable to authorise any time off for a holiday. This is in line with the DfE and local authority directive who state that time taken for a family holiday will result in a penalty notice being issued by the local authority of **£120 per child, per parent**. When notifying us of any period of absence, please complete a form for **each child** that will be absent, which are located in the reception area.

LIBRARY SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2023

Each year we encourage our children to read over the holidays and the Northamptonshire Library Summer Reading Challenge is a great way of ensuring this happens. I will be talking about the challenge next week in assembly. The Summer Reading Challenge 2023 launches on 8th July.



'Ready, Set, Read!' has been developed in partnership with national children's charity the Youth Sport Trust and is focused on reading, sport and play. The aim is to keep children's minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading.

From 8th July to 9th September, by taking part in the free Challenge, children will be able to join a superstar team and their marvellous mascots as they navigate a fictional summer obstacle course brought to life with illustrations by children's illustrator Loretta Schauer. They'll also be rewarded with free incentives, including stickers. Please click on the link below for further details.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/children-and-young-peoples-library/summer-reading-challenge>

I will be sending a final newsletter before we break up in July.

With best wishes,

Natalie James
Headteacher

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

JUNE	
Wednesday 28 th	9:15 EYFS Sports morning
	Children and parents informed of new class teachers
	Year 5 & 6 town cricket competition
	'Prayer Day' for Year 6 at St Marks Church
JULY	
Monday 3 rd July	Transfer Day all year groups
Tuesday 4 th July	Transfer Day all year groups
Wednesday 5 th July	Rev Sarah to Year 6
Monday 10 th July	EYFS to visit St Mark's Church
Tuesday 11 th July	EYFS visit to Lodge Farm
Thursday 13 th July	Morning transfer to new classes
Friday 14 th July	FOWs disco all year groups
	Annual reports to parents
Tuesday 18 th July	Morning transfer to new classes
	Year 6 production pm
Wednesday 19 th July	Year 6 beach party
Thursday 20 th July	Last day of term – Pre-loved school uniform outside for collection

