



Whiteknights Primary School

Growing Greatness

Newsletter
No. 5/ 2016/17
w/e 24 March

Fairlawn Green, Shinfield Rise
Reading, Berkshire, RG2 8EP
Telephone: 0118 987 2588
Fax: 0118 975 8497
admin@whiteknights.wokingham.sch.uk
www.whiteknights.wokingham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr F Walker

Dear Parents,

As we draw closer to the end of Spring Term 2017, we look forward to our Easter production of The Pied Piper by Y3 and 4 next week! Children have been hard at work rehearsing and teachers have also been busy creating sets and back drops for the production.

Some spring days are still chilly, so children still need to bring jackets or sweatshirts depending on the weather forecast for the week. Please also remember to provide tissues for children for runny noses over this period.

We have had positive feedback from parents on the new format for the weekly newsletter so thank you!

Parents are reminded and encouraged to read the newsletter as well as relevant attachments and if they apply to your child, please print them out and hand back as needed. We have listed relevant attachments and notes further down in the newsletter.

On page 6 and 7 of this newsletter, Mr Mark A'Bear, Chair of Governors, has kindly provided us with an Academy Update. Should you have any queries regarding this please let us know via email on admin@whiteknights.wokingham.sch.uk.

Mr Walker, Headteacher

Reminder

We have a number of school forms outstanding. Thank you to those parents who have already returned forms. Should you not have signed and returned these forms for your child/children, please could you do so by close of term on Friday 31st March.

These are:

- Data Collection Forms;
- EV2 Forms;
- Acceptable Use Agreements (Reception, Y2 and Y4);
- Photographic consent forms, including Twitter and social media;
- Jasper Swimming consent and EV2 (Photographic consent for Leighton Park added in today's news);
- Y3/4 Performance of The Pied Pier, attendance date and seating requests;
- Privacy Notice – Data Collection and how the school utilises it (these were sent in school book bags on Thursday, 23 March 2017).

Should you have misplaced your child's form/s, please do not hesitate to contact the Admin Office and we will arrange to send you electronic copies for completion and handing back.



Parents' evening

If you have not yet booked a slot to meet with your child's teacher for 10 minutes, please do so!

Communication has been sent to all parents via our Teacher2Parent system.

Should you be experiencing difficulty with your booking, please do not hesitate to call our Admin Office and Mrs Robinson and Mrs Bater will be happy to assist you with this.

Parents' Evenings are scheduled to run as follows:

- Tuesday 28th March 2017, 5:00 – 8:30pm;
- Thursday, 30th March 2017, 3:30 – 5:00pm.

We have added an extra time slot for Nursery on:

- Thursday, 30th March 2017, 8:00 – 9:00am;

We still have three slots available for this.

Diary dates

Tuesday 28th March

School Nurse checking height and weight – Reception classes

Parents' Evening, whole school, 5:00 – 8:30pm

Wednesday 29th March

Dress Rehearsal, Production of The Pied Piper, Y3/4, 2:00pm

Nursery additional Parents' Evening session, 3:00 - 4:00pm

Thursday 30th March

Nursery additional Parents' Evening session, 8:00 – 9:00am

Y3/4 Production of The Pied Piper, 9:30 – 10:30am

Y3/4 Production of The Pied Piper, 9:30 – 10:30am

Parents' Evening, whole school, 3:30 – 5:00pm

Friday 31st March

School closes at 1:30pm



List of attachments to this newsletter

The following attachments are included for parent/carer attention. Should they apply to you child/children, please print them off, sign and return to the school by the specified date.

- Sports Clubs for Summer Term
 - Y1/2 Tri Golf ;
 - Y3/6 Football Training Club;
 - Y3/6 Tennis Club;
 - Y3/6 Cricket Club.
- Y4 Jasper Swimming, Leighton Park Photographic permission. The letter and EV2 form were included in last weeks' letter for printing out by parents, signing and returning slips to the Admin Office.

Spotlight on Attendance

We are monitoring attendance closely and this week our attendance figures were:

Reception – Crystal Class	92.85%
Reception – Pearl Class	94.16%
Y1 – Amber Class	91.96%
Y1 - Jade Class	98.33%
Y2 – Opal Class	95.00%
Y2 – Topaz Class	94.16%
Y3 – Diamond Class	97.49%
Y3 – Garnet Class	94.16%
Y4 – Amethyst Class	100%
Y4 – Jasper Class	97.49%
Y5 – Emerald Class	98.21%
Y5 – Onyx Class	100%
Y5 – Sapphire Class	95.10%
Y6 – Obsidian Class	92.96%
Y6 – Ruby Class	95.13%
Y6 – Tigers Eye Class	95.19%

COMBINED SCHOOL TOTAL

95.38%

Class time lost due to late arrivals

124 minutes – let’s make every effort to bring this number down!

Change4life festival

On Wednesday, 27th March 100 schools ranging from Slough, Bracknell, Wokingham, Reading and Maidenhead participated in different events during the day at Bisham Abbey. Twelve children from our school were chosen to participate.

Seven different stations had been created for the morning between 9:30 and 11:30am. These activities were an obstacle course, learning about healthy eating and healthy food, target practice and skipping. All high energy activities!

On the cultural side, children visited the village where they enjoyed cycling, a boat ride, archery, rock climbing, face painting and a bit of beating the drums.

Feedback from the children was that they thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our thanks go to Mr Garstang and Mr Rapson for overseeing the day. A special thanks to the mums that offered to transport children to and from the venue!

Tekkers Football

Tekkers are looking to run a football team for both 6 and 7 year olds next term. They will be scheduling a trail kick about after the Easter break. If your child may be interested, then there will be a sign up list in the school office.



Welcome!

Baby Oluwafolakunmi was born on Friday 17th March 2017 to Nicky, School Governor and her husband.

Congratulations to mum & dad and big sister Fifi!
This new addition will bring you lots of cuddling, fun times and sweet memories.
It will be worth the sleepless nights. All the best to the family.



Clock time change

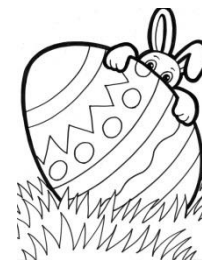
Ready to Spring forward with the clock change on Sunday, 26th March 2017.
Don't forget to change all the clocks in the house!



Easter Menu on Wednesday 29th March

Caterlink, our school meal provider, have kindly sponsored an easter egg give-away to four lucky children! Two from Key Stage 1 and two from Key Stage 2 will be randomly chosen via stickers underneath their dinner plates.

Our scrumptious menu is detailed on page 5. We hope all our children will sign up for lunch that day and stand a chance of winning one of the eggs!



Discovery Days

By Caterlink

Roast Turkey
with Stuffing Ball

Vegetarian Wellington

Shredded Cabbage
Sliced Carrots
Roast Potatoes

Easter Biscuit

Discover On
29th March 2017

Academy Update - March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all those that took the time and trouble to attend one of our consultation sessions on becoming an Academy. For those that were unable to attend we have a lot of information on the website, including a presentation, frequently asked questions, the options available to Whiteknights and why the governing body believes that becoming an academy is in the best interests of the children, staff and wider Whiteknights community. Here's the link:

<http://www.whiteknights.wokingham.sch.uk/about-us/academy-news/>

If anyone has any questions, please submit them via the school office and we'll either respond directly or publish answers in the next newsletter update. In the meantime, here are some of the questions we've received so far:

1. What will change if Whiteknights becomes an academy?
2. What is a Multi-academy trust and who would Whiteknights partner with?
3. What is the process for becoming an academy and at what stage is Whiteknights currently?

What will change if Whiteknights become an academy?

In the short term, very little. From the pupil's perspective their teachers will be the same, they'll have the same school uniform, the school day will remain the same and we'll keep the name Whiteknights. Initial changes will be in the background. For example, the school will be funded directly from the DfE rather than via the Local Authority. This will provide Whiteknights with the flexibility to spend the money where it is most needed, rather than having to purchase local authority services that we don't want or need. As an academy we also have the flexibility to develop the curriculum, and over time we will be working with our partners to see how the curriculum can be enriched and expanded.

What is a Multi-academy trust and who would Whiteknights partner with?

A multi-academy trust (MAT) is a formal partnership of two or more schools, under a single Trust. The schools within the Trust would work closely together, using the collective skills and knowledge from both schools to raise standards and improve provision for all pupils. In most Primary schools today, a classroom teacher is responsible for the majority of lessons in the majority of subjects. Good examples might be PE, Music, Modern Foreign Languages, or Drama. As the MAT develops this is an area that we would explore further, namely specialist subject teachers who move between schools so that all of the pupils can benefit from their expertise.

Whiteknights has been researching the benefits of academisation for well over a year, and during that time we have spoken with a number of other schools about their plans and aspirations. In the majority of cases these schools have been geographically close to Whiteknights (e.g. within 30 minutes travel time) as we see proximity as a key benefit. Perhaps more importantly we have been trying to engage with schools that share our educational philosophy, have similarly high standards, and bring skills that would add value to the MAT. One school that fits these criteria is Alfred Sutton, a Reading School. The relationship began with activities between the schools, to share ideas and good practice. This relationship has now developed to the point where jointly establishing a MAT is being considered. Before any formal decision is made both schools would undertake 'due diligence' into finances, premises, safeguarding and other aspects of the school to ensure that there are no surprises.

What is the process for becoming an academy and at what stage is Whiteknights currently?

Formal applications need submitting to the DfE. These are reviewed by our nominated contact and then reviewed by a Headteacher Board for formal approval. Whiteknights has just been through this process and as a result have our Academy Order and permission to convert, subject to establishing a formal partnership with at least one other school. The next step would be to establish the multi-academy trust, but we will not begin this process until we are sure that we have found the right partner. In the meantime, we can access a grant of £25,000 to pay for the legal costs associated with conversion.

The current plan is for Whiteknights to formally become an academy in the Autumn term; perhaps October or November. This is subject to change.

We'll provide regular updates on our progress through the newsletter, but please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark A'Bear
Chair of Governors