



# WPPNS End of Year Newsletter



*This is my final newsletter to you this year and I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the many highlights from what has been another eventful and busy year at Whitley Park. I would also like to wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break – we look forward to welcoming your children back to school in September. Karen Salter – Head teacher*



## Curriculum updates

**Spanish**  
**Español**

Our curriculum transformation teams have been working hard all year to ensure that the new National Curriculum requirements for the foundation subjects are fully incorporated into our Whitley Park Creative Curriculum. Full details of their work will be posted on our website over the summer break, however one notable development is that we have chosen Spanish as the modern foreign language that we will be teaching throughout school. Spanish is the language that it spoken by over 400 million people across the world and is also taught in all of our feeder secondary schools. If you speak Spanish fluently yourself and would like to get involved in teaching this subject in school please get in touch.

## Pupil outcomes

It has been a year of change, with new assessments at KS1 and KS2, teachers adjusting to a new assessment system without levels and raised expectations in each and every year group. One thing that has not changed is the hard work and commitment of all teachers and pupils throughout school and although our outcomes do look to be disappointing this year, I am immensely proud of the achievements of each and every pupil and the progress that they have made over the year. As soon as our results have been validated they will be published on the school website .

## School Uniform

Following on from our school uniform audit this term, a reminder that we expect all children to return to school after the summer break in correct uniform.

Please could I remind you in particular that children should be wearing suitable plain black or brown shoes or trainers, especially as many of you may be purchasing new shoes over the summer holidays. School uniform with the school logo can be purchased during the summer holidays from Stevensons in Market Place, Reading. For online purchases the Stevensons web site address is :

**[www.stevensons.co.uk](http://www.stevensons.co.uk)**

We will be carrying out another uniform audit during the Autumn Term when I hope to see an even higher number of children in every year group in correct uniform.



## Learning Overviews for Parents

**At the beginning of September we will be publishing curriculum overviews including home learning projects for every year group on our school website: ([www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk)) The overviews will provide you with information to support your children with their learning at home as well as providing useful links to educational websites and reading materials. Over the summer holidays please remember to refer to the learning targets in your child's end of year report as these will help them to prepare for the year ahead.**



*A huge thank you to 'A Anderson Couriers' who very kindly donated £500 towards the cost of the Year 6 end of year trip to see 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' in London. This memorable once in a lifetime experience is something that we may struggle to offer in the future without kind donations from supporters of the school. I know that the current year 6 children will never forget what will be for many their first ever West End Production!*



## Update on Parental Contributions for School Trips

After lengthy consultation with Governors and staff, and after much discussion with many parents it has been decided that the trial period of asking for a contribution of £10 per term per child for all extra educational experiences and trips will not be extended for another year.

From September we will not be asking for any parental contributions for educational experiences that we buy in to school, these will be paid for from the school budget. We will however be asking parents to contribute towards the cost of the bigger trips which involve hiring coaches and paying admission fees as well as for the annual school Pantomime. If we do not receive sufficient contributions to make these trips viable then we will have to cancel the trip for all children and refunds will be issued. Obviously I am hoping that it does not come to this.

School budgets are being cut as I am sure you are aware. We are no longer able to subsidise school trips and educational experiences to the extent that we have in the past. With your support we do hope that we can continue to offer as many of these opportunities for your children as possible as we believe they enhance learning and the curriculum. From reading your children's comments in their end of year reports it is very clear that they see them as an important and much valued part of their learning as well.



### **Important Diary Dates**

- ❖ Both School and Nursery finish at 1.30pm on Tuesday 26th July.
- ❖ Return to school Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September (Yr1 – Yr6)
- ❖ Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept current Nursery pupils return to Nursery.
- ❖ New pupils in Reception start half days
- ❖ School closed for Staff Training:  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017
- ❖ SATs week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- ❖ School closes Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

### ***A warm welcome to the following staff who will be joining us in September:***

Miss Lomas – Year 1 teacher  
Miss Tankard – Year 3 teacher  
Miss Bennett – Year 2 teacher  
Miss Hogan – Reception teacher  
Mrs Goldsmith – Busy Bees teacher  
Miss Rouse – Student teacher in KS1  
Mrs Hameed – Teaching Assistant  
Ms Barnhurst – Teaching Assistant  
Miss Dickenson – Teaching Assistant

**We have 3 weddings taking place over the summer holidays ....Congratulations to Miss O’Riordan who will return to school as Mrs Cooney, Miss Johnson, returning as Mrs Burrows and Miss Merrills, returning as Mrs Merrills.**



### ***And finally staff news .....***

Sadly we say goodbye to the following staff at the end of this term: Mr Burton is leaving to take up a teaching position in Brighton and Hove, Miss Davidge is travelling further afield and is travelling to China to teach. Mrs Horwood who has been teaching part time for the last few years is leaving to take up a teaching position in another Reading school as has Mr Silk. Miss Gundry also leaves to start her training as a primary school teacher in Devon. Ms Georgiou who has been a teaching assistant in school for 20 years is also retiring at the end of this term. We wish them all well.

***Congratulations*** to Mrs Best and Mrs Harley who have left school temporarily this term to have babies and congratulations to Mrs Thompson who will be starting her maternity leave at the end of October. We look forward to welcoming them all back to school when they are ready!

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Cox and Mrs Denny who both return from maternity leave in September.