

Spring Term Update (2)

22nd March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we hurtle towards the end of another term, I thought I would just share with you a few news items which may or may not make it onto one of my weekly blogs.

New Website (www.whitehill.herts.sch.uk)

I am hoping that our new website will go live today. Depending on when you receive this newsletter, it may already have gone live. It has been a satisfying piece of work and I am grateful to Mr Peddie, our IT Technician for all his hard work and for guiding me through the process of getting it ready to launch. I hope you feel it is an improvement, as much as I do.

I have no doubt there will be teething troubles and I would urge you to let me know if you can't find something you were expecting to be there. It is Ofsted compliant (very important) but it is supposed to be more than that. My blogs have a feature which will allow you to post responses back and these may be shared. The navigation should be much more straightforward and we have a much better calendar. It just looks far more inviting!



Friends' Association

Our Friends' Association continue to be very active and very supportive. I know they would love to talk with anyone who is able to offer some time to support at committee level. Please give this some thought. Earlier in the year, I reported the amazing total each school was given as a result of everyone's efforts last year and I am now in a position to share with you how we have put the money to great use.



Firstly we have purchased a new 'all singing and dancing' PA system which can be used inside and out. Hopefully Mrs Baxter will now have interruption free sessions on the microphone at future events. We have also just taken delivery of 66 brand new tablet devices to be used across the school. These also come with some specific award-winning software Mr Denney and I had the pleasure of trying recently with 4GD.



Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to those who have booked your appointments for this term's parent consultation evenings. To date, 88% of you have made your appointment and there appears to have been very few problems. You still have a few more days if you haven't booked yet. If you can't remember how, or have lost the details, please pop in and ask at the school office.

Traditionally at this term's evenings we have our parent questionnaires out for you to complete as part of our school improvement work. I would be grateful if you would look out for these again when you come and take a few extra minutes to fill one out. Please make sure you put your child's class in the appropriate space at the top of each form.

Dates for the Diary

Looking ahead, there are a few key dates in the diary to draw your attention to:

Thursday 28 th March	Woodwind Assembly for parents of pupils in Year 5, starting at 9.00am.
w/c Monday 1 st April	Shakespeare Week in school. Several exciting events planned for all pupils.
Friday 5 th April	End of term. School finishes at 1.30pm.
Wednesday 24 th April	SATs Information Evening for parents of pupils in Year 6, starting at 6.00pm.
Saturday 27 th April	End of Season Netball Rally @ Whitehill
Tuesday 7 th May	Year 6 Residential – final parents meeting.
Wednesday 8 th May	Year 3 trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park
Wednesday 8 th May	Year 4 Residential – final parents meeting.
w/c Monday 13 th May	SATs Week for Year 6 pupils.
Monday 20 th May	Year 6s to France
Wednesday 22 nd May	Year 4s to Overstrand

An updated school calendar will come home at the start of the Summer Term and we will also be keeping the calendar on the new website as up to date as possible.

50th Anniversary Ball

It will soon be here! Saturday 29th June is the date for our 50th Anniversary Ball and tickets are selling well. There is still time to get a group of friends together and come and join us for this celebration. Details are on the school website but you can also get information and help with tickets etc. from Mrs Cook in the school office. Please spread the word to former Whitehill families with whom you still have contact.

Goodbye and Hello!

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Threlfall who has been a regular feature in our school office for the last 16 years. She will be missed but I have no doubt we will still see her around Whitehill and joining in with some of the events.

Replacing Mrs Threlfall is Mrs Lanni, who many of you will already have met as she started last week and is learning the ropes from the expert.

That's it from me for now. I will see you at the parent consultation evenings and also on the playground before and after school. Be sure to look at the new website and let me know what you think. What else would you like to see on it?

Best wishes,

Steve Mills

Steve Mills
Headteacher

*Lara and her team which won the recent **Recycled Fashion Show** at St Christopher's School.*

