

HAPPY EASTER!



Whitnash Primary School
Langley Road
Whitnash
CV31 2EX.
March 2010

Whitnash Primary School Newsletter



Bad Weather



Over the next few months Mrs Norris (ICT Subject Leader) will be preparing information to distribute to you in supporting E-Safety. In the meantime there are some extremely useful websites which you can use to increase your own knowledge and ensure your child is a responsible user. I have listed some sites below which you may find useful. I would ask that parents/carers become familiar with these sites before using them to support children.

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> - an education initiative from Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)

<http://www.swgfl.org.uk/Staying-Safe/For-Parents/Advice>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/help/web/staysafe>

Another term almost over and still we seem in the grip of winter! It certainly has been a long one - please could I remind you that in the event of any school closure we will announce this via Group Call, the LA website and local radio stations. Whilst we experienced some technical hitches with Group Call last term, I have been assured that these have been sorted and the system will work efficiently. Please do let Mrs. Jones in the school office know a.s.a.p. if you change a mobile number which was previously held as an emergency contact number. In the event of pupils being allowed into school during wet/icy mornings, please could parents not come inside to help their children take off coats etc, as this is causing congestion and actually delaying pupils getting into class. On a normal day pupils do enter on their own and are independent enough to do this at other times.



Improved Communication

From the start of the Summer term, the School Newsletter will be e-mailed to all parents who give us an email address to use. It will, as usual, be available on the school's website. Paper copies will continue to be sent home to parents who have not got email at home but we are really hoping to keep sending out paper copies to a minimum. All we need is an e-mail address which will be used to forward letters and newsletters and a mobile phone number which would be used to text you more urgent messages such as cancellation of after-school clubs or school closures.



E-Safety

Protecting your child and being responsible internet users

The internet is a normal part of children's lives these days. It opens up so many opportunities, giving them access to, a world of information and experiences. Whether on a computer at school, a laptop at home, a games console or mobile phone, children and young people are accessing the internet whenever they can and wherever they are. We do know that there are pupils in our school who are members of social networking sites even though they are below the required joining age - this is a worrying fact and we are urging all parents and carers to be fully aware of sites their child is accessing and any social networking groups which their child may be a member of.

As you would protect your child in the real world, you will want to make sure that they are safe whatever they are doing. If your child understands the risks and can make sensible and informed choices online, they can get the most from the internet and stay safe whilst doing so - particularly from those people who might seek them out to harm them.





Tesco Tokens & Sainsbury's Active Kids

We have started collecting these vouchers and a box is placed beside the school office.

LINKS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND CITIES

In order to develop our curriculum we are trying to develop links with other schools during the remainder of this year. Specifically, schools in Tanzania, where we hope Miss Curran will be able to create links when she goes out to Tanzania herself in May. This link will enable our pupils to compare and contrast their lives with other children and young people living in very different settings to their own.



Learning

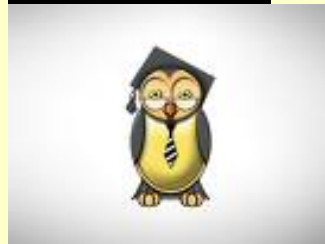
On to more important matters - Please encourage your child's learning this term by;

- Ensuring prompt arrival for registration each morning - whistle is blown at 8.55 a.m. for the start of the school day.
- Encouraging pupils to leave their P.E kits in school.
- Helping children to complete Learning Log tasks on time.

- Supporting your child's reading - remember to ask questions about their reading book to ensure understanding of the text. We do find some children need encouragement in this area and they cannot move further on the reading scheme if they fail to understand what they are reading.
- If you need to check dates, events, etc then please check the school website for information - and - empty your child/children's book bags in a search for letters.



STANDARDS



Following the OFSTED visit in May we have been working hard in school to make sure we are offering the best we can to all of your children. In order to check we are improving, we invited the LA to carry out a monitoring visit in school. A great deal of progress has been made especially in the quality of teaching - every lesson seen was at least satisfactory and 66% was judged to be good. Children know how to improve their work and are happy and willing to learn. Please carry on supporting us to ensure that **learning** is at the heart of everything we do. It is so easy to complain and be negative when something goes wrong, it is even harder to be positive when all you hear is complaints and demands some of which are unfounded and very rudely delivered. We use every opportunity to encourage children to be positive we hope you too will join us and help us to be proactive in making improvements to life in school for every one.

Sports Relief

We will be organizing a sports event in the summer term when all children will be asked to take part in a 1 mile activity at school, dressed as their favourite sports person. Our hope is to raise money for Sport Relief, the school and to raise awareness of the importance of the Olympic Games - especially as they are coming to London in 2012! Watch this space for more details.



Healthy Lunchbox Ideas

The ideas come from the Food Standards Website (www.eatwell.gov.uk) and are age appropriately balanced. As a change from the usual sandwiches, crisps and chocolate bars, how about:

A wholemeal roll with filling;
cherry tomatoes;
fruit slice;
kiwi fruit or grapes
and bottled water rather than squash or juice.

Thank you to all those parents who do send their child with healthy packed lunches already.

Bon Appetit!



Thank you!

Helping Haiti

Thank you to everyone who supported this very worthy cause. In total we raised £192.72, which came from the 1 and 2p coins.

It was a very sad coincidence that whilst we sat enjoying the talent in our school on the Friday another earthquake was stirring in Chile - causing a great loss of life. As one of our families has relatives living in Chile we would like to split the money we raised between the two earthquake centres.

Thank you class 5/6 for your original ideas and thanks too to Mrs Norris and Miss Greet for organizing and to all the children who took part for giving us all a brilliant afternoon.



Diary Dates

From: Friday 26 March - Friday 9 April

School starts Monday 12 April

10 - 14 May Key Stage 2 SATS

From: Friday 28 May - Friday 4 June (Staff Training Day Monday 7 June)

School starts Tuesday 8 June

Summer Holiday -

From: Friday 23 July - 2 September (Staff Training Day 3 September)

School starts Monday 6 September

