



## Whitehouse Primary School

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**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a happy and healthy start to 2017. I would like to welcome all of our new families to Whitehouse Primary school. Please remember that we have an open door policy, no issue or worry is too small. Please talk to your child's class teacher or call in at reception if you would prefer to make an appointment.

The children have settled really well and are getting used to their new surroundings and expectations. They spent time getting to know each other playing games and completing team challenges and activities. Our new children also added their fingerprints to our Whitehouse Tree. It is so lovely seeing our amazing school starting to grow.



### Enchanted Woodland

To truly spark the imaginations of our little explorers, the Year 1 and 2 children stumbled across a small fairy door surrounded by glitter whilst out walking outside around the school. The children excitedly discussed what might possibly be behind the door and questioned how the door came to be right near our school. To begin their adventure, they decided to write a letter to the fairies (or possibly goblins!) that lived behind it to tell them all about themselves. They also decided that if you really believe in magic, then it must be real!

### Tribal Tales

What an exciting start to the term! The Year 3 and 4 children received a letter from a local archaeologist asking them to investigate our school grounds for historical items. They grabbed their trowels and began excavating. They unearthed some very unusual stone artefacts which they then carefully cleaned up. They might be from as far back as The Stone Age! The children will continue to be investigative historians this term as they begin their Tribal Tales Imaginative Learning Project.





### Are we there yet?

Our EYFS children travelled on a 'plane' to start their topic of 'Are we there yet?'. The children have had fun creating their own passports, and working together to set up seating to look like inside a plane. The children received a plane ticket, checked in at the airport and they got on board! They watched a safety video and a video of a plane taking off. The children have really enjoyed roleplaying being on the plane, taking turns to be the pilot, air stewards and passengers. They even looked at a world map to decide where to fly to - Africa was chosen as the destination. It was great fun!



### Friends of Whitehouse Primary School



We are seeking your help in establishing our Friends Association. Our aim is to raise money for the school and also provide a sense of community by bringing people together with our events programme. Being part of the Friends Association offers a chance to get involved in your child's school and get to know the teachers and become part of a friendly and dedicated team. It will give you the opportunity to meet parents across all the age ranges in school and make new friends and the opportunity to represent the views of other parents to the Friends. You can support in lots of different ways – from being part of the committee to helping out for a couple of hours at events.

Please let us know if you would like to be involved.



### School Closures

We endeavour to keep our school open, however the safety of our pupils and families is paramount. Due to being on a new development the roads are not part of the councils gritting programme. If we experience severe weather we will carry out a risk assessment and determine whether the conditions of the roads surrounding the school will allow children and staff are able to travel safely to and from school and ensure the site is fully functioning and safe.

If it is deemed unsafe, we will inform parents as early as possible using Parentmail and also update our school website. You will also find information on the School Closures section of Milton Keynes Council website. On this site you are able to subscribe to alerts.



### Pre School

Our new pre school children are settling in very well. They are full of smiles and having lots of fun!



### Rushmere Country Park

It was a perfect day



for exploring the forest on Thursday - a little bit frosty underfoot but the sun was shining. The children had a fantastic time and virtually had the whole

place to themselves. They found fairy doors, sat upon a huge chair, climbed trees, explored dens, sorted sticks and hugged trees! They came back with rosy cheeks and full of inspiration for their learning.



Learning,  
enjoying  
and  
achieving

### in Early Years

One of my favourite things is the opportunity to get back into the classroom and work with the children. It was fantastic to spend the day with Early Years today. I am constantly amazed by the children's creative and imaginative ideas and their enthusiasm and bundles of energy. Smiles, laughter and amazing leaps in learning are definitely the best way to spend your Friday!



### School Nurse Clinic

We're very grateful that Julia Armstrong our school nurse, has offered to host another 'drop-in' clinic at our school on March 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to book an appointment to see Julia, please contact the school office. Julia has suggested that some of the topics which could be looked at during these appointments might be as follows: poor attendance, day/night wetting, supporting with care planning, health reviews, emotional wellbeing and referral to other services. This list is not exhaustive and do feel free to book an appointment for another issue.



### Dates for the diary

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day  
*Half Term 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> February*  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March - World Book Day  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 6pm-8pm - FoWPS Family Beetle Drive  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 5pm – 6.30pm IfTL Recruitment Fayre  
@Whitehouse Primary  
Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Consultations  
13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March - British Science Week

Best Wishes

Linda Kelly

