



# Whiteshill Weekly News

29/11/18

Together we succeed!

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Your child may have mentioned some changes to our morning timetable in school. Over the last few weeks I have been working with Miss Middleton (our school maths lead) and Mrs Cripps (our school English lead) on planning for English and maths as well as the structure of lessons to ensure the children get the most from their learning. As part of this piece of work, we decided to change the timing of our morning break, which used to begin at 10.45 but now starts at 10.30. This means that all the classes have an equal balance of English and maths, allowing an hour and a half for each. During the English session, which takes place across the school before break, the children are taught reading, spelling and writing and then after break they have an hour of maths and half an hour of maths fluency which involves revising and improving their calculation and number skills daily. In other exciting news, after a lot of research and quote gathering, Miss Boor has placed an order for a set of 16 Ipads for the children to use during lessons. We are very keen for the children to be using up to date technology which allows them to explore all the benefits that computing can offer and gives them chance to program, animate and research easily and quickly during lessons. Once the Ipads are in school we will look at our computing curriculum to ensure that they are used to their full potential as there are many exciting apps available that can really enhance the children's learning in all areas. We can't wait!



With the festive fayre coming up, I wanted to remind you to be considerate of the local residents when parking. The small lane at the front of school is access for houses which needs to be kept clear so that they can move onto and off their driveways. I have also noticed more and more people pulling in to drop off children directly outside the gate at 08.45. There are a lot of children moving around at this time of the morning and so I would ask you to park elsewhere to drop off your child to ensure there are no accidents. Don't forget, although the bell rings at 08.45, you have 5 minutes to get your child up to class before the register begins so please do not panic if you are running late, it is better to park safely and walk your child down than risk an accident outside of school.

## Community Christmas Tree Festival at St Laurence Church, Stroud



Class 3 have made Christmas tree decorations for our lovely Whiteshill tree which will be on display at the tree festival at St Laurence Church, Stroud for public viewing during the dates listed below. There is no entrance charge to see the trees on these days, but programmes with prize draw tickets will be available at £2 each.

Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> to Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm each day.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am – 8:30 pm as part of Stroud's Goodwill Evening

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm followed by 4:00 pm Christmas Tree Festival "SONGS OF PRAISE"



## Friends of Whiteshill School

The Festive Fayre will soon be upon us and we are still looking for donations for the teddy tombola as well as our Christmas hamper raffle, please bring in any donations to the office as soon as possible so that we have chance to prepare the hampers in advance of the fayre. Tickets will be available during our book fair next week and also on the night of the Festive Fayre.



If anyone has any Christmas decorations, strings of lights or a small Christmas tree that they would be happy to let us borrow for the decoration of Santa's Grotto please bring them up to school at any point – it would be much appreciated!



We are aware that the Stroud Goodwill event also takes place later in the evening on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> which some of you may be planning to attend, in order to make this easier for you, if you have a lantern which you are taking with you to Goodwill we will make space in a classroom for them to be stored during the Festive Fayre so that you don't have to go home in between. Please just ask a member of staff when you arrive.

Thank you to everyone who has returned their media permission slips. The deadline is today so if you have not already done so please complete it and return it in your child's bag or to the office. I am excited to tell you that we now have a school Facebook page which can be found by searching Whiteshill Primary School on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Please like the page to ensure you get updates on your timeline and don't forget that any comments made will be public. Once I have received all the media consent forms back, I will update the page regularly and all Friends of Whiteshill School information will be found here from now on as well.

Finally, a few photos of our lovely garden, which has been supplemented by plants donated by Alison Blackhall, who came in and spent the day last Friday digging and planting – I think you'll agree it is starting to look fantastic! Thank you as well to Mr Woodward who donated the plants which have brightened up our hanging baskets outside of the classroom, amongst others. Thank you so much for all the hard work that has gone into this project so far.

