



Whiteshill Weekly News

8/11/18

Together we succeed!

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First of all, a huge apology for the confusion in the rain this morning. I had mentioned to the staff about a change of system in the morning when it rains but unfortunately the first time it happened this year, I wasn't here so there was some confusion. In the future, if it is raining heavily in the morning, I will come down and let you all in to the hall early, whenever you arrive at the gate. This will be both parents and children and you will continue to supervise them as usual, as I think it is important that staff have time to get ready for the lessons to start. Staff will then collect the children from the hall at 08.45, as usual, when I ring the bell. This will mean that you are all safe and dry (if a little squashed!) and teachers will be ready for the day ahead. Any questions, please feel free to ask and again huge apologies for the damp start to this morning.



Class 2 and Class 4 will be visiting 'We the Curious' on Wednesday, the whole school are at the cinema on Friday and tomorrow year 6 will be walking down to take part in the memorial service in Whiteshill at 11am.

Please note, the Year 6 trip to Waterwells Primary in Gloucester for a 'Click' e-safety performance has unfortunately been cancelled by the organisers. This was included on your list of dates earlier in the term. We will however, be holding an anti-bullying and e-safety week in the spring term to ensure all the children have the skills they need to look after themselves online.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Friends of Whiteshill School welcome event on Tuesday, it was great to talk through ideas and hear about the skills many of you have to offer the school. I am very excited about the upcoming 'Festive Fayre' organised by the Friends - look out for more details to follow. Thank you as well to all those who supported our McMillan coffee afternoon by baking a fantastic range of cakes and coming along for a drink and a chat! It was a really lovely afternoon, raising money for an important cause. Thank you finally to those who helped with the running of the stall and clearing away after – we couldn't have done it without you! Any remaining cakes will be on sale after school tomorrow.



As we continue to review our whole school homework policy, please note **there will be no spelling or maths homework for all classes again this week.** Please continue to read with your child as often as possible as this has a hugely positive impact on all areas of their learning.

I'm really pleased to be able to share with you an exciting change in school. As you may be aware, all teachers across the country are entitled to one afternoon of planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA) each week. This is currently covered by Mrs McKay in Class 3, Mini Marines in Class 4 and Forest school in Class 1 and 2. From the end of November this will be changing. Mrs McKay will continue to cover class 3 every Tuesday, however, there will be a change to the cover provided in the other classes. I have employed a fantastic company called 'Superstars', who have previously worked in the school with great success, to cover the PPA in class 1, 2 and 4. Superstars provide specialist practitioners who have fantastic knowledge and enthusiasm for the subjects that they teach. Class 1 and 2 will be working with two specialists across one afternoon on music, art, dance and drama. This will start at the end of November and will mean that on a Friday, Miss Woods and Miss Boor will now be accompanying their classes to Forest School. This will allow Mr Pritchard more time to prepare and provide his fantastic Forest School curriculum without having to make repeated journeys up and down that hill! Class 4 will continue with Mini Marines until the Christmas break but when we return in January they will have a 'Superstars' art specialist working with them for an afternoon each week instead.

Another fantastic bonus of working with Superstars is that they offer lunchtime and afterschool clubs as part of the package. So this will mean that from the spring term we have a much larger range of clubs on offer, at a small cost to yourselves, including some for Key Stage 1 – something which I am really keen to encourage. It will also mean that all the children have chance to benefit from their specialist knowledge and expertise each week.

Finally, a few photos of class 4 having great fun with their science this week...

