



Whiteshill Weekly News

We are curious, we are unique, we are together, we are Whiteshill!

5/9/19

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Welcome Back!

I hope you have all had a restful and exciting summer. It has been a joy to see the children coming back into school this week, looking very smart in their school uniforms and ready for their new year groups.

A huge welcome must go out to the new children who have joined us in Willow Class: Lexi, Maisie, Noah, Dexter, Ben, Polly, Evan, Gregory, Kyle, Julian, Theo, Nora, Ava, Charlie and James.

Welcome as well to Archie and Watson who have joined us this week in year 6.

We are so happy to have them all with us and their families too, who are now part of our special school community here at Whiteshill.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Cody to our team who is going to be working in Elm class as a teaching assistant this year, as well as Mrs McCrink who, as well as continuing her role as After School Club lead, will be working as a teaching assistant in Oak Class.

The classes have begun already to embark on their exciting term as geographers and I know the teachers have a lot in store, including plenty of fieldwork, so look out for notes home asking for volunteers. We could not of course give the children these experiences without your support and the time you give is very much appreciated.

At the end of last term, you will have received a letter outlining our new nut and peanut free school policy. I have attached the letter again to this newsletter in case it has been mislaid over the summer. It can also be found on the school website and on the new office noticeboard. This is in the entrance outside Mrs Angove's office and can be accessed any time the school is open.

I have had some queries regarding the policy and wanted to confirm that coconut is not classed as a nut and so is safe to be in school, also all seeds are fine, including sesame seeds and pine nuts, which are classed as a seed. However, do be careful, as some items which contain seeds or seed mixes, may also contain nuts. The key thing to check is does the ingredient list have 'nuts' of any kind or 'peanuts' in it?

As was mentioned in the letter, if your child does bring an item in to school which contains nuts or peanuts we will have to remove it from the premises and it will be disposed of. We will of course speak to the children about it when we do this. They have all been brilliant so far and are very on board with looking after everyone in our school, which is so great to see. Thank you all for your support with this important policy.

Don't forget to like our school Facebook page by searching for Whiteshill Primary School on Facebook and also keep checking our gallery page on the school website at <http://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/gallery-2/> to see photographs of what the children get up to in school over the term. As I mentioned before the summer, our new school website is on its way and I will let you know as soon as it is up and running.

New Class Names Reminder

Class 1 – Reception - **Willow Class**

Class 2 – Year 1 and 2 - **Elm Class**

Class 3 – Year 3 and 4 - **Maple Class**

Class 4 – Year 5 and 6 – **Oak Class**

Forest school will be starting next week for Oak Class who will be going up to the forest every Friday afternoon throughout the Autumn Term. They will need to bring their forest school clothes with them in an identifiable bag (please label bags for life if you use them as there tends to be a lot of matching ones in the cloakroom at the end of the day!) Please remember that these clothes will get muddy. The children need appropriate footwear for a muddy forest as well. Although so far we have managed to keep the sunshine since we returned to school, it is always cooler up in the forest so please do make sure the children have a lot of layers. We also need volunteers to ensure the children can go every week so if you are able to help out, please sign up in the school office.

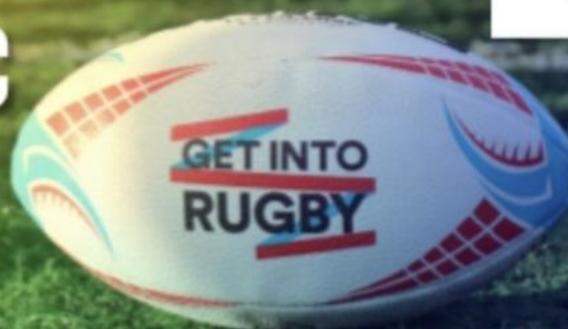
The following week, Friday 20th September, Willow class will be starting forest school with Mr Pritchard. He will be coming along to class next Friday to introduce himself so that the children have met him before their first session. Mr Pritchard is a very experienced forest school leader who works with a number of schools in the Stroud area and brings a whole host of experience to the role. The children will need to come in to school dressed in their forest school clothes and bring their school uniform in a labelled bag to change into at lunchtime. We will of course need a number of volunteers to go along with the children on a Friday morning so if you are able to support us in this way, please sign up in the school office as soon as possible so that we can make sure we have the number of volunteers that we need.

Over the next 6 weeks I will be doing a run of assemblies on e-safety as it is a very important subject which needs to be returned to regularly with the children to ensure they have the skills they need to stay safe online. Don't forget, more information about how to keep your child safe online can be found at the following websites:



If your child is currently using 'WhatsApp' you may also be interested to know that in 2018 the minimum age limit for WhatsApp in the UK was increased to age 16. This age limit is there for privacy reasons and also to ensure that users are not opened up to harm at a young age. There is some really useful information at this link: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp>

Minchinhampton RFC



Now recruiting players
Under 6 & 7's

Come & join us...

Starting Sunday 8th September

10-11am

3 Week "Play Before You Pay"



Contact thomas.nurse@yahoo.co.uk for any queries

Minchinhampton RFC, Hollybush, Glos. GL6 9BD

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17th July 2019

Dear Parents

RE: Nut Allergy in school

As you know, at Whiteshill we strive to provide a safe learning environment for all our pupils.

From September, we have a child joining us in reception who suffers from a life threatening peanut and nut allergy. This child can suffer from an allergic reaction and anaphylactic shock not just by eating peanuts or nuts but also through cross contamination of food utensils or through breathing nut dust in the air. If they do suffer from an allergic reaction in school, it could be potentially fatal. Therefore, from September, as we all welcome our new pupil into the school community at Whiteshill we will need to ensure that the school is a **nut-free environment** at all times to ensure their safety and well-being.

As part of being a nut-free school, the pupils will learn in assembly about allergies and in particular the dangers nuts can pose to some people, in order to help them understand the importance of our new policy and the importance of not sharing food in school. Since this condition can be **life threatening**, we are asking all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk by:

- Not sending in to school with the children any peanuts, nuts or products which have peanut or any type of nut listed in their ingredients in their packed lunches or as a break time snack.
- Checking the label of food products before sending your child to school with them – please make sure that peanuts or any type of nut are **not** labelled in the ingredients of any product you send in to school.
- Not supplying the school with cakes or food items containing any type of peanut or nut for birthday celebrations or cake sales etc. in school.
- Not bringing your own peanut, nut or nut based products in to the school building when visiting.

We do acknowledge that many foods are labelled outside of the ingredients box as 'may contain nuts' or 'not suitable for people with peanut or nut allergy'. Such items will be allowed in school as long as they do not have peanuts or any type of nuts listed in their ingredients. It would be unreasonable to expect these to be kept out of school as they are numerous and unlikely to cause harm in this case unless ingested.

Please note, where a member of staff notices a pupil eating a nut product, it will be removed from the pupil and the member of staff will explain why this has to be done. The food item will then have to be destroyed and removed from the school premises. A message will be sent to the parent to explain what has happened so they are fully informed and to remind them of our peanut and nut-free policy to ensure there is not a repeat that could be potentially life threatening.

Due to the severity of this allergy, it is important that all parents carry out the suggested measures and reduce the risk of allergic reaction. I realise this is a change to school policy but I'm sure you can understand that the life of four-year-old child in our care who is part of our school community is of utmost importance and you would no doubt expect the same for your child if they developed such a severe allergy.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

Your faithfully

Heather Francis
Headteacher