



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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The children have been very excited this week as we have had a huge pile of new books arriving in school! A group of children came to my office to unwrap and stamp them all so that they can be put in to classrooms and the library. I have never seen such an excited group! I don't think they had ever seen so many new books all at once. As you know, reading is an important part of our vision at Whiteshill. We know that if a child can read well, it will benefit them in every area of their learning. We want the children to love to read and so I have listened very carefully to which books they wanted in school and made sure that as many children as possible have got something to be excited about. Over the next few weeks, you will start to see the books come home and I hope that it means it makes your life easier as the children are perhaps more keen to pick up their reading book and get stuck in!

A major focus of our school development plan this year is reading. Over the next few weeks in staff meeting, we are going to work as a staff on how we teach reading in school and how we ensure the children really develop their vocabulary and decoding skills so that they can access more books and build a love of reading. Look out for news across the year in the newsletter, starting with Maple and Oak class' trip to the Stroud Book Festival in November.

As part of our drive to create a love of reading, the children are now visiting the school library each week so that they can choose a book that they love to take home and share. We have now finalised the days that this will be on and you will see a letter coming home along with a plastic wallet to keep your child's library book separate from their reading book. This will explain how the library works and when to return your child's book.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 15 th October	Badminton Festival	Year 5/6 group
Wed 16 th October	DGAT Debating event	Selected year 5/6 group
Thurs 24 th October	Harvest Festival at St Pauls Church, Whiteshill – 2pm	Whole School – everyone welcome
Fri 25 th October	Trip to Westonbirt Arboretum	Oak Class
Fri 25 th October	LAST DAY OF TERM	Whole School
Mon 4 th November	INSET DAY	Whole School
Thurs 7 th November	Stroud Book Festival	Oak and Maple Class
Tues 12 th November	Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30	Whole School
Thurs 14 th November	Late Parents Evening 5 – 7.30	Whole School

More details to follow...

Please note – teacher run clubs will be cancelled in the week commencing 11th November due to parents evening. Superstars clubs (arts and crafts and Ks1 and Ks2 choir) will continue as normal.

Theo in Oak class is completing a memory walk this weekend in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. He will be walking alongside his mum to support this fantastic cause. If you would like to find out more or would like to sponsor him, please visit their Just Giving page at:

https://www.justgiving.com/mw510994?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_content=mw510994&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=3GzVr8WPg

We are very proud of Theo for giving up his time and making the effort to raise awareness and much needed funds in this way. If you or your children are carrying out a charity event in the future you would like us to share, please do let me know.

Next Friday, 18th November, Oak class will not be going to forest school in the afternoon. This is because, Mr Pritchard is going to be working with **Elm class** instead that afternoon. They are going to work with Miss Boor on planning an alternative route to forest school and then they will navigate their way there to apply their geography knowledge in real life. Elm class will need to bring their warm, weatherproof forest school clothes and shoes in a bag that day to change in to at lunchtime. Any Elm class parent volunteers would also be much appreciated – please let Miss Boor know if you can help out.

Don't forget, the following week, Friday 25th November is Oak class' trip to Westonbirt Arboretum.

As you know, in school we have been teaching the children signing whenever we can. It is a great skill to have and something the children love doing. Because of this, we have decided to celebrate 'Wear it Loud' day next Tuesday 15th October. The day is organised by Gloucestershire Deaf Association who are a charity who support deaf and hard of hearing children and adults in Gloucestershire. We would like all the children to come to school wearing their brightest, loudest and most garish clothes for a donation of £1. The children can either wear school uniform and accessorise with something loud e.g. bright yellow socks, bows in their hair, an orange jumper! Or they can go the whole hog and wear everything bright that they own! Please do not feel you have to buy anything specially for the occasion, whatever you have already will be fine – just the brightest thing in their wardrobe. I know that this is late notice, however it was brought to my attention this week and I think it is a great opportunity for the children to think more about why learning sign in school can be so powerful.

Thank you to everyone who has brought in their Aldi stickers to school. Mia and Ava have added them to the poster and so far we have 51 – a great start! Altogether we need to collect 300 by 3rd November so tell your families to get collecting and bring them in to school so that we can be in with a chance of entering the prize draw for £20,000 and winning sports kit for our school.

Can I please remind you that the children in Maple and Oak class are only allowed to bring a **piece of fruit** in for snack in the morning Monday to Thursday. Raisins and sultanas are included in this. Not fruit products – just a piece of fruit. Children in Willow and Elm class are provided with free fruit each day but can bring in a piece of fruit of their own if they choose. On Friday, all the children can bring in a choice of snack as long as it is not chocolate or sweets and does not contain nuts or peanuts.

Also, a reminder that children are only allowed to bring water in their bottles in to school. They use this to keep themselves hydrated throughout the day. We will ask the children to refill their bottle with water if they are found to have juice or squash in school. Please make sure your child's bottle is named as they often look the same and so are hard to identify!

