



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

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What a week we have had! Thank you so much to everyone who was able to come along to our class geography presentations. The children were so pleased to present to you and I hope you'll agree it was a great way for them to end their geography learning this term. It is so powerful for the children to have an audience for their learning and we hope you learnt a lot!



Athletics

On 22nd November, we sent a team of Oak and Maple class children along to the small schools Athletics Competition at Stratford Park. They took part in races and relays, javelin throwing and high, long and triple jump too. They worked fantastically well together as a team and some children even won their events against a large group of other schools. It was great to see the range of talent and enthusiasm we have for athletics in Key Stage 2 and Miss Middleton brought back some ideas with her to enhance our athletics teaching in school too. If your child went along to this athletics competition or is interested in trying it out for themselves, Stroud and District Athletic Club have a junior section for children aged 8 – 10. More information can be found at <https://www.stroudac.co.uk/index.php/OurJuniorSection>

Well done to all the children who represented our school so well at this competition.



New Age Kurling

The following Friday, 29th November, a group of Maple class children represented Whiteshill at a New Age Kurling competition. This competition was designed for beginners and the children that went along on the day had never played before – they didn't even know the rules before they started! Miss Davies was lucky enough to go along with them on the day and she could not speak highly enough about the fantastic attitude with which they approached the day. They listened carefully and worked well together, showing a huge amount of resilience as they learnt from their mistakes and kept getting better and better across the day! The final result was absolutely incredible..... Team Whiteshill won!! The whole team received gold medals and have been invited along to a County Final event in the new year and we can't wait to see how they get on! Well done Team Whiteshill!



Swimming Gala

As if that wasn't enough! On Monday this week, myself and Miss Middleton had the privilege of going along to support our Oak class children at the annual small schools' swimming gala. This year was the biggest yet, with 12 schools competing on the day. Our children took part in breast stroke, back stroke and front crawl races as well as boys and girls relays. As always, they represented the school to a high standard, trying incredibly hard in their races, some of them competing for the very first time, and cheering each other on throughout. Ella, Piero, Charlie, Henry and Lewis all got through to the finals and on top of that Piero, Charlie and the boys relay team all won their finals! Once all the points had been added up, I'm incredibly pleased to say that the team came 2nd overall! What an achievement – well done and thank you to all the children who took part. Seeing their faces and hearing their huge cheer when the overall result was called was one of my favourite moments at Whiteshill so far! Thank you and well done to the whole team.



Christmas Disco

Friday 13th Dec – Infants and Juniors

The infants disco (Willow and Elm class) will take place straight after school and will finish at 5pm. The children will need to bring their disco clothes in to school in a bag and the teachers will get them changed before the end of the school day ready for the disco. You do not need to come in to school at 3.15 – we will take them straight to the disco in the hall unless they are unable to attend, in which case you can pick them up as normal at 3.15pm. The children are more likely to settle in to the disco, especially Willow class who have not experienced it before, if they have not just seen their parents and had to say goodbye, which they often find hard at this age. Please come to pick your children up at 5pm. We will keep them all safe in the hall until we have seen you. This does mean that it takes a little while, but as you can imagine, we need to ensure all the children leave safely – especially as it will be dark by this time, so please do bear with us if we ask you to wait.

The junior disco (Maple and Oak class) will begin at 5.15pm and end at 6.45pm. Please bring the children to school in their disco clothes and pick them up again at the end.

The children will be given hot dogs and candy floss during both discos and we will adhere to the dietary needs you have identified with us in school. If these have changed for your child since September, please let us know before the disco starts.

Please note – it is important that you let us know if someone else is picking your child up from the disco who is not on your 'going home' list already. We will not let children go home with anyone other than those who have permission, as we wouldn't at the end of a school day. You can do this on the day via email, phone or in person but please bear in mind there will not be anyone in the office from approx 3.45pm. Messages can be checked at the end of the disco but it may take a minute for us to get to them so may involve a slight wait.

Nativity Play

Tues 17th Dec 6pm

Weds 18th Dec 2pm

Our nativity play at Whiteshill is acted by the Willow and Elm class children. This year's nativity is 'Everyone Loves a Baby!'. All of the children in Maple and Oak class support them by singing the songs throughout. It is a very special evening where all the children come together to perform for you.

The nativity takes place at St Pauls church in Whiteshill. You do not need a ticket to attend and everyone is welcome. The afternoon performance is a good chance for pre-school siblings and grandparents etc. to come along if they are able. The church does get full so you may have to stand at the back but we usually manage to squeeze everyone in! Please be sensitive to people who may need to sit for any reason.

In line with school policy, you are unfortunately not able to take videos and photographs at this event. However, we take a huge amount of all the children and will make sure they are put on the website gallery as soon as we are able.

PLEASE NOTE - the children will bring their costumes home with them on Tuesday at the end of the school day and **will need to arrive at the church on Tuesday evening dressed in full costume**. You will then need to bring the costumes back in to school with them on Wednesday morning in their labelled plastic bag so they have them ready to wear for the performance on Wednesday afternoon. We rely on you doing this so that the children do not have to get changed in the church. We hope you can support us in making sure the children have what they need in school on Wednesday. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch

Thurs 19th Dec

Children order this lunch in the usual way at morning registration and the cost is the same as a normal school lunch. Children in Willow and Elm Classes are free as usual. On this day, the children can wear a Christmas jumper or decorate themselves with tinsel to get in the festive spirit and in the afternoon, the children will watch a Christmas movie together.

Please note – Wednesday's lunch will be a change of menu so that the children don't have two roast dinners in a row. The new choices for Wednesday 18th are macaroni cheese or vegetable soup with a cheese baguette.



Christmas Forest School

Fri 20th Dec

Finally... on the morning of the last day of term the whole school will be walking up to Ruscombe Woods to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine by the fire. The children will sing some Christmas songs for you and both the Ks1 and Ks2 choir will be performing a Christmas song that they have learnt this term. You are all welcome for this event, parents, siblings, grandparents and extended family – the more the merrier! It is a lovely way to end the Christmas period in school. If you would like to come along, just come to school at the start of the day and we will leave as soon as we are able to get the children ready to go. You can wait in the warm of the hall until we leave if you wish.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Festive Fayre on Thursday. It was so lovely to see so many people enjoying the activities and refreshments together and to see the smiles on the children's faces throughout! Thank you so much to all the Friends of Whiteshill School who organised the event – it is such a lot of hard work and we really appreciate everyone who gave their time and energy to put it all together. I'm sure you'll all agree that Santa's grotto was absolutely fantastic again too... so much hard work and creativity! What a great start to our fundraising for this year. You can still buy raffle tickets for the Christmas hampers at the disco tomorrow night or from the office at any time.

Thank you as well for your support at the book fair. We are very pleased to say that we reached the target of £300 and therefore we were able to choose a range of new books for school. It is so important to keep investing in books in this way, giving the children something to talk about and more choice to keep them interested too. Hopefully you will see some coming home in book bags soon for you to enjoy together!

Maple class finished their brass lessons this term with an incredible performance for their parents last week. They absolutely blew our socks off with how much they had learnt in so little time! They played everything from Bob Marley to Hot Cross buns and their encore of James Brown's 'I Feel Good' won't be forgotten by the audience in a long time! Well done Maple class for all your hard work. Elm class are next up and will be receiving whole class instrument tuition for 10 weeks in the spring term.



Don't forget - No forest school tomorrow for Oak or Willow class – the flu immunisations are taking place in school during the day.