



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

www.whiteshillschool.co.uk

admin@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk

Tel: 01453 762 949

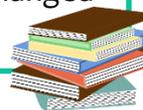
17/9/20

We had a lot of fun on Friday in our first Zoom celebration assembly. Each class signed in and could see each other and me up on the big screen at the front of class. It was such a joy to see all the children smiling and waving at each other. They all clapped and cheered very enthusiastically all the way through too every time someone got an award. It is very hard for us to be **together** as a whole school at the moment, so the assembly was a really important opportunity for all the children to be in each other's company and see each other's faces. Elm class were particularly impressed by my clever trick of passing the certificates through the screen as well...just like magic! I'm looking forward to next week already.

SCARF

This year, we are implementing a new whole school approach to the children's personal, social, health education (PSHE) in school. We have purchased a resource which is used by school's across Gloucestershire called 'SCARF'. This stands for Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship. The children will have weekly 1 hour SCARF lessons in each class, covering a whole range of important topics such as: me and my relationships, valuing difference, keeping myself safe, growing and changing, being my best and rights and responsibilities. The children will revisit these themes in each year group, building on their previous knowledge and taking their thinking and understanding further each year. This year, because we are very aware that some children may be experiencing anxiety and worries with regards to returning to school and their experiences during lockdown, we are starting with SCARF's 'back to school' units which are designed specifically to support children with returning to school successfully.

Thank you for your patience with reading books over the last two weeks. Because of the current restrictions, the staff are not able to change books and read with children in the way they would have done previously. Curriculum time in school is also impacted by the handwashing and cleaning routines and so the teachers have had to think hard about how to fit everything in. Because of this, there have been some teething problems with getting books out with the children. However, we are there now and so they will be changed more regularly going forwards.



Just a reminder that if your child or any one in your household experiences symptoms of coronavirus they will need to stay at home and you will need to follow the government's self-isolation advice ([here](#)) and seek a test. The symptoms of coronavirus are: **a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**. If your child has cold symptoms e.g. blocked nose, headache etc. they do not need to stay home from school (unless they have one of the above coronavirus symptoms as well). We know that the children are tired at the moment and they are bound to be run down, especially those children who have not been in school throughout lockdown, however, the children have missed a large chunk of their education last summer and it's important that they are here every day, as long as they are well enough, so that they can get back in to the rhythm of learning and catch-up on what they have missed.

Just a reminder that if your child has a minor accident in school, we will text you to let you know at the end of the school day. If they have a minor head bump we will also let you know in this way, as well as emailing out to you the head bump monitoring information sheet which lets you know what signs and symptoms to look out for to ensure the head bump has not had any more lasting impact. It is important that children are monitored following even a minor head bump so please do read this information when you are sent it. Please be reassured that if your child has a more major bump or accident during the school day, we will call you immediately to let you know and not wait until 3pm.



Oak class will be starting forest school this Friday 18th September so don't forget to send them in with a labelled bag of forest school clothes. Their legs and arms must be covered so make sure their tops have long sleeves and they are not in shorts. Thank you.

Just to let you know, unfortunately we will not be running clubs this Autumn term. At the moment, all teaching staff are having to carry out lunch duty daily as well as extra cleaning on top of their day to day job and this obviously has an impact on the time they have available for marking and planning. Our priority this term is very much to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning in school is high so that children have the best chance of catching up on missed learning from the summer term. Therefore, for the time being, clubs will not take place. We hope that going in to the spring term we will be able to resume these in some form.

I'm pleased to say that even though it may not be possible for us to compete in sporting events against other schools this term, Atlas Sports are still offering a programme of school competitions for us to get involved in. They will likely be online events which the children can take part in on the school grounds at the same time as other schools across Stroud. This will give them the opportunity to still be part of a competitive and community event even whilst we cannot visit other schools as we would normally. I will let you know when the first event takes place!



Flu immunisations will take place in school next Wed 23rd September. You should have received information about this already and you need to sign up online, however if you cannot access the online form for any reason, we do have paper copies available – please contact the office for these.

This week we will be completing MyPlans for all those children on the SEND register in school. If your child has a MyPlan, we will send it to you via email in the coming weeks. Please look out for it so that you can see the support we are putting in place for your child this term.

Most families have experienced upheaval in their daily lives during the pandemic. With children and young people now back at school, the new Public Health England (PHE) Better Health – Every Mind Matters campaign provides NHS-endorsed tips and advice to help children and young people's mental wellbeing, and equip parents and carers with the knowledge to support them. It is designed to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and support them, and also provides advice that can help maintain good mental wellbeing. The site also provides tools to help young people build resilience and equips them to look after their mental wellbeing. If you think this may be useful for your family please visit the website [here](#).