



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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We are nearly at the end of our first term back in school and I am so happy to be writing this to you all as we continue our journey this year with everyone in school learning, learning, learning! I wish I could convey to you just how much hard work all the staff at Whiteshill have put in this term to ensure the children have what they need to catch-up on missed learning and thrive going forwards. They all care deeply about your children and want to make sure they give them 100% all of the time and that has been so evident in school this term.

Thank you as well to all of you for your support this term. You have listened to all of the new guidance and been so understanding about everything that has had to change. We appreciate every kind word and every patient smile, and we couldn't have got through this first term without your understanding, patience and support. I must of course also thank all of your wonderful children. I could not be prouder as a Headteacher of the way they have come back in to school with such enthusiasm, taking on board all the new systems with a smile on their face at all times and never complaining about what they are missing out on – they are relentlessly positive and resilient, and we are lucky to have each and every one of them!

We wish you and them a very restful and enjoyable half term!

As you already know, tomorrow is Miss Davies' final day with us at Whiteshill. She is moving on to a permanent job at Uley Primary School after half term. I'm sure you will join us all in thanking her for the effort she has put in over the last 18 months with the children at Whiteshill and wishing her best of luck in her new role.

After half term, Maple class will be taught by Mrs Booth during November. She has been in to spend time with them this week and get to know the children so I'm sure you will have heard all about her from them!

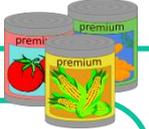
Mrs Booth has the experience needed to see the children through until Mrs Woods returns from her maternity leave at the start of December.

Tomorrow, the children will be bringing home with them a Christmas card design that they have completed in school. There will be information with it on how you can order packs of cards in time for Christmas in support of FOWS who have organised this fundraising opportunity. It is important that if you do want to buy some cards, you keep the design safe as it has to be sent back in to school and posted off with your order.



In the home learning policy that I recently shared with you, you will have noticed that we will provide home learning for your child in the event of self-isolation, via email, from day 2 in line with what they would have been doing in school. I have now updated the policy to say that on day one of self-isolation you can take advantage of the Oak National Academy website which has been created by the Government in response to the COVID-19 lockdown. The site is easy to search and you can find work for all subjects that should interest and challenge your children. If your child is in Willow class, you can click on Early Years Foundation Stage, if they are in Elm class, you will need to click on Key Stage 1 lessons, if they are in Maple or Oak class, you can click on Key Stage 2 lessons. Take a look [here](#).

Thank you to those of you who have brought in produce for Stroud Foodbank. There is still time to do this tomorrow if you have anything in your cupboards that you are happy to donate.



Can I please remind you that in line with our COVID-19 risk assessment, when you come to pick up and drop off the children, you need to keep them with you in the queue and not let them run around the playground and play. If they are all running around, then it is impossible to keep an eye on whether they are mixing outside of their bubbles which of course is not allowed on school property. This is not something that I can police whilst also trying to make sure all the children get home safely. It is also important that they do not climb on or use the equipment in the playground during these times as the different equipment has been set aside for each individual class bubble.

Mr Cormack-Hicks, our fantastic guitar and drum peripatetic teacher, has some space for new pupils. If your child is in Maple or Oak class and would be interested in starting either guitar or drum lessons, please email Mrs Angove on admin@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk and she will put you in contact with Mr Cormack-Hicks to arrange private tuition with him.



Today we were alerted by Shire Hall that the police are investigating some suspicious incidents in Stroud which you may well have read about in the local news. They involved two separate incidents where students from local schools reported being chased by a man and followed by two males acting suspiciously in a white van. A silver car was also mentioned. Obviously, I don't want to worry you unnecessarily, but it is important to be aware.

Please do talk to the children, particularly those who walk to school on their own about stranger danger. We will talk to all of the children in assembly tomorrow in a general and age-appropriate way as well. We will also be keeping a look out for any suspicious behaviour and I will make sure that all of the staff know about these incidents.

I also received an email today from the Stroud Neighbourhood Policing Team via their Community Alert emails. The email gave the following contact information which may be useful if you do see anything you are concerned about:

How to report anti social behaviour:

<https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/af/antisocial-behaviour/>

How to report a crime: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

For Crime Prevention advice: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

In an emergency please call 999 and you can still use our non-emergency number 101.

To sign up to these community alert emails from the Stroud Neighbourhood Policing Team, to stay informed about local policing please click [here](#).