



# Whiteshill Weekly News

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

5/2/21

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Hello all – we hope you enjoyed our first **wellbeing day** last week – it was so brilliant to see photographs of what the children were up to at home – lots of hilarious self-portraits made out of a whole host of random things – some which looked very tasty too!! It was great to receive lots of lovely messages as well from both parents and children saying that the day had been a success and a much needed break from routine. As we said, we are very conscious of wanting to keep the children as interested as possible whilst they are at home and we are not able to engage them as we normally would, we want to try and break up the monotony and so we will continue this variety and have a day each week where something different to the norm is happening to give you all something to look forward to.

This week was of course **science week**, with Elm class creating food chains and learning about predators and prey, Maple class finding out about plants and the importance of bees for pollination, Oak class were investigating light and did all sorts of fun experiments to see how they could bend and manipulate light in different ways.

This coming week, **on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we have our annual e-safety day**. Unfortunately, the planned Stay Safe Workshops are not able to take place whilst the children are at home which is a shame, however, the workshops are still booked in and will take place once all the children are back in school. Instead, ready for Wednesday, we are putting together a programme of activities which you can pick and choose from to keep the children occupied and learning about this important subject for the day.

Also next week, we have got a surprise for the children arranged by Mrs McKay to inspire the English work across the school... you can find out more about this over the page.

Finally, it is of course **World Book Day on 4<sup>th</sup> March** and Mrs Cripps, our English subject lead will be putting together a programme of activities for remote learning on this day – watch this space – something else to look forward to!

Thank you once again for all the incredible effort and support you are giving the children at home during this period, we have so been so impressed with the effort everyone is making and we know that the children will really benefit from everything you are doing with them. Unfortunately, we know no more than you do at the moment about a return to school for everyone, but we will of course keep you informed as soon as we know any more. We hope that we will all be able to be back together as soon as possible.

Facts4life.org are providing weekly home learning activities on wellbeing – you can find them at this link: <https://facts4life.org/resources/teachers-book-primary-4th-edition/work-for-home-learning/> The topic this week is the importance of **'Sleep'** and there is a KS1 and a KS2 version for younger and older children.

This year Children's Mental Health Week took place this week – the theme is 'Express Yourself' and there are some great resources for parents on this theme of getting children to share and express themselves and their needs, if you would like to take a look: <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

## Born Free Animal Adoption!

I'm very excited to share with you all that Mrs McKay, our wellbeing lead in school, has very kindly arranged for each class at Whiteshill to adopt an animal for the year. She has very kindly done this as a donation to the school as she knows that the children at Whiteshill are very passionate about caring for animals and the natural world and she hopes that it will give them something to look forward to at this time as each class will receive news about their adopted animal throughout the year. As we know, our own mental wellbeing can really be improved and bolstered by doing things to help others – we always tell the children that kindness doesn't just help the person in receipt of it, it also makes the person giving it feel happy too! So we hope by knowing that they as a class together are supporting an endangered animal in the wild, they can get a sense of hope and positivity! The animals that have been adopted for each class will be introduced to the children through their English this week, where they will have chance to find out about them and do some writing about their animals too!

**Willow class** have adopted an Orangutan, **Elm class** have adopted a chimpanzee, **Maple class** have adopted a family of African Elephants and **Oak class** have adopted a family of Black Rhinos. The money raised donated by Mrs McKay for these adoptions will go towards supporting these animals in the wild and the fight to keep them from becoming extinct.

## Online Safety Parents Zoom Workshop

I'm pleased to let you know that I have arranged with Stay Safe Workshops to run an online workshop for parents on the subject of 'Parenting in the Digital World'. Attached to this email you will find an invite which gives you the details of the session and the zoom link for you to join – this is paid for by school so it is free for you to join – you just follow the instructions on the poster. I would encourage you to be there if you can; supporting your children online is more relevant than ever at the moment with remote learning and more screen time. Stay Safe Workshops are a friendly, down to earth company who we have built a good relationship with – they will answer questions you have and talk to you about what you are worried about – even if it is relating to older children who no longer attend Whiteshill, or concerns you might have for your children online in to the future. They have some really sound advice to share and the feedback from parents who attended a previous workshop they held in school was very positive.

Can I please remind those of you who are in school at the moment and everyone in the future as well, that you are not permitted to park on the zig-zag lines outside of school. This is for the children's safety when they are crossing the road at pick-up and drop-off.

Don't forget, if your child is in year 3 – 6 and you do not have enough devices for them to use for remote learning, or you are currently using a phone to access the school website, please do get in touch with me via phone or email as we will be able to help you with this and have devices available for those who need them. There is also help available for internet connectivity so if you are using your phone data at the moment or think you might have problems getting online in the coming weeks, please do let us know.

The week after next is February half term and we have an INSET day on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, so school will be closed to all children for the week commencing Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February and children who are currently in school will return on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. There will no remote learning during this time for those currently at home.