



Whiteshill Weekly News

26/2/21

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

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It is wonderful at last to be able to write this newsletter knowing that all the children will be returning to school on Monday 8th March. We are over the moon at school that everyone will be back together and that we will be able to start moving forwards and making sure the children are all progressing and getting the learning and social experience that they need in school.

Thanks to all the incredible hard work that you have put in over the last 8 weeks, we know that they are going to have kept their fluency of knowledge up so we can continue to build on the brilliant work you have done at home this term when they return. We know that many of them will have made progress this term and learnt new concepts whilst they are at home thanks to the efforts you have put in. As well as this, there will of course be areas which they have found difficult at home and which they will need to recap in school. We will of course take our time on their return to get to know where they are in their learning again and move on from there. We are very confident that all our wonderful children at Whiteshill will continue to make progress this year and we will of course put in support and challenge where it is needed to ensure they leave the school year in a strong position after a great summer term.

We know that it must be difficult after half term to keep the momentum going for this last week of remote education but please do make sure your children continue to complete the learning each day before 8th March. This will ensure they are in the right frame of mind for coming back to school and the increase in activity this will involve.

Early next week, I will send out a letter confirming all the details for the children's return and the protective measures which we will have in place. Although, as I say, much of this will be the same as the Autumn term, including the staggered start and end times. Please also be reassured that I am working with the teachers to look at how we can support the children's mental wellbeing in that first week back and beyond.

Attendance for all children from Monday 8th March will once again be mandatory. The usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

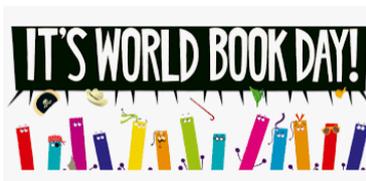
- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct

Our attendance policy can be found on the school website, including a COVID-19 attendance policy appendix on the policies page. As always, any questions, please do get in touch.

If your child has been identified as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' by the government, they will still need to shield in line with government guidance and therefore will not be able to attend school from 8th March. If this applies to your child, it is vitally important that you inform the school immediately.

Obviously, if your child is self-isolating due to COVID-19 and is not able to attend school because they are following clinical or public health advice related to coronavirus (COVID-19), the absence will not be penalised.

I have attached to this email revised information about what to do if your child or someone in their household experiences symptoms – please save this for when you need it.



As you know, next Thursday we will be celebrating World Book Day both online and in school. Mrs Cripps, our English subject lead has put together some activities for you all to enjoy on the day and they will be put online on the usual class blogs. However, there were a couple of things we wanted to share with you in advance so that you can prepare if you would like to.

Please note – children in school, we are not asking you to dress up this year as I said in last week's newsletter as we are very aware that people cannot go shopping as they normally would and it may be very difficult to sort costumes – however, we want to give the people the chance if they want to join in. We are also keen that everyone at home and at school have the same experience, so instead we have a little idea which you can all join in with if you wish...

Book Cover Challenge!

Can you recreate a book cover or blend into a book? Have a look at the photos below for some inspiration!!! You can keep it simple or go really all out – it is up to you. Children in school, you can bring your book with you and wear any clothes you need to complete the look, children at home, send us in a photo on the day via Class Dojo!



The Masked Reader

On World Book Day, we will be putting some video clips online of our Whiteshill staff reading a page from their favourite book. Can you guess who is behind each mask? You can send us your guesses over Class Dojo!

We have lots of other fun activities planned for you – look out for them on your class blog on Thursday 4th March.

We have taken the decision to hold our next parents' evening after the Easter holiday. This is to give all the staff chance to work with the children again after lockdown for a reasonable period so that it is a useful and productive conversation for all the parents in school. A date will be finalised in the coming weeks.

Thank you very much to those parents who attended the online safety workshop on Wednesday evening run by Stay Safe Workshops. I hope that you found it useful. Richard from Stay Safe Workshops will also be working with the children after Easter via zoom. Stay Safe have sent through an advice sheet for all parents which I have attached to this email for those of you that were not able to attend and also as a reminder of all the key points from the session for those of you that were there!

We are Historians!

This half term, our main enquiry focus is history so all the children in Elm, Maple and Oak will be taking part in 'We are historians' enquiries as follows:

Elm class will be finding out about kings and queens through British history, with a particular focus on Queen Victoria.

Maple class will be travelling through history with a local theme which will go all the way from the stone age to now, tracing over time how several aspects of national history are reflected in the local area.

Oak class will be finding out about changes in law and order from the Anglo-Saxons to the present including the monarchy, parliament and crime and punishment. A nice grizzly bit of history to get their teeth in to!

These enquiries will take them up to half term when we will then be moving on to an art & design and technology enquiry after Easter.

The new term dates for next academic year (2021/2022) have now been set and are on the school website here: <https://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/term-dates/>

Finally, welcome back to Mrs Colman who re-joined us in Elm class this week following her recent maternity leave. I know the children in Elm enjoyed seeing her on their zoom call! It feels like she was never away already and we are very happy to have her back in school.