



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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5/3/21

We made it! The final day of remote learning today! Thank you to everyone who got involved with World Book Day yesterday, both in school and out. We hope the children had fun and most importantly that it inspired them to read!

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning, I sent out all the information you need via email earlier in the week – please make sure you read this through thoroughly and save it somewhere so you can refer to it when you need it. If you think you didn't receive it for some reason, it is all on the school website here for your info: <https://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/newsletters/>

As we have said, next week, we will be spending the week slowly acclimatising the children back to being in school. They will have time to just be together and enjoy each other's company as well as taking part in activities to promote wellbeing across the week. These will be inspired by creativity, nature, caring and kindness, being heard, connection and exercise amongst other things, to help promote a healthy mind and body. We are hoping that this will give them time to think about what they need to stay healthy going forwards and it will lay the foundations for a mentally healthy summer term for everyone. The children in Elm, Maple and Oak will also start to get further stuck in to their history topics for the term starting this week.

If you are interested in exploring activities which promote wellbeing yourselves at home through this period of adjustment for everyone, attached to this email are some ideas from Active Gloucestershire of 'Active Discovery' activities which the children and you as a family can complete at home. Each set of activities earns a 'badge'. If the children do take part and complete all the activities to earn a 'badge', you can send an email to head@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk and I will send them back a well done email with a picture of their badge! I have also included the badges attached to this email so if you prefer, you can award these to them yourselves at home.

This month, we have said goodbye to two of our most experienced governors at school – Caroline Vale and Hema Naselli. Caroline has been a governor at school for 10 years, as a member of staff, parent and member of the wider community. She has given so much of her time, knowledge and care to the school over this period, including taking on the role of Pupil Premium and SEND governor and chair of the curriculum and standards committee. Hema has been a parent governor at school for the last 4 years, seeing us through the school's fantastic Good Ofsted rating and supporting the school through my transition as a new Headteacher. She has also taken on the role of co-chair during this time alongside Ian Wills as well as being our safeguarding governor. Both vital roles, where she has supported and challenged us on our provision for all the children in our care. We cannot thank both of them enough for the time, knowledge and care they have given to the school over this period and we will very much miss working with them on the governing body.

As a result of Hema and Caroline coming to the end of their term as governors, we will be holding an election for a new parent governor in the coming weeks – more information will follow and we look forward to welcoming a new member of our parent community on to the governing board.

PE and Forest School

Willow Class

For Willow Class, Forest School will now take place **every other Friday with Mrs Clarke** on our school site. This will **alternate weekly with PE sessions**. The children will need to come dressed **every week on Friday** in their PE kit (jogging bottoms and hooded top, not just shorts and tshirt) but on the Forest School week they will also need to bring the following in a sturdy carrier or rucksack:

- Waterproof coat (this will need to be one you are happy to get muddy!)
- Waterproof trousers or salopettes (we have spares at school so please do not worry if you don't have any)
- Welly boots - These can remain in school as we can store them in our outdoor area in between sessions.
- Spare socks

Forest Schools clothes will be sent home with the children after each session as we are unable to clean and dry them in school.

PE sessions in Willow will begin on **Friday 12th March** and our first Forest School session will be on **Friday 19th March** and then they will continue every other week from then onwards. I have entered all the dates on the to the school calendar on the website here just in case you forget one week and want to check! <https://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/calendar/>

Elm Class will have PE on Wednesday each week. Please can they wear their PE kit in to school each week (jogging bottoms and hooded top are needed this term as it is still cold outside). However, please can they bring a bag with their PE daps in to school with them on **Monday 8th March** – this will remain in school at all times so that if they forget to wear their PE kit one week, they can still take part. Each week on Wednesday, they can wear their school shoes in to school and they will change in to their daps here.

Maple class will have PE on Monday each week and Forest School on Friday – they will need to wear their PE kit in to school **on both days** and on forest school day bring in a waterproof coat, waterproof trousers if they have them and wellies/walking boots as well as a hat, scarf and waterproof gloves if possible whilst the weather is still cold all in a large sturdy bag to store in the cloakroom. Please can they bring a bag with their PE trainers in to school with them on **Monday 8th March** – this will remain in school at all times so that if they forget to wear their PE kit one week, they can still take part. Each week on Monday, they can wear their school shoes in to school and they will change in to their trainers in school.

Oak Class will have PE on Thursday each week. Please can they wear their PE kit in to school each week (jogging bottoms and hooded top are needed this term as it is still cold outside). However, please can they bring a bag with their PE trainers in to school with them on **Monday 8th March** – this will remain in school at all times so that if they forget to wear their PE kit one week, they can still take part. Each week on Thursday, they can wear their school shoes in to school and they will change in to their trainers in school.

I just wanted to remind you that when you pick up and drop off the children from Monday, there should be only one parent on-site to pick up your children as per government guidance. There will be a lot more people on site each morning and afternoon than there has been this term so it is more important than ever that you keep the entrances clear so that everyone can move about the site safely. Please do not stand in the entrance to the school talking to other adults as everyone moves on and off the playground – it makes it very difficult for people to get past at a safe distance and is also against government guidance as they are asking all parents to not be in close contact with other parents at school pick up and drop off to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Extended face to face conversations within 1 or 2m between parents are therefore not appropriate at this time. We as staff members will continue to wear masks at this time and we encourage you to wear masks on site if you would like to as well.

The staggered start and end times for each class remain the same as the autumn term and can be found on the information I sent out earlier in the week and on the website link above.

Please find below, advice from the government on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
- wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
- social distance where possible.
- wash or sanitise your hands regularly and be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

Further information can be found in our [guidance on transport to school and other places of education](#).

Does anyone have a working printer that they no longer need that they would be happy to donate to school?! We are looking at our computing provision across the school and would love the children to have opportunity to print out work that they have created on the class laptop straight away. If you do have one you would be happy to donate, please contact the office on admin@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk or let Mrs Clarke or Mrs Cripps know.

Have a wonderful weekend and we can't wait to see you on Monday!

Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

PLEASE NOTE – THESE RAPID TESTS DO NOT REPLACE THE PCR TEST WHICH HOUSEHOLDS MUST TAKE IF THEY ARE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS - SEE SCHOOL GUIDANCE PREVIOUSLY SHARED - THEY ARE FOR REGULAR TESTING OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SYMPTOMS ONLY.