



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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Today, the children had great fun making Easter bonnets and doing an Easter egg hunt in the grounds! It has been a lovely sunny week and it was a great way to end what has been a tough term for everyone. We could not be prouder of all the children at Whiteshill and we will never be able to express to them how well they have done under incredibly difficult circumstances. It is a pleasure to come in to work every day as they make the school a wonderful place to be! They now all really need a rest over the Easter holidays – we hope you all have a fantastic time and enjoy every minute!

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL, INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU MUST CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL. IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THIS AND FOLLOW THE INFORMATION INCLUDED WITHIN, FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

If, during the holiday, you have to self-isolate and this means your children will not return on the first day of school after the holiday, just let us know via email or leave a message on the school phone number. Follow the normal coronavirus symptoms advice as you would within the term.

The Secretary of State for Education has written to children and young people to recognise the impact of the disruption they have faced over the past year and to thank them for their resilience.

If you would like to read his letter, it is published on the [DfE media blog](#) and on DfE's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

If you have been taking lateral flow tests throughout this term, since they were made available by the government for all parents and carers of school-age children, please continue to take these tests twice a week throughout the Easter holidays. If you are not currently taking the tests but would be interested in doing so, more information can be found here: [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

When you receive a head bump text and email from school, please make sure you read the email as well as the text as this now includes the detail of what happened to your child in school, allowing you to know where the injury is sighted as well as including information about the signs and symptoms to look for when you are monitoring them. Thank you.

Unfortunately, we have not had any applications for the post of parent governor at school so far. As a result, we have now extended the deadline for this nomination up until Friday 30th April. It is really important that the parent body are represented on the school governing board and we need a large group of governors to ensure that the school is challenged and supported in the best possible way. The post does not take up a huge amount of time across the year and comes with training from DGAT which will help you understand the role. It really is a fantastic group of people and would be a great opportunity to support the school. If you are not sure about the role but are interested, please do give me a call or send me an email and I can talk about it with you further to explain what it involves and answer any questions you might have before you decide whether to go ahead. Don't forget also, self-nomination is fine so you do not need anyone else to sign your nomination form. If you need another copy of the form, just contact the office.

After Easter, we have got some exciting activities happening in Key Stage 2 and therefore we are going to have to change the PE days around slightly. Unfortunately, Mr Pritchard is not able to do forest school with Elm class this summer as he would have done normally as it is simply not possible with the younger children whilst we are not able to have parent volunteers in school. However, this does mean that he is able to continue with his PE sessions in school. So after Easter, Maple class will continue to benefit from indoor rowing lessons alongside their usual PE sessions on a Monday afternoon up until May half term. As well as this, on Friday afternoon, Oak class will now be taking part in 'New Age Kurling' sessions alongside their usual PE lessons outside with Miss Middleton. As some of you will remember, our New Age Kurling team at Whiteshill were really successful last year and went to the finals in Cheltenham – this inspired us to want to include Kurling in our curriculum and very kindly, the parents of one of the children in the competition donated a Kurling kit to the school so we are able to finally get this going. We are really excited about this and we know the children are going to really enjoy learning a new skill and finding out about a new game. Hopefully in the future, more children will be able to represent us in this sport outside of school too.

Finally, on a Wednesday afternoon each week, Oak class will be joined by Mr McLaughlin who will be teaching them a sequence of 10 brass lessons across the summer term. I know that the year 5s had a fantastic time with Mr McLaughlin when he taught them in year 4 and it is a great opportunity for them to build on what they learnt with him. I still remember vividly the wonderful assembly where they brought so much joy to the hall with their rendition of 'I fell good!' It is one of my favourite moments from my time at Whiteshill and I look forward to hearing what they come up with this time!

Therefore, after Easter, the days when your children need to wear their PE kit in to school will be as follows:

Willow Class – PE every other Thursday and Forest School every other Thursday – the weeks will remain the same and it is all on the school calendar, we have just had to change the PE day. After Easter, the first week will be forest school on Thursday 22nd April.

Elm Class – PE on Tuesday each week.

Maple Class will continue to have PE on Monday each week.

Oak class will have PE on Friday each week.