



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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Oak class had a lovely sunny day on Wednesday for the first of their activity days this term. Unfortunately, due to people parking right inside the entrance to the car park, the company who bought the mobile climbing wall were unable to get it on site, but the children took it completely in their stride and did not blink an eyelid when I told them! They were just too excited to spend the day together having fun in the sun! In fact, you may well have heard the laughter and excited voices from the field throughout the day! They really impressed with their teamwork and survival skills in a whole host of activities – the people in charge of the day commented on how impressive this was and we were incredibly proud of how they all worked together and made the most of each opportunity. There are some photographs at the bottom of the newsletter for you to look at. On Monday, they will also be visiting the Gloucester Ski and Snowboard Centre where they will take part in tubing and outdoor laser tag on Battle Hill!

Sports Day

Sports day will take place in the school playground in bubbles on the following days:

Tuesday 13th July – Maple Class
Wednesday 14th July – Elm Class
Thursday 15th July – Oak Class
Friday 16th July – Willow Class

Please make sure the children are wearing PE kits on these days during this week.

Willow will still need to wear PE kit on Monday 12th for their balance bike sessions, but the other classes will not have PE that week – they will do sports day instead. We will be announcing any sports day winners and giving the children certificates for their achievements at sports day in celebration assembly the following week on Monday 19th July.

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated school uniform so far. Don't forget, if you are having a clear out towards the end of term, please do donate any spare uniform you no longer need but that is still in good condition by placing it in one of the plastic boxes in the school playground.

FOWS would also appreciate donations of any forest school clothing that you no longer need e.g. wellies, waterproof coats and trousers, waterproof all in one suits, waterproof gloves etc. If you have any of these you are happy to donate, please do place them in the plastic boxes when you are able.

FOWS also ask that you don't forget to support the PTA Big Summer Raffle as well where you can be in with a chance of winning £1,000 whilst also supporting the school! Click below:



As I shared last week, we as a school have been impacted by the steep rise in COVID-19 cases locally. We have had several staff unable to be in school and we also have some families impacted. So far, this has not led to us having to close any of our bubbles. However, there are many schools in Gloucestershire now who have had to, with some schools having to close entirely due to the number of cases they have. **PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE UP TO DATE CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOU IN SCHOOL IN CASE WE DO HAVE TO CLOSE A BUBBLE IN THE COMING WEEKS – REMEMBER THIS COULD HAPPEN AT ANY POINT.** Please find below some reminders of the COVID-19 school regulations which are still in place:

Please make sure that at drop off and pick up you are standing 2m+ from other parents by queuing on the green lines. This is very important, as if you are talking more closely with each other, you and your children are much more likely to have to self-isolate as a result.

Please also going forwards ensure that your children stay with you at drop-off and pick up. It is very difficult to ensure that bubbles do not mix when there are children running around the playground. We rely on you to ensure this does not happen on school grounds apart from with siblings and childcare arrangements. The more people your children are in close contact with, the more likely they will have to self-isolate for ten days in the coming weeks and I know how difficult this would be for many of you – it would mean that the children miss another ten days of schooling and might also lead to you missing out on planned events at the weekends or in to the beginning of the school holidays.

As cases rise, I wanted also to encourage you going forwards to wear a mask on the school playground at pick up and drop off as well, staff will be returning to doing this on the playground from Monday.

One change in national policy I wanted to make you aware of is that now, when someone is identified as having close contact with a positive case, they are being asked to take a PCR test. This is to ensure that asymptomatic cases are picked up where possible and more contacts can be identified. Therefore, if someone in your household or childcare bubble, or someone else your child has been in close contact with tests positive for coronavirus, your child will have to take a PCR test from now on. You cannot use the lateral flow tests you may have at home – it must be a PCR test booked online or over the phone.

Attached to this email, you will find a letter from GCC which I sent out with the sports day email last week. I wanted to draw your attention to the second page of it, which has information about what you can do to continue to prevent catching and spreading COVID-19. It is worth reading through to remind yourself of helpful practise for these last few weeks of term whilst the self-isolation guidance is still in force.

Please find at the bottom of the newsletter information about applying for free school meals. If you are eligible for free school meals, the school receives extra funding in our budget and you will continue to be able to have free school meals beyond year 2, even if your circumstances change. This is available to your child if you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Going in to September, we are hoping to continue to have two members of staff looking after your children at After School Club each evening. This is important to ensure that the children are safeguarded effectively and kept safe on the school site. However, at present, the after school and breakfast clubs are not covering their costs and therefore we have had to look carefully at our pricing system for September to ensure that we can continue without the school having to subsidise this childcare. Therefore, having looked at schools in the local area and their prices for wraparound care, we have decided to make some changes to our pricing from September as follows:

Breakfast Club - £4 per session – there will no longer be a lower price available for children who arrive later. Each session used will be charged at £4.

After School Club – This will continue to be charged at £8 per session, however, we are removing the lower price of £4 for one hour of childcare which was previously available.

We appreciate that this does impact on people's budgets at home and we would not make these changes unless we had to, but obviously it is very important that our wraparound care is able to cover its own costs.

Last day of term

The last day of term this year is Wednesday 21st July. On this day, parents of year 6 children will be able to come on to the school grounds and stand socially distanced to watch and cheer as the children parade out of the school for one final time. This will take place at 2.30pm so that the other children will then have time to go back to their classes ready for a normal and safe end of the day.

It is very important that parents of other children in the school do not arrive at this time, only the year 6 parents, as there will not be enough room on site. We will only be able to go ahead on the day if everyone is successfully socially distanced. Please arrive from 3pm onwards to pick up your children at their normal time for all other year groups.

If for any reason, you are not able to pick your year 6 child up at 2.30pm, please do let us know and we will keep them safe until 3.10pm. They will still be part of the parade but we will take them back inside afterwards until you get there. You can nominate another member of your family to attend in your place e.g. grandparents, aunts and uncles but only two adults per child on site please. Just let us know if this will be the case in advance. **YOU MUST NOT INVITE WIDER FAMILY TO THIS EVENT – ONLY PARENTS OR TWO NOMINATED ADULTS ON SITE PER CHILD PLEASE.**

Please also remember that photographs of the children must not be taken on the school site for safeguarding reasons. We will take photographs on the school iPads and share them with you.

We will be talking to the children this week about what they would like to do to have fun together during school time on their last day and we will let you know their plans in next week's newsletter.



Apply online for

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Check to see if your child is eligible using the confidential online portal available on our website www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Your child's school receives extra funding for each eligible child registered.

If you do not have internet access speak to your child's school.



You may also be able to get extra support for free milk, reduced contributions for school trips and uniform grants – check with your school.