



# Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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17/09/21

## We are Geographers!

This term, the children have started their 'We are Geographers' enquiries. We focus on Geography twice a year in school, giving the children chance to build on their knowledge and skills each year and learn new place and locational knowledge so that they become strong geographers by the end of year 6. This term the class enquiries are as follows:

Elm Class: The geography of the school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of Whiteshill.

Maple Class: The human and physical geography of Stroud.

Oak Class: The human and physical geography of Gloucestershire.

You can see that our curriculum builds as the children progress through the school, applying skills and knowledge e.g. map reading, compass directions, grid references, symbols and keys by focusing on increasingly wider geographical areas. It is important that the younger children learn geography through places that they are familiar with and by the end of year 6, the children have to independently navigate an unfamiliar place using all the skills they have accumulated over their time at Whiteshill.

## Bus Stop Project

Some of you may have seen over the summer that our Whiteshill bus stop creative project was in the Stroud News and Journal. Unfortunately, it is not on their webpage so I can't link to the article but it was a lovely representation of what the children had done. I hope their tiles are brightening up the journey of those using the bus stop each day. I'm pleased to share as well that we received a handwritten note from Stroud MP Siobhan Baillie congratulating us on the project. Well done to all of the children for contributing to this community art work.

## PGL Residential Trip

I'm really pleased to share that we have been able to book a PGL residential for next June for all the children in Oak class. Obviously, the last two years, this has had to be cancelled due to COVID but we are increasingly confident that it will be able to go ahead in 2022. I will be holding an initial meeting via zoom for parents and children to hear about the trip on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 4pm so that you have time to get home with the children. A letter will then go out about payment following this meeting. Payment will be taken over the year so that you can spread out the cost as we appreciate that this is difficult for many people at the moment and children on Pupil Premium will be entitled to support with the cost. The PGL trip will take place from Mon 13<sup>th</sup> June – Wed 15<sup>th</sup> June at a small PGL centre in Devon called Beam House.

## Willow Class Drop-off

From Monday, when the children are in full-time, we will be lining up Willow class with the rest of the school on the large playground at drop-off. Now they are settled and know the school well, we feel they won't be quite so daunted by all the activity and people. We hope also it will make life easier for parents with siblings in other classes and allow you all to get to know the other families on the playground as you wait. Don't worry, we will be there to guide and support the children with where to line-up and Mrs Cripps will take them up to class safely from the playground.

## Book Festival Events

I'm pleased to share that I have managed to book some online reading events over the coming weeks for both Maple and Oak class, tapping in to both the Stroud Book Festival and Cheltenham Literature Festival events for schools. More information can be found about both events online below if you are interested in taking the children at the weekends or taking part yourselves:

<https://stroudbookfestival.org.uk/>

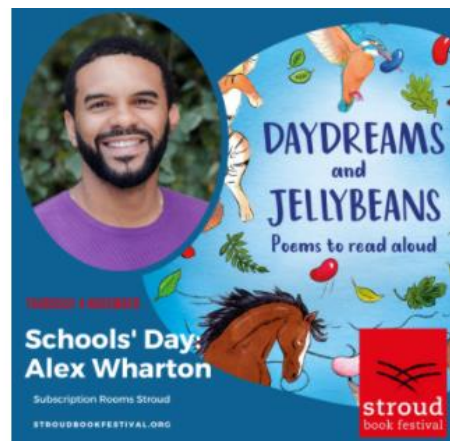
Stroud Book Festival takes place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November and is a great, relatively new, local event which has managed to nab some fantastic big name authors this year too – including Michael Morpurgo! The website is well worth a look.

<https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature/>

Cheltenham literature festival is a larger event which attracts visitors from all over the country. There are free and paid for events and it is a real feast of excitement for book lovers! It takes place between 8<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October this year.

Maple class will be taking part in two online workshops. The first on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September is an online Word Play workshop with Jonny Fluffypunk! Then they will have a virtual talk from Kate Pankhurst inspired by her book 'Fantastically Great Women Scientists'.

Oak class will have a virtual workshop with poet Alex Wharton all about performing and reading poetry aloud, based on his book 'Daydreams and Jellybeans!'.



## Letters Home

Don't forget to return your contact information sheet, child's medical details, acceptable use policy, media consent form and going home list if you have not already. These are all incredibly important documents which allow us to keep the children safe in school.

## Parking

Please make sure that you are careful when parking at school during drop-off and pick-up not to block other people in the car park and also not to block people's entrances where there are white lines and drop curbs on the road. We need to be thoughtful of the residents around school getting in and out of their homes and particularly if you go to the park after school, your car can be there for some time.

## What have we been up to...?

It's been an exciting start to the term already. In the first week back, the children had a science week in Elm, Maple and Oak. Elm class started New Age Kurling on Mondays with Mr Pritchard and today had their first samba drumming lessons with Gloucestershire music too. Maple class went for a walk down to the field to create a sketch map of the area as part of their geography enquiry as well as investigating a box of rocks and fossils which was borrowed from Stroud Museum in the Park and had some fascinating things inside! They also began swimming lessons on a Wednesday. I was lucky enough to witness them and they were incredibly well behaved, sensible and changed so quickly and quietly – I know Miss Davies was really proud, as was I. Oak class have started archery lessons on a Thursday with Cotswold Coaching and also had their first forest school session up in Ruscombe woods again. They will all be tired out this weekend!

In Willow class, the children are thinking about 'Me, Myself and I' this term as they get used to all the routines and learning areas in their classroom. They will be reading lots of books together and also starting their learning of phonics daily which is the key to all reading and writing as they grow.

I will add some photographs of the children to the school website gallery over the coming days and there are already some up of the Willow class children playing with their buddies in their first week if you would like to see them here: <https://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/gallery/>





## This week in assembly...

This week, I talked to the children about the Jewish festivals of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur which were celebrated by Jewish families in September as their New Year festival. The festival's focus is very much on forgiveness, which linked to our conversation last week based on the book 'The Terrible Troublesome Troll' in line with our 'We are Together' school value.

Next, we talked about allergies and anaphylaxis which is of course a subject close to all the children's hearts in school as we have a nut and peanut free policy. A letter reminding you of this policy for reference can be found attached to the email. The children were really interested in the science behind allergies and it really helped them to understand how we can safeguard each other both in school and out. We are very proud of how aware the children are on this subject and how understanding they are of our whole school policy.

I then went on to remind the children of our STOP Anti-bullying policy in school. It is really important that we talk about this in school all the time so that the children know how to recognise bullying if and when it occurs and also know what to do when they see it:

Several Times On Purpose  
Start Telling Other People

We discussed how it's important to tell an adult if you think you are a victim of bullying or if you see other people being bullied or even if you think you might be the bully. Signs with this wording are up in the hall and will be in all classrooms to remind the children the importance of talking to an adult when they think they might have identified bullying in school. Please do encourage them to do so if they come to you with any problems, or of course, come and speak to the teacher directly or contact us by phone or email so that we can help your child and STOP the bullying as quickly as possible.

We also talked about our behaviour policy in school and how we need to act with respect at all times to adults and other children. We discussed all the lovely rewards we have in school to encourage good behaviour, as well as what will happen if the children make a mistake and display a negative behaviour in school. It is important that the expectations for behaviour are clear so that everyone knows what to expect. I am incredibly proud of the behaviour of all the children at Whiteshill School and how they work hard to look after each other and treat each other and the adults in school with respect. I am also proud of the fact that when they do make a mistake with their behaviour they will apologise and try hard to learn from the situation. Our draft behaviour policy can be found on the school website here if you would like to look at it in more detail: [www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/policies](http://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/policies)

## Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Here is the **link** to the current issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine Sep/Oct 2021](#). Their **What's On Guide** and **Activities and Days Out** have loads of options for families wanting to get out and about in September and October. For those staying close to home we have activities including **Autumn Crafts**, **Growing oak trees from acorns**, **DIY Halloween costumes**, **Halloween decorations** and **Black History Month 'Who's Who' Quiz**.

The magazine is also full of great advice and tips for parents including **Tips for a positive parents' evening**, **dealing with back to school anxiety**, **ride to school safely** and **Teacher Talk**.

## SEND Transition

I just wanted to reassure those of you who have children on the SEND register with a MyPlan, MyPlan+ or EHCP that at the end of the academic year, a thorough transition was carried out between teachers so that your child's new teacher is fully aware of their needs as well as any resources or routines that were used to support them. Led by Mrs Colman, our SENCo, MyPlan reviews will take place within school at the end of October when the new teachers will be able to update your child's targets based on the progress they have made since the summer.

## School Photographs

The school photographer will be in on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September. Children across the school will have individual photographs taken and any siblings within school will be taken together. We will not be able to welcome siblings from pre-school as we are being cautious still with visitors in school at this stage of the year. Please make sure you tick yes for Tempest being able to use your child's image on the media consent form and return it before then so that we can allow your child's photograph to be taken on the day. Thank you.

## Birthday Treats

I just wanted to let you know that now most of the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, we are allowing children to bring into school something to share with their friends on their birthday if they would like. There is no pressure at all to do this, but if you would like to you can. We will not be able to facilitate cutting and handing out cake so something that is individual would be good e.g. a packet of sweets, cupcakes. Please of course be very aware of our NUT and PEANUT free policy when bringing these in to school, particularly if they are homemade. We will then give these out at the end of the school day so that the children can take them home with them.

WELCOME  
**SUPER  
ALL HEROES**



Come and try

**GIRLS  
RUGBY**



**SUNDAYS**

**1-2.30PM**

**Rsvp**

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