



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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21/10/21

We are Readers...

Mrs Cripps, our English subject lead, has been working very hard behind the scenes over the summer term on our reading curriculum in school. It has been a pleasure to work alongside her to build a curriculum which maps out the books, authors and poets that we want the children to come across and get to know during their time at Whiteshill. We have thought really hard about a mixture of more classic authors alongside many modern ones too, it is a diverse mix of male and female authors – many of whom the children will be familiar with and some of whom will be new to them!

Some of these authors the children will return to again and again over their time at Whiteshill for example Roald Dahl, Julia Donaldson, Michael Morpurgo – this is because we want them to become familiar with the styles of the authors and the themes and conventions that run through their books so that their ability to make links across texts is really strong by the time they leave the school – a very important skill for secondary school and beyond.

Each half term, the children will be introduced to books which will be read to them at the end of each school day by the teacher. This will be a mixture of novels, traditional tales, poetry, picture books, myths and legends etc. Then, once a week in Elm, Maple and Oak class, the children will have a taught reading session based on this book. During this session, they will have an in depth oral discussion about the text, looking at language, making inferences and predictions based on clues from the text, making links to other texts they might know which are similar and really honing their reading skills. The children from year 2 upwards will also practise their written comprehension during this time, having a go at questions independently. Alongside this, the children will of course visit the library weekly and have chance for individual reading in school each day, building up their phonics skills, decoding, fluency and expression.

In Willow class, the books the teachers read to the children are threaded through the whole of their curriculum, with the children really being immersed in these books to inspire their writing too! Not only that, but for each area of the EYFS curriculum, Mrs Cripps and Mrs Clarke have carefully selected a whole host of books which will enhance and inspire the children's learning throughout the year.

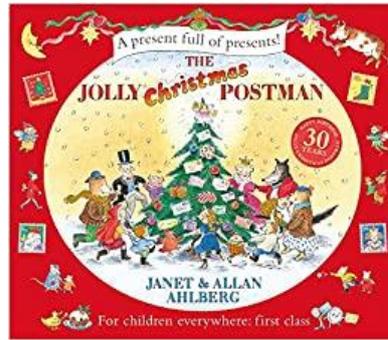
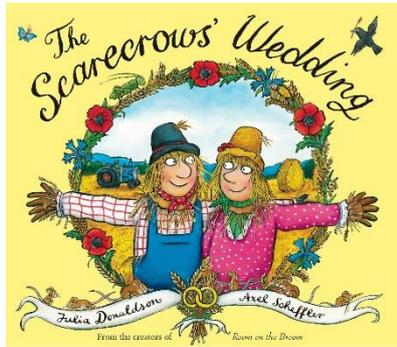
The full reading curriculum for each class can be found on our school website here:

<https://www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Whiteshill-Reading-Curriculum-1.pdf>

Each term, I will let you know which texts are coming up next for the children so that you can engage with the books at home as well if you have them. I know that the older children, particularly in Oak class often like to read along with the teacher too!

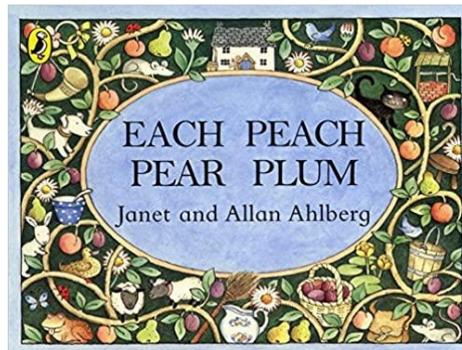
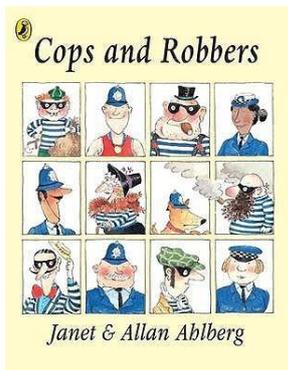
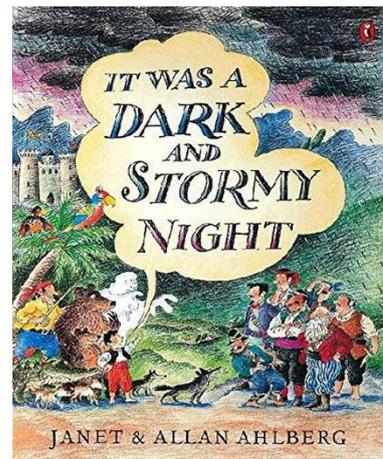
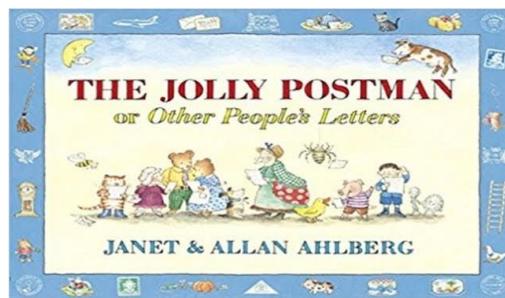
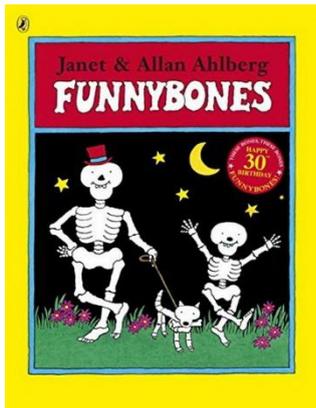
See the next page of the newsletter for next term's texts.

Willow Class

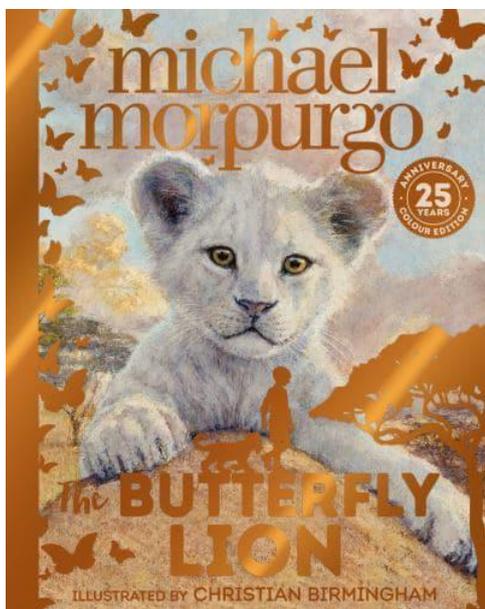


Elm Class

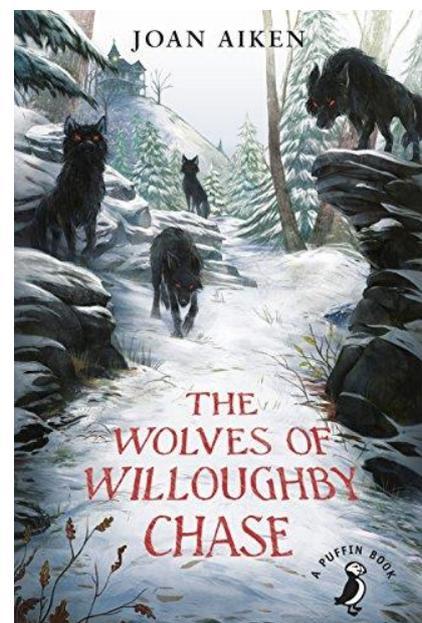
Author Study – Janet and Allan Ahlberg



Maple Class



Oak Class



Art Exhibition

I'm really excited to share with you that Whiteshill Primary School will be holding it's very own art exhibition to celebrate the children's art work on the theme of 'Happiness'. The show will take place during the evening of Wednesday 1st December.

This event has been dreamt up, designed and led by Martin Turner, a parent of one of our children in Elm class, who has been working hard behind the scenes to put it all together. Very generously sourcing and funding art supplies for each child in school to complete their piece of art, a venue and much, much more – we can't thank him enough for his support and enthusiasm which has made this possible.

More details will follow but for now please do save the date so that you can be there for what promises to be an unmissable event...



Parents Evening

Willow, Elm and Maple class will have their first parents' evening of the year on Tuesday 9th November in the evening and Thursday 11th November in the afternoon. PLEASE NOTE – THERE WILL BE NO FOOTBALL CLUB IN THIS WEEK.

Sign-up sheets will be in the school office lobby from the morning of Tuesday 2nd November when we return to school after half term. Please come up at any time and put your name down for a slot. If you need a particular time slot, please don't leave it too late – spaces will go quickly! Parents evening will be in person as long as COVID-19 restrictions do not change in the meantime.

Obviously, Mrs McKay and Mrs Johnson have only just started to teach the children after taking over from Miss Middleton last week. Therefore, in order for this to be a productive and useful conversation for you, Oak class parents' evening will take place in early December – date to follow.

FOWS Scarecrow Trail

Don't forget to support the Friends of Whiteshill School first post-COVID event this half term to raise invaluable funds for the school and your children!

Maps will be on sale from the village shop over the October half term holiday so please do have a go whenever you are free!

We can't wait to see your scarecrows!



Fundraising for Friends
Of Whiteshill Primary
School

WHITESHILL SCARECROW HUNT

OCTOBER HALF TERM

25TH - 31ST OCTOBER

Prize for the best scarecrow. Register your scarecrow by 21st October for inclusion on the map and in the prize draw

Register your scarecrow by emailing your location to friendsofwhiteshillschool@outlook.com

Maps available from Whiteshill Village Shop from 25th October £3

Willow Class Forest School

If your child is in Willow class, you should have received a letter yesterday with regards to the sessions which will be beginning after half term. Please do return your consent slip as soon as possible and sign-up sheets for volunteering will be in the lobby – we can't do it without you!

After School clubs and Coding

If you signed your child up for an after school club, you should have received a letter home telling you if they have got a space – if you haven't please contact Mrs Angove in the school office. Clubs start in the first week back, apart from year 2 art club which will begin the following week due to our INSET day.

We still have spaces available in our coding club on a Tuesday after school. This club is for children in Maple and Oak class and will be run by Mrs Clarke and the grandparent of one of our pupils in year 6 who has very kindly offered to help out. He has a host of experience in computing and engineering and has been a STEM ambassador and run coding clubs in schools before so we have got a real expert available to the children! The club will be a great introduction to computer coding and the children will have the opportunity to use 'Microbits' which are electronic devices which can be programmed to do lots of different things e.g. light up bulbs and make buzzers sound amongst other things! So if your child is interested in computers, please do sign them up – no previous experience needed – it will be a real learning experience for the children.

If your child would like to sign up to coding club just let myself or Mrs Angove know via email, phone or in person.

Sea Legs Puppet Theatre

I'm really pleased to let you know that I have been able to book the Sea Legs Puppet Theatre to come to Whiteshill and put on a wonderful show for all the classes of the Oscar Wilde story 'The Selfish Giant' on Monday November 22nd.

The theatre travel to schools all over the country to put on one-man puppet shows of classic and traditional tales. I have been lucky enough to see the Selfish Giant with my children and it is a beautifully told story which I know will be a really magical winter experience for all the children in school – I can't wait!

Theatre and story-telling are a really important part of literacy for children and myself and Mrs Cripps in her role as English subject lead are hoping that in the future we can take the children to the theatre to see a show as part of our English curriculum offer, as well as having Sea Legs puppet theatre back to put on different shows too. I felt that to do a theatre trip in the Autumn term whilst COVID restrictions are still in the background would be a mistake as I didn't want the children to be disappointed again, but I hope that possibly in the summer term this will be possible.

Roadworks

Just for your information, Main Road, where it crosses The Plain, will be closed for roadworks from 07.00 until 17.00 on 28th and 29th October.

Mrs Woods

Today is officially Mrs Woods last day before her maternity leave begins fully on Monday. As you will know, she has been working from home, supporting the children online whilst Miss Davis has settled in over the last term, allowing a really smooth transition for Maple class. We wish her all the best of luck with the birth of her second child and look forward to meeting the little one when they arrive!

Thank you!

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to Mr Pellatt or Grampy Rick as you may know him!! He has been helping out with forest school for many years and is there rain or shine each week to help get the children safely too and from the woods. He takes this responsibility very seriously and is always such a help to us each week – we genuinely couldn't do it without him and I know that all the children gain a lot from his vast knowledge and generous spirit. Not only that, but recently he very kindly offered to mow our lawn at the back of school when it needs doing – this is a job which we find really difficult to keep on top of as it is a large area of grass. The difference it has made having it tidied up for the children is immense. So, a huge thank you to Mr Pellatt for all he does for our school.

COVID-19 Increasing Cases

We have had an email from UKHSA and Sarah Scott today about rising cases in Gloucestershire and we have had two positive unrelated cases in school in the last 10 days. We obviously want to make sure that as few children as possible miss being impacted by a positive case and having to miss school. As a result, because the children will be mixing with a lot of people during half term no doubt, I will be holding the whole school assemblies via zoom for the first week back as this is an easy measure we can take to mitigate risk. We will of course also continue with our current measures which you can read about on our school website [here](#).

Please continue to keep a close eye on your children for symptoms, even mild ones. Just to let you know as well, UKHSA has now rescinded the advice they sent out last week about people with positive lateral flow tests needing to isolate even if their PCR was negative. We will return to following the previous advice that unless a child or member of staff has a positive PCR test they can return to school.

Dates for your diary...

Wed 3 rd Nov	Sportshall Athletics Competition	Chosen children from Maple and Oak class
Thursday 4 th Nov	Stroud Book Festival Online workshops	Maple and Oak class
Tuesday 9 th Nov	Late parents evening	Willow, Elm and Maple
Thursday 11 th Nov	Afternoon parents evening NO FOOTBALL CLUB	Willow, Elm and Maple
Mon 22 nd Nov	Sea Legs Puppet Theatre	Whole school
Sat 27 th Nov	FOWS Xmas Fayre	Whole school
Wed 1 st Dec	Art Exhibition	Whole school
Wed 8 th Dec	FOWS Christmas Disco after school	Whole school

PE days

After half term, PE days will be as follows:

Elm class – Tuesday (including skateboarding and scooter lessons with Team Rubicon)

Maple class – Wednesday - swimming

Oak class – Monday and Thursday (including indoor rowing with Mr Pritchard)

Children in Elm and Oak should wear their PE kits in to school on these days.

Families in Partnership Newsletter

You can find at this link the first Families In Partnership [newsletter](#) which has been coproduced by Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum and teams within Health, Education and Care. The newsletter aims to bring you news and updates on these services and how you can become involved or feedback on the work that is being done. This may be of interest in particular to parents of children with additional needs.

Cleaner/Caretaker Job Vacancy

The company who runs our school cleaning contract are currently looking for a cleaner and caretaker for our school. The role is Monday to Friday 15 hours per week after school with a good rate of pay. If you think you might be interested, please contact Caroline on 07799886280

INSET day

Don't forget – it is INSET day on Monday 1st November – we will see you back in school on Tuesday 2nd.

And finally...

A huge thank you to you all for a wonderful first term. It has been a really memorable one in school from start to finish. The children have impressed us so much with how far they have come already and how brilliantly they have got used to all being together again as a whole school – you must be incredibly proud of them.

Thank you to you all for your kindness and patience whilst we have got back in to the swing of things and for encouraging and supporting your children to thrive in school since we returned. Thank you as well for making the school community such a welcoming and positive place, whenever I show new parents around I confidently say that they will be made to feel very welcome by you all and will soon feel at home – it makes a big difference to our school and cannot be underestimated.

Thank you as well to my wonderful staff. They have all worked so unbelievably hard this term and I can't tell you how much they care for your children and how much they go above and beyond every day in school. I am so proud of them as a team and I can never thank them enough for all they do to make my job such a fantastic one every day.

I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing you again in November.

Lunch,
hot drinks
and snacks
provided

£2
per adult
Kids Go
Free!

FAMILY NATURE PLAY-DAYS

Suitable
for ages
4-12

**OCTOBER HALF
TERM:**

**Tues 26TH,
Wed 27TH**

And Sunday Nov 14th

10AM-2.30PM

**Meet at Vue Cinema,
Stroud**

**Come and play,
explore nature,
make crafts and
cook on a fire!**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

www.bookwhen.com/intonaturecic

Contact info@into-nature.org

facebook.com/oakbrookcommunityfarm

