



Whiteshill Weekly News



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

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10/12/21

CHRISTMAS WEEK!

Monday

Nativity Dress Rehearsal – all the children in school will have chance to watch Willow and Elm Class perform.

Tuesday

Nativity Performance – Willow and Elm Class parents – 1.30pm – free tickets available from the school office – please see email and letter sent out to Willow and Elm class parents for more details.

Wednesday

Christmas Jumper Day! The children can wear a Christmas jumper to school instead of their usual school jumper.

Christmas lunch – menu sent out by Mrs Angove – children order in the usual way on the day and Maple and Oak pay as usual.

Nativity Performance – Willow and Elm Class parents – 6pm – free tickets available from the school office – please see email and letter sent out to Willow and Elm class parents for more details.

Thursday

Christmas forest school – the whole school will be walking up to Ruscombe Woods in the morning for the children to sing some Christmas songs and everyone to have mulled wine (for the adults), hot chocolate (for the children) and mince pies for all around the fire!

You are all very welcome to join us on the day – however, because of COVID restrictions, parents only please, no grandparents or wider family. We will ask that all adults wear masks throughout and will suggest that you stick to your family groups and mix/chat as little as possible with other adults, for your own protection and to reduce the risk of you having to self-isolate over Christmas! We will allocate you a class to walk up to the woods with which has one of your children in and then when we get to the woods, the children will stand together and adults will be asked to stand socially distanced in the forest school area whilst the children entertain you with some Christmas songs! Then we will pass around the refreshments and hopefully enjoy a really festive moment together! Fingers crossed the weather holds out but unfortunately, if it doesn't, we can't hold this event indoors of course so may have to cancel. At the moment it is looking good though!

All children will need a waterproof coat, gloves, hat, scarf etc. and wellies/walking boots or sturdy shoes. Please can they come in to school ready to go and bring their school shoes with them for later. Some extra layers underneath school uniform, particularly for younger children, would be a good idea too!

Friday

A day of festive fun and recovery in school!

Author Visit

I'm really pleased to share with you that on Monday 17th January I have arranged for a real life author to come and visit the school! Her name is Lucy Hope and her debut novel 'Fledgling' was released in November, published by Nosy Crow – you might have seen it in the shops! It is for an older audience, so is aimed at children of 9+.

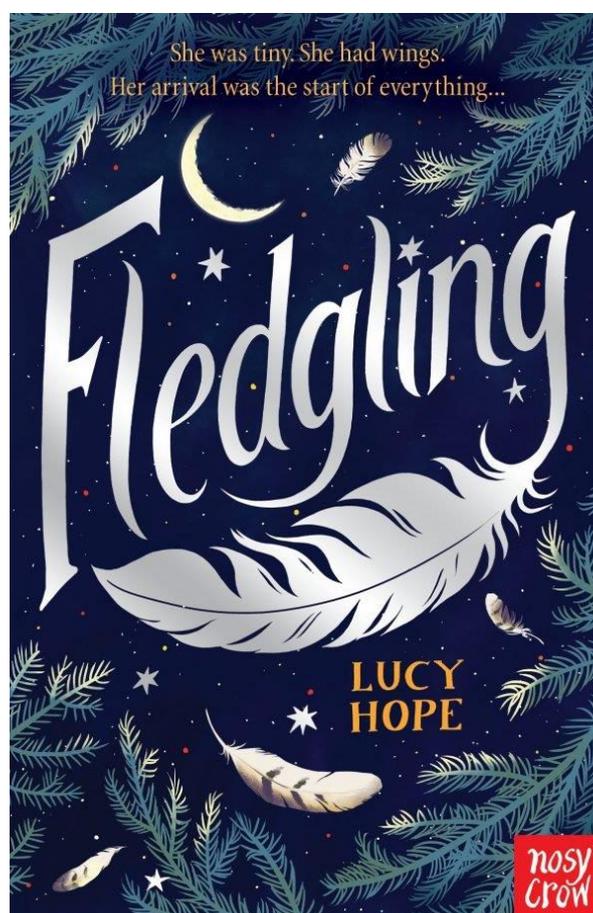
Lucy will be doing an assembly for the whole school, talking about being an author and writing and reading – we are hoping this will be really inspirational for all the children and an exciting chance to meet someone who writes for a living and ask her questions!

After break, Lucy will then hold a creative writing workshop with Oak Class and they will have chance to talk in more detail to her about her book and what it is like to be an author. They can also bring in their book to get it signed if they have a copy. Children from other classes can also get their books signed if they want to but do remember, it is aimed at older readers.

Her novel, Fledgling, is a gothic adventure set deep in a Bavarian forest, with angels and owls and magic and a boy who isn't all that he seems to be...

It can be brought from Amazon and local bookshops too – Yellow Lighted Bookshop in Nailsworth have been stocking copies as Lucy is a local author.

Here is a link to the Nosy Crow website with more information about the story and a link to buy if you would like to: <https://nosycrow.com/product/fledgling/>



COVID-19 Symptoms

Obviously, we are nearly at the end of term now and fingers crossed next week can run as we hope it will and the Christmas events will be able to go ahead as planned. In order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, particularly with the new Omicron variant cases rising, we will ask you to follow these guidelines when attending any events next week:

- All adults to wear a mask throughout
- Hand sanitiser on arrival
- DO NOT attend the event if you have any of the symptoms of COVID-19 – a new, continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of sense of taste and smell – instead stay at home to self-isolate and book a PCR test.
- Adults and anyone over 11 years old to take a lateral flow test if you are able before attending the event and not attend if the test result is positive. REMEMBER – lateral flow tests are not effective if you have symptoms – as soon as you have symptoms, stay at home and book a PCR test.

Please see sheet attached to this newsletter email which lets you know in more detail about what to do if your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms and also how to book a test online or via phone.

Thank you!

You will have seen that a nomination form came home for parents to have the opportunity to become part of our Local Governing Body at school. This post has come about because Kim Read, who some of you may know as the mum of Annabelle and Evie, has come to the end of her term on the governing body. Kim has been part of the team for 4 years and has been a real asset to the school, working as the health and safety governor for some time and also supporting the school through my appointment as Headteacher. She has been a hard-working and supportive member of the team and we cannot thank her enough for the time and energy she has put in over the last four years – thank you Kim!

Cheltenham Literature Festival Online Family Events

Cheltenham Literature Festivals have made available online a huge range of the events for families and schools which made up their festival this year. I have signed us up so that you can all access that home at any time. They might be a positive bit of screen time for the children over the Christmas holidays and should be good fun for all the family too!

Take a look at what is available for free here:

<https://literature.cheltenhamfestivals.online/schools-and-families/>

Household Support Fund (HSF)

On 30 September 2021, the Government announced that a new Household Support Fund (HSF) would be made available to Local Authorities to support those most in need during the winter. The Government has provided funding to the council to support people who are struggling to:

- buy food
- pay energy and water bills
- cover other essential costs linked to energy, water, and wider essentials (including sanitary products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, boiler service or repair, purchase of equipment including fridges, freezers, and ovens)

Due to the limited amount of funds available and the number of applications that could be received, priority will be given to essential and necessary items for day to day living (food, utilities, toiletries etc.), but other essential types of support will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Household Support Fund is available until the 31 March 2022.

Who can receive support?

The Household Support Fund aims to support as many residents as possible, who meet the eligibility criteria and are in need of this help the most

To apply for the funding an applicant must:

- live in Gloucestershire and be over 18 years old
- need immediate or short-term support to meet their/their family's essential needs

Information the applicant will need to provide on their form includes:

- how their household has been affected financially
- what their household needs help with
- their personal details (name, address, email, or phone number)

Where to submit an application

The application form for the Household Support Fund can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council website here: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/gloucestershire-welfare-support-scheme/local-support-grant-find-out-more-and-apply/>

How applicants will know that the application has been received

Once the application has been completed online, a screen will appear which tells the individual that the application has been successfully submitted.

What happens next?

The application will be reviewed by the Housing Support Fund team. If more information is required, we will contact the applicant to provide this before it will be submitted to the HSF Panel for review.

The Panel will look at the request and agree the provision (funding, items or otherwise) that will be provided to the individual or family. In some cases, the Panel may have further questions before they can make a decision on the application, or they may feel the application is outside the remit of the fund and signpost to alternative support. Once a decision has been made, the applicant (and referrer if a form was submitted on behalf of an applicant) will be notified via email of the outcome(s). If the application is successful, the HSF Team will provide details of what will be provided and how this will be supplied.

Thank you for helping us to make sure families and individuals can access the support they need this winter. If you have any queries regarding the Household Support Fund, please email childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk



Carols Across

The Valley

Friday 17th December 6pm

Whiteshill play area (by the shop)

Come and Sing Carols With Us

Supporting Longfield Hospice

www.justgiving.com/campaign/carols-across-the-valley-2021

Walk or come by bicycle as parking is very limited

Bring a torch or lantern

Mulled wine, soft drink and mince pies on sale

Merry Christmas to you all

If the weather is very wet or windy, the event will be cancelled.