



Whiteshill Weekly News

03/12/21

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

www.whiteshillschool.co.uk
admin@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk
Tel: 01453 762 949



I have to start this week's newsletter by saying an absolute huge thank you to everybody who was able to make it to the private viewing of the children's art exhibition at Lansdown Gallery on Wednesday evening. We were incredibly overwhelmed by how many of you turned out to support the children and the school and it was such a special evening that I will not forget for a very long time. I hope that yourselves and the children enjoyed it as much as we did and that they loved seeing their art work up on a real gallery wall!

The atmosphere for the whole evening really was electric and it was so wonderful after the last 18 months to all be doing something together as a whole school. All of the staff commented on how lovely it was to be able to stand and chat to you all and have time to enjoy each other's company – hopefully this will be the first of many events of this kind in the years to come.

We could not be prouder of all the children and their completed art works. They came to school on Monday with such a clear idea in their heads of what they wanted to portray and I'm sure you'll agree that each piece was completely unique and the array of ideas and the breadth of subject matter was fantastic. The question of 'what makes you happy' obviously inspired the children and it was so nice to hear them all talking together whilst they painted, sharing each other's joy.

One of the highlights of the evening for me was the fact that all the adults and children who were able to come along spent a long time really looking at all of the pieces of art, not just their own children's, discussing the different pieces and which ones stood out to them. Over the evening, every single piece was talked about and voted for and it was just such a joy to see the children talking about art in this way! What a fantastic learning experience for them all.

Thank you must of course go to the staff as well who put themselves out there and painted their own pieces for the exhibition – it really helped us all to understand and appreciate what the children were experiencing! I was really impressed with what they all came up with too and I know that we will treasure the pieces we created.

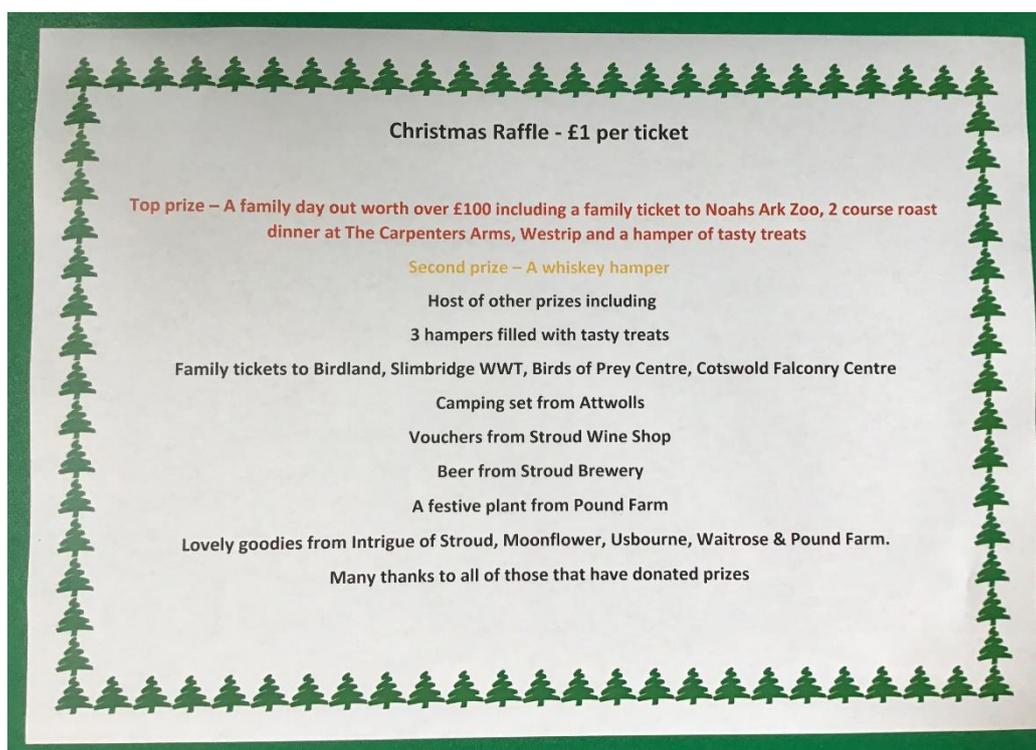
If you couldn't make it on Wednesday, the exhibition is still on in the gallery until 8pm this evening, during Stroud Goodwill. It has been open to the public since yesterday and I was lucky enough to go down and see people who were passing by looking round and even some who had come specially to see the exhibition because they had heard about in the paper or radio too! They were all so complimentary and it was lovely to share our special school with the wider Stroud community. The children's art will have been seen by so many people and I hope they feel like the real artists that they are!

My final thank you must of course go to Martin Turner, without whom this exhibition simply wouldn't have happened – he has done all of the hard work and given so much time and energy to the project, even securing a grant from the Gloucestershire County Council 'Build Back Better' fund to partially cover the costs. We will simply never be able to thank him enough, please do pass on your thanks to him in person if you get chance. Thank you as well must go to his lovely mum who I was lucky enough to spend time with down at the exhibition yesterday, who has given up her time to man it during the day whilst the public are visiting.

FoWS Christmas Fayre!

Another wonderful event this week was the FoWS Christmas Fayre on Saturday! What an enjoyable day that hopefully got you all in the Christmas mood! Again, it was a real joy to have everyone together and be able to celebrate as a whole school. Thank you everyone who came along to support the event. Hopefully you had chance as well to visit the other village venues on the day. Being part of the Whiteshill Winter Fayre meant that we had a lot of people from the wider community in school too, which is always lovely. We hope you had lots of fun! Thank you so much for all of FoWS and everyone who volunteered on the day to help the fayre run smoothly – we couldn't do it without you all. **FoWS raised over £400 on the day which is wonderful news as well.**

If you haven't already, please do come and buy some raffle tickets from the school office or return the ones which were sent home with the children – as you can see, there are some fantastic prizes on offer – it is well worth getting a ticket!



FoWS Christmas Jumper and School Uniform Sale!

Next Friday, 10th December, FoWS will be holding a school uniform sale in the hall from 2.45pm onwards. We thought that some of the children might well have grown by now and you might want to pick up a few pieces before the new term.

As well as this, we have decided that this year, in an attempt to be a little more eco-friendly and help people with saving money at Christmas, we will hold a Christmas jumper sale too! If you have Christmas jumpers that your children have grown out of from previous years (or adult ones as well!) and you are happy to donate them, please bring them up to school between now and next Friday and we will put them all out on Friday 10th for people to pick up one up for a small donation to FoWS ready for our Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 15th December. We hope this will mean less brand new jumpers will be brought this year!

The raffle will also be drawn on Friday 10th December during this time.

FoWS Christmas Disco!
Wednesday 8th December

Willow and Elm class 3:15 - 4:45pm

The children will need to bring their favourite disco clothes in to school in a bag and the teachers will get them changed before the end of the school day ready for the disco. This can be Christmas jumpers, sparkly outfits or whatever they feel comfy in for the disco. You do not need to come in to school at 3.15pm – we will take them straight to the disco in the hall unless they are unable to attend, in which case you can pick them up as normal after school.

Please come to pick your children up at 4:45pm and wait patiently whilst we make sure everyone leaves safely.

Maple and Oak class 5.00pm and end at 6.30pm

Please bring the children to school in their best disco outfits and pick them up again at the end – see above.

At both discos the children will be given hot dogs, candy floss and squash and we will adhere to the dietary needs you have identified with school. If these have changed for your child since September, please let us know before the disco starts.

Please note – it is important that you let us know if someone else is picking your child up from the disco who is not on your ‘going home’ list already. We will not let children go home with anyone other than those who have permission, as we wouldn’t at the end of a school day. You can do this on the day via email, phone or in person but please bear in mind there will not be anyone in the office from approx 3.45pm. Messages can be checked at the end of the disco but it may take a minute for us to get to them so may involve a slight wait.

We will keep all children safe in the hall until we have seen you. This does mean that it takes a little while, but as you can imagine, we need to ensure all the children leave safely – especially as it will be dark by this time, so please do bear with us if we ask you to wait.

News from Mrs Woods...

I’m very pleased to share with you that Mrs Woods has had a beautiful daughter! Her name is Arabella Sophia Woods and mother and baby are both doing well. I’m sure you will join us all in sending them our very best wishes, especially to Arthur who has become a big brother of course!



Christmas Tree

The children at after school club did a fantastic job of decorating our Christmas tree last night – it has made the hall look very festive and they had a lot of fun adding decorations and listening to Christmas tunes!



Willow Class History Box!

This week, the children in Willow class have had a box from the Museum in the Park in Stroud in class. It had a whole range of historical toys and games which they were able to explore. The teachers also arranged for them to have a zoom call with the museum experts who talked them through the box and answered their questions too – what a fantastic learning experience for them all! Photos below.

Christmas Cards

From Monday 6th December, the Christmas postbox will be available in school for children to post their cards to each other – the year 6 children will take them round to the different classes each day. Please make sure you put the class name on as well as the first name of the child so that they get to the correct person!

Radio Gloucestershire

If you didn't have chance to hear the school on Radio Gloucestershire at the weekend – you can listen here – it is a lovely snapshot of our wonderful children. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0b2wwh3> Our bit is at approximately 49 minutes.

