



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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I have to start this week's newsletter by saying a huge thank you to all of the wonderful staff at Whiteshill. It has been very frustrating this week to be at home and unable to be at school to support them through a time where we have sadly had a number of staff and children impacted by COVID-19. I'm pleased to say that everybody is on the mend now and we have not had any new cases in the last couple of days so from next week we should thankfully have almost everybody back in school.

The staff at Whiteshill have worked extremely hard this week to keep everything going, from staying late to cover after school club, taking on lunch duties every day, going to football tournaments and covering classes at the last minute, with many people working on their days off or for longer hours than they would normally. Our support staff in particular have been absolutely brilliant - not knowing from one day to the next where they would be needed, but going wherever they had to with a smile on their face and your children's learning and needs at the forefront of their minds. Mrs Angove in the office has of course kept everything going fantastically as well, organising all the logistics and putting up with constant phone calls and emails from me!

Well done as well to all the children who have been at home and valiantly got on with their remote learning when they have felt able to. Thank you as well to our children in school who have been back in bubbles for the last week and a half and have coped well with the change and taken it in their stride. Finally, thank you to you all for your patience and understanding and for carrying out lateral flow tests when you were able to in order to minimise the risk for everyone else - it is much appreciated.

I'm really looking forward to everyone being back in school together next week and am very much hoping for an extremely boring and uneventful few days to take us up to half term!!

Gardening Sessions

This term, Mr Pritchard has started our gardening sessions for the year as part of our Science curriculum and it has been lovely to see the children outside again after so long of not being able to. Each year group from 1 - 6 has had a session this term, with year 1 up next Monday. We are hoping to continue this through in to the spring and summer term. You can see some photographs of year 5's session, where they got stuck in to clearing the space, on our website gallery here:

www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/gallery

Peter and the Wolf

Please find attached to this newsletter a poster advertising a concert from Capriol Chamber Orchestra who are doing a special children's matinee of Peter and the Wolf, tomorrow at 4pm at Holy Trinity Church in Stroud. Not only is this a great opportunity for the children to hear classical music in concert but also features the wonderful Mr McLaughlin as the narrator! Mr McLaughlin has worked with many of the children in school teaching them brass over the last few years.

Museum in the Park – Ice Age Zooms!

There is an excellent opportunity this week for families to book (free) onto Stratford Park Museum in the Park's Ice Age talks on Zoom. There are a number of events at the Museum in person over the half term break, including crafts and a story-telling session for younger children over 5. Take a look here for more information: <https://museuminthepark.org.uk/ice-age-events>

The event this weekend is as follows:

Saturday 12 February | 2pm | Free, donations welcome

The Ice Age in Britain: Creswell Crags and Beyond - Talk with Angharad Jones

FAMILY FRIENDLY version – suitable for children over 8 years old and their parents/grandparents

Creswell Crags on the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border has many caves and rock-shelters, many of which contain Ice Age archaeology and palaeontology. Hear all about how these can tell us a lot about past environments, and the animals and humans that used to live in the area, and what the Ice Age was really like.

This talk takes place online via Zoom. Booking required, [book online here](#).

Framed Pictures



Thank you so much to one of our parents, Lesley Young, who very kindly offered to frame the winning paintings from our 'Happiness' art exhibition in December. They look wonderful in the colourful, wooden frames and I hope that they will be a fantastic keepsake for our budding artists – hopefully the first of many framed art pieces for them!

Lesley is a professional framer and you can find out more about her business here: <https://www.framingbylesley.co.uk/index.html>

Guitar and Drum Lessons

Our talented guitar and drum teacher Mr Cormack-Hicks has spaces to offer your child short, weekly private lessons during the school day if they are in Maple or Oak class. If you are interested in finding out more, including prices, please email iansguitartuition@googlemail.com

Photography Club

Our After School Clubs have started this term and on a Tuesday, some of the children in Elm class are learning about photography with Mrs Cripps!

Here is a little note from Mrs Cripps about what they have been up to as well as some photographs below:

“Last week, we learnt how to take a photo close up and how to focus the camera to ensure the photo was not blurry. We discussed how to rest our arms on something to make sure our hands were not shaking. We thought about how much of the object we wanted to include and the background. Some of the children set up the scene for their photograph, thinking about colour and composition.”

