



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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06/05/22

Welcome back after the Easter break, it's great to get stuck in to what promises to be an exciting summer term. We hope you all had a good break and the children enjoyed some rest too. There is lots to look forward to with visits, PGL residential, sporting events, music, plays and much more! Watch this space for dates etc. It is particularly important in the summer term to read the newsletter each week so that you can keep on top of everything that is happening in school!

This month we are of course supporting the children in year 6 through their SATs tests which take place next week – so if you don't see much of me or Mrs McKay you will know why! The children have been absolutely incredible over the last term, putting in their all to preparing so that they can really show off what they can do. They are a unique year as they are the first cohort to sit SATs following the COVID-19 lockdowns. This means that they have not had the normal route through Key Stage 2 and so we are incredibly proud that they are now very much ready for the tests next week – it has meant a lot of hard work and dedication from them and we hope that it has been a positive experience for them all. It has certainly been a real joy for us to see how they have really stepped up to meet the challenge and work together as a team, taking responsibility for their own learning and listening and taking on board so much. Well done Year 6 – we know you will do yourselves proud.

Reception 2022

We are very pleased to share that we have a full class of 15 children joining us in Willow Class in September, which is fantastic news for the school. If you have a younger child who is starting school in September, you should have received a welcome letter via email this week. It details the transition sessions and gives a date for our parent information evening. If you have not received this letter, please do let me know.

Warmer Weather

With the weather getting warmer, please make sure that your children's jumpers, cardigans and hoodies are labelled – there are a number being left in the playground and we want to get them back to their owners! If the warm weather continues, please send your children in to school with hats and suncream – particularly younger children – the playground does not offer a lot of shade in the heat of lunchtime.

Please make sure they have a water bottle every day as well.

PLEASE NOTE – some suncreams can contain almond oil – in particular Nivea Suncream, which has apparently changed its ingredients recently. Please check as you would with food for nuts and peanuts.

FoWS Easter Trail

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the Easter egg and fairy door trails over the break. The profits were shared between the school and playgroup and the trail managed to raise over £200 for the school. Thank you very much to everyone who put in the hard work to make this possible.

Hi5 Netball Competition

Myself and Mrs Harper were incredibly lucky last week to take a group of Maple Class children along to a Hi5 Netball competition arranged by Atlas Sports. The children had been playing Hi5 Netball in their PE lessons last term but had never played against another school before. The competition took place at Stratford Park Leisure Centre and there were 8 schools taking part, many of whom were bigger schools than Whiteshill. Hi5 Netball is a simple version of netball with 5 players on the court. The children were playing on a full-sized court for the first time so as you can imagine, that took a bit of getting used to as well! I honestly could not have been prouder of the group of children we took with us. They worked so hard through the day to watch the other teams, listen to advice and think about how they could improve their play. By the time George scored our first goal after lunch they were absolutely ecstatic! You would have thought we had won the whole tournament! We peaked at just the right moment, winning our first match in the play-offs with two goals from Oscar, ably assisted by Amber – I have never seen such a happy bunch! That win put us in to 6th position overall, a wonderful finish. I must point out as well that our team were all year 3 children except for one, whereas the other teams were mostly year 4 children so they did themselves proud. Thank you and well done to George, Oscar, Alex, Bethany, Isabelle, Amber, Phoebe Case, Penny and Nancy.



Martial Arts Parents Assembly

You may remember the children in Maple and Oak class missed out on their final session with Mrs Court before Easter as she was not well. She is currently in school teaching Elm class so she is going to do a final session with the children in Oak and the after-school club children in Maple on Wed 18th May. That afternoon, we would like to invite Oak class parents and Maple children who were in after school clubs' parents in to school at 2.50pm to watch a short display of what they have learnt.

The following Wed May 25th will be Elm class' turn to shine and their parents are invited in at 2.50pm to see what they have learnt over the term.

Please join us if you can.

Welcome

I would like to say a warm welcome to Livara who joined us yesterday in year 3. Her and her family are new to the area so please do say hello if you get the chance, thank you to all the children who helped her to feel welcome this week. We look forward to getting to know them all as part of our school community.

Friends of Whiteshill School WhatsApp Group

The Friends of Whiteshill School, who are our parent fundraising group are a very small committee at present and desperately need some more support in order to carry out fundraising events for the school community. The Jubilee celebrations in the park are coming up and they have been given the chance to fundraise through this event which is a real opportunity for the school and could give us a much needed budget boost! However, they of course need volunteers both on the day and in the run up to get things organised. Therefore, FoWS have decided to set up a WhatsApp group which all parents are welcome to join. This group will only be used for Friends business but will give you a chance to hear about what is happening and give your opinion on different ideas, as well as help the committee to get people on board with volunteering to raise money for the school.

If you would like to be part of this WhatsApp group, there is a sign-up box in the school lobby where you can pop your name and phone number and you will be added in. If you do this, you are giving permission for this information to be shared with the FoWS committee and the other parents in the group.

Please do get involved, it would be much appreciated by us all in school and the Friends and is a great chance to get to know other parents too.

Thank you.

Families Gloucestershire Magazine

Here is the link to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine](#).

This issue is full of useful information and advice for parents including starting school resources, times tables resources, Father's Day gift ideas, adventures at home and much more.

Wildlife Quiz

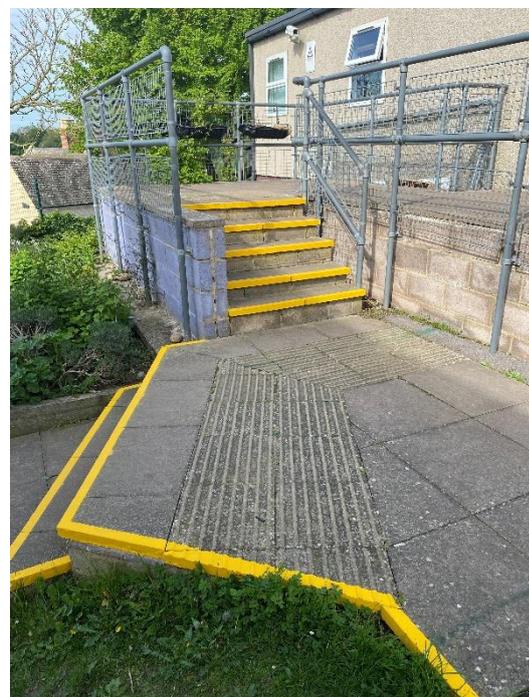
I'm pleased to share that the next round of the Wildlife Quiz will take place at Whiteshill on Thursday 19th May in the afternoon. The girls will be taking on Chalford Hill school. If they win, they will then move through to the Stroud area final, which would be incredible. Because the quiz is in school this time, there will not be a letter coming home as we do not require consent for the journey to another school. Unfortunately, we are not allowed spectators, but me and Mr Pritchard will be there to cheer the team on! Good luck to Lara, Rosanna, Molly and Rein.

Rags2Riches Collection

Don't forget we are holding a Rags2Riches collection in school next week where you can bring bags of old clothes in and donate them, making a profit for the school. Bags need to be donated on Tuesday morning before 9am. Please see attached poster for more detail.

Thank you!

I wanted to say a huge thank you to Bill Mesley who many of you may know. He is one of our governors and lives across from the school so is a big part of our family here at Whiteshill. Over the Easter holidays, he very kindly volunteered to come in and paint the edges of the concrete steps around the school. This is an important health and safety precaution as it allows the children to judge where the edge of the steps are to hopefully prevent trips and falls. The steps really needed a refresh and he has done an incredibly professional job. It must have taken up a huge amount of his time over the holidays and we can't thank him enough.



The Drop – Music Sessions at Stroud College

Click [here](#) to find out about 'The Drop', weekly music sessions for young people aged 10-18 at Stroud College each Wednesday from 4.30 – 6pm at a cost of just £3 per session. The Drop is a space for children to develop their skills and work with all genres of music. They offer music production, band and vocalist sessions, developing the skills to make, record and mix music. The sessions are for anyone - beginner-advanced. I know we have a number of children in year 6 who are interested in music and this would be a great way of building on what they have learnt through our whole class music sessions in school.

All Stars and Dynamos Cricket

There are a number of opportunities for the children to play cricket in the local area over the summer. To sign your child/children up for this summer, simply click here to find your local options- [England and Wales Cricket Board \(ECB\) - The Official Website of the ECB](#) .

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