



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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Well we have made it to the end of another fantastic term. I cannot believe how quickly this year is going and how fast the summer is upon us – it's a shame the windy weather doesn't quite seem to have got that memo yet! Fingers crossed for some lovely sunshine over the holidays. The children have been working immensely hard this term, in particular the year 2 and year 6 children who will be taking part in national assessments during May and who have been preparing for them in school. We are so proud of how the year 6 children in particular are approaching this and we know they are going to do themselves proud. The year 2 children are not really hugely aware of the testing and we very much approach it as part of their daily teaching and as just another chance for them to show us what they can do so please don't feel you need to talk to them about this – we will make sure the experience is not a daunting one for them.

FoWS Easter Egg Hunt and Fairy Door Trail

As you will know from last week, this year the Friends of Whiteshill have organised an Easter Egg Hunt and Fairy Door Trail for the children to take part in over the Easter holidays – it's a great opportunity to get them out and about in the fresh air, donate some money to the school and see the fantastic wooden eggs they have all painted in school! There is a poster at the bottom of the newsletter with all the details you need.

We are historians...

Next term, the children in Elm, Maple and Oak class will become historians for 5 weeks! They will be finding out about the following:

Elm class – Transport through history

Maple class – The Roman Empire and its Impact on Britain

Oak class – Ancient Mayan Civilisation

All About Family Magazine Link

www.allabout-family.co.uk/national-magazine/

Martial Arts Performance

Unfortunately, Mrs Court was not well this week so we had to postpone the martial arts performances – don't worry though – they will be rearranged for after the holidays so that you can see the children in action – more details to follow.

Rowing Competition

On Wednesday, myself and Mrs Edmonds were lucky enough to go along to the annual indoor rowing competition with a group of children from Oak Class. This competition is organised and run entirely by Mr Pritchard who provides all of the equipment and technology for the children to be able to race against each other on the day – it is all incredibly hi-tec and impressive! Over the last few years, Mr Pritchard has been carrying out indoor rowing lessons with the children in Maple and Oak class more and more and we now have these lessons scheduled in to our curriculum for both classes once each year. This means that the children are really learning about technique and improving all the time. On the day, all this hard work was clearly there for all to see. The children outdid themselves with 10 of them rowing a personal best!

I'm pleased to share that we came away with a number of 1st places in the heats (Annabelle, Hector and Faith – Faith deserves a special mention as she had been on an indoor rowing machine before and still won her heat!!), some 2nd place finishes (Grace, Megan, Leon and Mia) and a 3rd place too (Ewan). All of the children's individual scores in these heats were added up and we came in 4th position about of 6 schools – many of whom were larger than us which is such a brilliant team effort!

The children took part in relay races where they had to work together to keep going for a long race, pacing themselves and encouraging each other. Our year 6 boys relay came in 4th and year 5 boys came in 6th.

At the end, we waited to hear if we had gone any medals in the individual races and were incredibly pleased to find out that Annabelle had won the bronze medal – being 3rd fastest year 5 girl out of all the children present on the day. Even more astoundingly Mia won the gold medal – she was the fastest year 6 girl on the day from any of the schools!! An incredible achievement.

On top of this, the year 6 relay team got the bronze certificate – well done to Leon, Mia, Megan and Lara. Finally, one of the most exciting moments of the day came when the year 5 girls absolutely ran away with their relay race – winning the gold and bringing home a trophy for their efforts! The cheering from the rest of the team was deafening and they all felt so proud of the girls - Well done to Ella, Abbie, Grace and Annabelle.

As always, our children were excellent ambassadors for the school, supporting and encouraging each other without a second thought – thank you so much to you all for a completely joyous day! Sammy, Ella, Megan, Abbie, Leon, Seve, Mia, Lara, Noah, Rowan, Ewan, Stanley, Hector, Annabelle, Grace and Faith.
Photos on the website gallery here: www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/gallery



Parents' Evening

Parents' evening takes place in the week after half term on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th April. If you have not signed up already, please do today at pick-up – the sheets are in the lobby of the school office. It is an important opportunity to get to know the teachers and hear about how your child is getting on in school.

Following feedback from our recent parental survey and a recent INSET day where we looked at how we can help you support your children effectively at home with their learning, we have introduced parent assessment sheets for you to take away with you at parents evening. These will give you the end of year expectations for your child's year group as well as an up to date assessment of the gaps in their learning so that you know what we are working on with them at present.

We have put in place a plan of action following the INSET day in February, which we will continue to work on over the summer term in order to be ready for September. This includes a plan for curriculum information on the website, information evenings and events for parents, home learning support and more - this is something that has been on my mind as a leader for some time, but has not been entirely possible due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the extra work that this created. We now have the breathing space and are allowed parents in the building too which helps! The staff are all very keen and we are looking forward to sharing with you what we have come up with when it is ready. Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey, it was really useful to work from your feedback with staff.

Gloucestershire Music Sessions

I'm pleased to share that in the summer term Gloucestershire Music will be joining us again. The children in Maple class will be having whole class violin lessons, building on the work they have done previously with this instrument. In Oak class, the children will be learning the clarinet! Very exciting as this is an instrument we have not learnt before but I'm sure all their work with Mr McLaughlin on brass will no doubt stand them in good stead. The children all have an instrument each and receive 10 sessions of music tuition from a specialist teacher across the term.

After School Clubs

A new letter will go out after the holidays with the after school clubs available during the summer term. There will be no after school clubs in the first week back therefore.

Coding club has been a fantastic success this term with Mr Wilson ably supporting the children to code the microbits. They worked together in groups to make a weather station which we put out in the school garden. The children had to input some really complex code in order for them to work and I'm pleased to say they read their results today – the weather stations had measured the temperature and pressure every hour for 24 hours. Well done to all the children involved and thank you again to Mr Wilson for all his hard work with this – it just wouldn't be possible without him.



PE Days

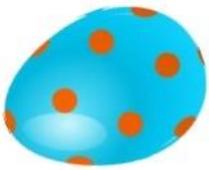
PE days after Easter will be as follows – starting in the first week back:

Elm class – Wednesday
Maple class – Thursday
Oak class – Wednesday

Glockenspiels!

I wanted to say a huge thank you to the Friends of Whiteshill School who have paid for a class set of glockenspiels for the children out of money donated by you all this year. We have invested in a new music scheme in school called 'Charanga' following some research and monitoring by our music subject lead Mrs Clarke. It is a really exciting scheme which allows the children to learn how to read music, sing and play instruments whilst also giving them chance to listen to music and find out about different genres. I have been covering some of the lessons in the afternoons and the unit on modern hip-hop with year 6 was so much fun! Last week I was listening to 'Tubular Bells' by Mike Oldfield with Elm class and swinging along to some New Orleans Jazz with Maple! As part of the Charanga scheme, each week there is an element of instrument playing and in order for all the children to get the most from this, we wanted to get a class set of glockenspiels so that they all have chance to take part on a quality piece of kit instead of scrambling around and sharing! I used them for the first time in Maple class on Tuesday and the children were so pleased and I can see that the progress they will make as a result of having these instruments is going to be great. Thank you to FoWs for making this possible – we would not have been able to afford them without your support.





**Whiteshill Playgroup and Friends of Whiteshill
School invite you to enjoy our...**



EASTER TRAIL



**Route 1 – Fairy Walk. Short buggy friendly walk
finding fairy doors around Whiteshill village**

**Route 2 – Easter Egg Trail. Longer, off road walk in
the woods & footpaths surrounding Whiteshill**

Maps £3 each or £5 for both

Trails run from Monday 11th April to Monday 25th April

**(cash only, all proceeds shared between Whiteshill Playgroup and
Whiteshill Primary School)**

Pop your money in the pot. If you need change help yourself but
remember to sanitise after handling cash 😊

**Have a wonderful Easter Break – thank you for all your support this term and we
look forward to seeing you for an exciting summer term ahead!**

**Don't forget there is an INSET day on Monday 25th April so the children will return
to school on Tuesday 26th.**