

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

www.whiteshillschool.co.uk

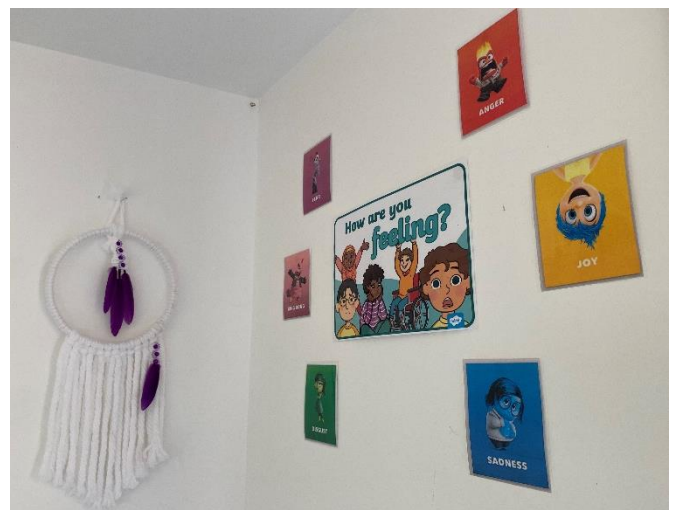
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I wanted to start by sharing with you that Mrs Whalley (our Elm Class TA) has now fully qualified as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant or 'ELSA'. We have wanted to have an ELSA in the school for some time but unfortunately the training was cancelled during COVID so it was not possible. Mrs Whalley started her training in September and has been busy with it across the year. She is now qualified and will start working with children in the summer term, continuing in September of course. The role of the ELSA is to support children in school who have been identified by teachers as needing support with social, emotional or mental health needs. Mrs Whalley will work with children on a one-to-one or small group basis, allowing us to help them understand their emotions and what strategies they can apply themselves if they are feeling overwhelmed by an emotion. For example, this could be linked to self-esteem, anxiety and worries or lack of confidence. Mrs Whalley is a very experienced TA who has worked with children with a whole range of special educational needs throughout her career and we are very excited to have her working in this role going forwards. Below you can see some photographs of the cabin which Mrs Whalley has transformed in to an ELSA 'pod' where these sessions will take place.



Staffing News

I wanted to let you know about a few staffing changes for September. I'm pleased to share that Miss Middleton will be returning full-time from her maternity leave and will be teaching Oak class again from September – we look forward to having her back with us.

Mrs McKay, our current Oak Class teacher, who has been covering Miss Middleton's maternity leave, I'm sad to share will be moving on to pastures new from September. She has got a new permanent full-time job at Ampney Crucis Primary School in Cirencester and we are all very excited for her as she moves on to this next adventure in her career. Mrs McKay has been a huge part of Whiteshill School for a number of years, taking on so many different roles and bringing her incredible teaching skills and immense warmth and care to all the children that she has taught. I know that all of you who have had children lucky enough to be taught by Mrs McKay will know exactly what I am talking about and will be feeling the same way as we are about her leaving! The children will particularly miss her tendency to burst in to song at every possible opportunity! Mrs McKay was of course our wellbeing lead throughout the COVID-19 lockdown as well and she worked incredibly hard to ensure that we kept the children and staff's mental wellbeing at the forefront during that time and beyond. Not only that, but she is a wonderful friend and human being and I know that all the staff at Whiteshill will miss her supportive presence and the sunshine she brings with her in to every room. Mrs McKay will continue teaching Oak class until the end of the summer term.

As well as this, Mrs Johnson, who stepped in to teach Oak in the afternoons this year is sadly going to be leaving us a little earlier than planned as she has an upcoming operation next week.

We were incredibly lucky to find Mrs Johnson at the start of the year and she has filled in fantastically, teaching a whole range of subjects to Oak Class and bringing her wealth of experience with her. Her last day with Oak class was on Thursday but she will be in next Tuesday afternoon teaching Maple whilst we are away on PGL if you would like to say goodbye. Mrs Edmonds, who already works in Oak class, will be taking over Mrs Johnson's role from next week.

Penny's Poem

Before the half term holidays, Penny, from Maple Class entered an online poetry competition organised by 'MadeByDyslexia' a national charity who support children with Dyslexia. I'm absolutely over the moon to share with you that Penny won the competition with her fantastic poem 'Dyslexia is my SuperPower'! We are so proud of Penny for putting herself out there and sharing her creative way of thinking with the world. The poem was shared online by the charity and Penny received a prize of some reading books which you can see her proudly holding in the photo.

Well done Penny – we are all so proud of you and the wonderful writer you have become.



Friends of Whiteshill School

For those of you who went along to the Whiteshill Jubilee celebrations you will have seen the Friends of Whiteshill School busy raising funds for the school through the teddy tombola and refreshments. Thank you so much to the committee for organising this and also to everyone who helped out on the day – it couldn't have happened without you! Thank you as well to all those who donated to the teddy tombola.

I'm pleased to share that on the day FoWS raised £430 for the school which will continue to help us with enhancing the children's learning and curriculum in a number of ways.

Thank you as well to those of you who bought books online through the 'BookWorm' Sale to support the Friends. We were able to order some new reading books for Maple and Oak class as a result of your support.

Year 5 Net Zero Challenge

Oak Class have recently taken part in a competition run by a local company, Atkins, entitled 'Net Zero Superheros' where they have thought about how they can encourage the school to move towards Net Zero Carbon Emissions. As part of this competition, Bobby, Oliver, Sam, Lola and Lilia came up with the idea of a challenge for all the families in our school to get walking, cycling and scooting over the summer term! Yesterday they introduced the idea to the children in assembly so you might have heard them talking about it already. Please see the last page of the newsletter for the information the children have written themselves to tell you about the challenge they have set!

Athlete Visit

You should have received a letter this week about our athlete visit in July arranged by Sports for Champions UK. Sponsor forms have come home too for the children to collect sponsor money in order to help fund the event and support the athletes who visit schools. They do not have to do anything extra, they are being sponsored for completing the circuits with the athlete on the day in July. All funds raised can be paid online in to our Crowdfunder page here: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/whiteshill> if you don't want to collect sponsorship you can of course just make an online donation here instead. All funds collected up to £450 will go to Sports for Champions UK and anything above that amount, 60% of it will be shared with the school. If the £450 is not raised there is no charge to the school for the event. More information can be found in the letter sent out previously. We look forward to welcoming our athlete, Robert Mitchell to school on 14th July.

PCSO Visits

We have had several visits recently from our new Police Community Support Officer for Whiteshill and Ruscombe, Amy Webb. She has carried out a session on road safety for all the children in school and also visited Elm and Maple classes to talk to them about the role of the police. Amy is an important part of our community and so it is great for the children to get to know her in this way and she has delivered some important safety messages too. We will be maintaining our relationship with her and she is hoping to continue to visit regularly in the coming months and years.

Many, many more photographs of our recent Jubilee celebrations can be found on our website here: www.whiteshillschool.co.uk/gallery as well as some photos from the recent martial arts assemblies. Please do take a look.

DEAR STUDENTS, PARENT AND CARERS,

How can we reduce using vehicles because they are polluting the air with carbon? We can walk more and use our cars less - even if you live far away you can always drive half and walk the other half!

We are holding a challenge to see how far you can travel in 6 weeks by using bikes/scooters or walking (no cars or buses etc.).

If you complete the equivalent of half a marathon (13.1 miles), you will receive a certificate and a medal in assembly.

If you manage to complete the equivalent of a full marathon (26.2 miles), the prize will be a bag of tree seeds, a certificate and a medal in assembly.

Everybody that takes part will be rewarded with a clap in assembly too.

The marathon will start on the 13/6/22. The final day will be the 18/7/22 - 6 weeks in total.

You will have to track the distance on your phone or watch etc. Please send a screenshot of how far you have travelled to head@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk to show us how you got on. Work together as a family to track your miles.

GOOD LUCK FROM Bobby, Oliver, Sam, Lola and Lilia.

