



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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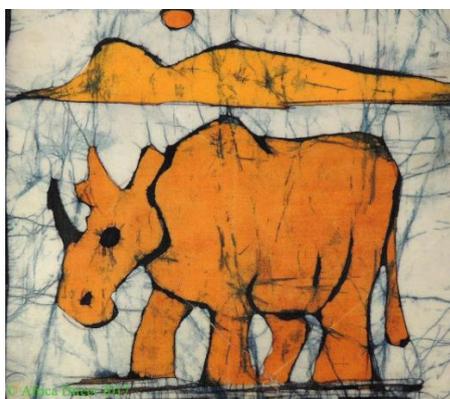
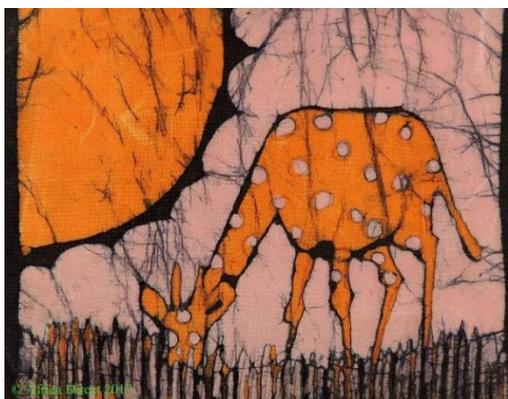
24/06/22

We are Artists...

This term, the children from year 1 upwards have launched in to their art projects already. They have been finding out about famous artists for inspiration and then creating their own pieces – drafting and critiquing their work as they go so that they can work towards a final piece they can be proud of.

Elm class are learning all about print-making. They are basing their work on the art of William Morris and have already created prints using a range of techniques for example mono-printing (which you can find out more about [here](#) if you would like to have a go at home) and printing by carving in to polystyrene sheets and rolling ink over them. The end results are fantastic so far and we can't wait to see their final pieces.

Maple class have been looking at some African Batik prints and they are going to be creating their own batik prints using hot wax and ink on material. Each child has been working really hard on their design, refining it to make sure it is simple and clear so that it will work well with the batik dye and wax. They have practised already using wax crayons and watercolour and are ready to go for it next week. There are some examples of batik below, which works with the hot wax blocking the dye, for you to see the sort of art they will be aiming for when they work in pairs with Miss Davis next week.



In Oak class, the children are finishing the year by applying all of the skills they have learnt in art over the last few years in a mixed-media piece of their own choosing. They will work with collage and a range of materials to create a piece that is entirely **unique** to them – we can't wait to see what they come up with! We hope that this project gives them the opportunity to truly be artists!

Material donations needed!

Do you have any material scraps or old clothes you could donate to Oak Class' art project?! We need lots of different textures, colours and patterns to cut up and sew on so anything you don't want anymore would be much appreciated – the more the merrier! ribbons, wool, fur, patterned material, anything that could make up a fabric collage would be great. Just bring it in to school early next week.

Once the children are finished with their art, they will then end the year with a design and technology project – this summer's projects are all based around food! They will be creating and designing food and menus for different audiences and getting chance to cook themselves in school.

Term Dates

Don't forget, due to the Platinum Jubilee, we have an extra day's holiday at the end of term so the last day in school will be Thursday 21st July. Term dates can be found on the website [here](#) for this year and next. Don't forget, holidays in term time will be unauthorised and can lead to a penalty notice – see our attendance page of the website [here](#) for more information, along with an information leaflet for parents about penalty notices.

Dates for your Diary!

The summer term is jam packed so please make sure you put these dates in your diary – more detail will follow for each event nearer the time.

Date	Event	Who?
Tue 28 th June	MyPlan Reviews	Invited parents of children with SEND – see recent email for more detail.
Tue 28 th June	District Sports – jumps and throws from 5pm	Invited children in Maple and Oak class – please return slip ASAP!
Tues 5 th July	District sports – running – from 6pm	Invited children in Maple and Oak class – letters will go out on Friday after we have chosen the children.
Wed 6 th July	How do we teach maths?! Parents information session	All parents welcome
Thursday 7 th July	Sports Day – approx. 9.30 onwards – we will walk down to the field as soon as the children are registered and ready. We will aim to finish in time for lunchtime at 12.15.	Whole School – parents and any other relatives are very welcome to attend.
Thursday 7 th July	Sponsor money deadline for Sports for Champions athlete visit – see previous letter for detail. Crowdfunder page link for online donations	Whole School
Tues 12 th July	Clarinet Performance – afternoon	Oak Class – parents welcome
Wed 13 th July	Summer Music Concert – 1.30pm	Mr Cormack-Hicks guitar and drum students – parents welcome.
Wed 13 th July	Shonkball Festival	Elm Class
Thurs 14 th July	Sports for Champions Athlete visit 1 – 3pm	Whole School
Mon 18 th July	Leavers Play – 2pm	Oak Class – parents welcome
Tues 19 th July	Leavers Play – 6pm	Oak Class – parents welcome
Thursday 21 st July	Leavers celebrations and last day of term	Oak class

How do we teach maths?!

Parents information session

Following our recent inset day where we looked at the feedback from our parent questionnaire on how we communicate about your childrens' learning, we will be holding a parent information session on Wed 6th July at 2.30pm. This session will be a chance for you to hear all about how we teach maths in school from Willow class right up to year 6. We hope that this will help you relate to what your children are doing in school and understand their daily experience so that you can support them and be more informed when discussing their learning with their teacher. We appreciate that not everyone will be able to attend at this time but we plan for these information sessions to become part of life at Whiteshill School and we will repeat them at different times each year so that everyone can benefit as your children move up through the school. We will also upload the presentation to the school website so that you can access it following the session as well.

Staffing News...

I'm very pleased to share with you that Mrs Colman is pregnant with her second child, a little brother or sister for her daughter Millie. I'm sure you will join us in sending our warmest congratulations to Mrs Colman and her partner James.

Mrs Porter, who has been working alongside Mrs Colman in Elm class this year will be leaving us at the end of the year also for a new adventure. She has been a fantastic addition to our team this year and we wish her the best of luck in the future. Mrs Porter's last day in school will be on 21st July.

I'm pleased to share that Mrs Woods will be returning from her maternity leave in the autumn and so she will now teach Elm class upon her return. Mrs Colman and Mrs Edmonds will start the year with the children until Mrs Woods returns during October. Mrs Woods is an extremely experienced teacher who has worked at the school in both Willow and Maple class. She also has a background in supporting children with SEND, working in special schools as well as mainstream. She is also our resident sign language expert so we can't wait to have her back at school so that we can return to promoting sign language even more with the children as we have done in the past.

We will be employing a new teacher to join our team in Maple class for September – I will of course let you know as soon as I am able who this will be.

I also want to share with you that Mrs Cody, our wonderful TA who works in Elm class and also does breakfast club in the mornings, will be retiring from her permanent post with us in August. Many, many of you know what an incredible person and teaching assistant Mrs Cody is. She has been a calm, caring and incredibly capable presence in our school for the last few years and I honestly can't sum up what she has given to all of us in that time. She is unfailingly flexible and positive, always working with the children at the absolute heart of everything she does. I feel incredibly lucky and privileged to have worked with her and the children have all benefited from her time here. The good news is that Mrs Cody has promised me she will not be disappearing and is hoping to continue to work at the school in a more casual capacity so we are not letting her go entirely quite yet!!

Matt Fiddes Martial Arts

Matt Fiddes Martial Arts have now secured a venue for a club in Stroud every Thursday, starting on the 1st September at Thomas Keble Secondary School. There will be a Family class each week for those age 5 years+ from 6.15pm – 7.15pm and also an MF Fusion/Ladies Only class from 7.15pm – 8pm if you want to have a go!

'In the Net' E-safety Play

Last Friday afternoon, the children in year 4 walked down to the Rosary School to watch an e-safety play designed to engage the children with important messages about staying safe online. This play is offered to all children in year 4 across Gloucestershire and was a great fun way to re-enforce the messages we teach in school.



Goodbye

Yesterday, we said goodbye to Polly and her family who are moving house this week. Anna, Polly's mum has been the treasurer of the Friends of Whiteshill School this year and we can't thank her enough for all the time and effort she has put in to getting the fundraising off the ground again following the COVID-19 restrictions. Polly will be missed by all her friends in Elm class and we wish the whole family the very best of luck with their move.

Governor Profile

We wanted to let you know a little more about the group of governors who work hard to support our school, giving their time voluntarily for such an important role. Hopefully this will mean you can recognise them if you see them around the school at any point. This week, I want to introduce you to Julie Hughes, who has been a governor at the school since 2020. She brings a whole host of experience with her to the role and is a fantastic addition to the board. She makes regular visits to school, in particular in her role as safeguarding governor, through which she monitors our practises closely.

Julie moved to Gloucestershire in 1982 where she met her husband John and they lived for over 30 years in Cheltenham where they set up a solicitors practice and raised their children.

Julie and John moved to Far Oakridge in 2011 when they were both semi-retired from the practice, enabling them to have the time to renovate their new home, and they planned and enjoyed overland trips in east and west Africa, South America and the USA.

When Julie retired completely she looked forward to another challenge so she applied to be a governor at Whiteshill where she has taken on the role of Safeguarding Governor as well as being on the Standards and Curriculum Committee.

Julie enjoys walking with her new Welsh Terrier pup Dilys, and still hopes to continue travelling post-pandemic!



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.

