



Whiteshill Weekly News

09/09/22

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

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We were of course all saddened to hear of the Queen's death yesterday, surrounded by her family. I know that many of the children have been impacted by this news, particularly as so recently they remember celebrating her life through the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We started the day with an assembly where we talked about the Queen's life and watched a video together which took them through her reign. It was nice to have the chance to talk all together about their memories of the Queen, they particularly loved her sketch recently with Paddington Bear of course and we also shared some other stories which reflected her sense of humour and kindness. We will continue to look out for further DfE guidance as to how her funeral will be marked, please do be prepared that this may involve a day of schools being closed. At the moment though, nothing has of course been set in stone.

There is some advice [here](#) if you would like to talk further with your children, or if you are not sure how to. There is also a Newsround article [here](#), which takes you through her life in pictures and may be useful.

Welcome

The children have had a brilliant first week back in school. They have all adapted so well to their new classes and it has felt like a very smooth transition. We must of course welcome Mr Haidon to our school staff, our new Maple class teacher who is in his first year of teaching. Please do say hello to him on the playground if you get the chance.

We are very excited to welcome our new Willow class in to school. They have had a week filled with fun as you can see from the photographs below. Hello and welcome to Sonny, Benny, Charlie, Kit, Walter, Kai, Lily, Gracie-Mae, Jude, Erin, Gabriel, Ilona, Florence, Oscar and Matthew – well done all on a fantastic first week. Photographs of their first week will follow on the website gallery this weekend.

I am very pleased to welcome Ayla and her family as well who has joined us in year 5. We are so pleased to have her here with us for the last two years of her primary school journey and I know the children in year 5 are going to love having her onboard.

Please do introduce yourselves to Ayla's family as well as Gabriel, Florence, Erin and Charlie's families who are all new to our school – I know you will make them feel most welcome.



The children in Elm, Maple and Oak have started bang with a bang, answering their science week enquiry questions as follows:

Elm class – why is a rock not alive?

Maple class – Why can't pigs fly?

Oak class - Do all living things lay eggs?

They have been out and about in the garden at the back of school looking for creatures and finding things that are alive or not! As you can see, it has been a **curious** and interesting start to the term.



Friends of Whiteshill School AGM

Please join the Friends of Whiteshill School for their Annual General Meeting, which will be held at Kenwin Orchard, Highfield Road, GL6 6AL at 8pm next Thursday evening, 15th September. This is a great chance to have a social catch-up and meet other parents in a relaxed atmosphere, whilst also finding out how you can support the school and this fantastic group of parents in fundraising to enhance your children's experience at Whiteshill. Everyone welcome!

Forest School

Forest school will start for Oak class next Friday afternoon, see letter coming home today – please return the consent slip as soon as possible. At the moment, we are in the process of having the site and trees surveyed in the forest school area so this may result in us not being able to use Ruscombe Woods for the first few weeks. If this is the case, Mr Pritchard will lead the sessions down at the recreation ground instead.

Willow class forest school will start in a few weeks time once the children have settled in to routine in school, please look out for further information.

Poetry Recitation Assembly and Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 30th September, the children in Elm, Maple and Oak will be putting on a poetry performance for parents in the school hall. Their first English unit each September is to learn about a famous poet and learn some of their poems off by heart as a whole class. Last year, they did such a wonderful job of it, this year they wanted to share it with you all! The assembly will start after register (just after 9am) so you will be able to come up to the hall after drop-off and wait for the children there.

After the assembly, we invite you to stay and spend some time chatting and eating cake! We will be hosting a Macmillan coffee morning, raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. We will be asking for cake donations for this, more information will be sent out nearer the time. If you can't make the assembly or your child is in Willow class but would like to come to the coffee morning, it will start at approximately 9.30am.

After School Clubs

A letter setting out which after school clubs we will be offering this term will go out next week, please keep an eye out for this as the letter needs to be returned promptly. Children in year 2, 3 and 4 should have already received a letter via email letting you know about archery club which will take place on a Tuesday after school and is run externally by Jez from Cotswold Coaching.

Forest Green Rovers – Free Shirts

If your child is in year 3 and they are interested in football, are a FGR supporter, or have never been before and would like to give it a go, Forest Green Rovers are offering a free home shirt to anyone who was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015. Applications close tomorrow at midday so you will need to be quick but it is a great opportunity. Free tickets for child and an accompanying adult for the game against Morecambe on 17th September are also available for those collecting their shirt – all the information you need is [here](#)

INSET day change of date

Please note – the INSET day, which was due to take place on May 26th 2023, will no longer be on this date but will instead take place on the final day of the summer term, Friday July 21st. As a result, the children will now finish school for the summer on Thursday July 20th 2023! The new term dates can be found [here](#).

PE Days

PE days this half term will be as follows:

Elm – Monday
Oak – Tuesday
Maple – Wednesday (swimming)

Please see recent email for details on swimming lessons, which start next week. As part of our enhanced PE curriculum, this term Elm class will be learning kurling with Mr Pritchard and Oak class will be working with Jez from Cotswold Coaching on their archery skills.

Families Magazine

Here is the **link** to the next issue of [Families Gloucestershire Magazine](#). Their '**Back to School**' issue is loaded with really useful information and articles for parents including:

- Getting school support for a child with SEN
- Why education begins at home
- Road safety for children
- Chapter books that encourage kindness
- New term teething problems
- Brilliant first chapter books for early readers
- Screen free rainy day activities
- Enjoying Autumn outside
- Family friendly walks for Autumn
- DIY Halloween costumes

Reception Buddys

The year 6 children have been allocated their buddies in Willow class today – the playground was so full of joy as they met each other for the first time! We hope the children will come home and tell you all about them today, but don't worry you will get chance to meet them at some point so you can put a face to a name. There are some lovely photos of them together which I will put up on the school website this weekend and send out a text to let you know when they are up so you can take a look.

Minchinhampton RFC

TRY RUGBY

GIRLS

**BRING OUT THAT INNER
WARRIOR IN YOU.**

SUNDAYS

**Years 4,5,6 & 7
11.15-12.30pm**

**Years 8 +
1-2pm**



England
Rugby

**WE PLAY
RUGBY**



@minch_rfc



@minchinhampton_rfc



girls@minchrugby.com





Ceramics for Kids ages 7-12
SEPTEMBER 2022
 Six-week course – Mondays 5:00 - 6:30
Rebecca Simmons




This, Chalford based, course will involve; pinch pots, coil pots, animals, masks, figures, slab building and more! Work will be fired and glazed. Sessions start on the 12th of September until the 17th of October.

Course fee £90 (small charge for clay)

Contact me: 07914938643 or scan QR code to book



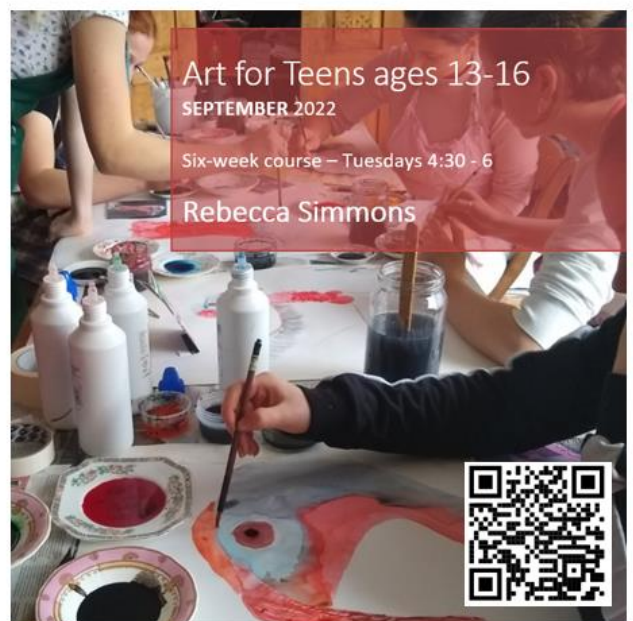
Ceramics for Adults
18th SEPTEMBER 2022
 One day Workshop – Sunday 10-4
Rebecca Simmons





This, Chalford-based, creative and interactive one day workshop will include modelling, pinch pots, coil pots, slab building, and a wide range of decorative techniques using natural materials and tools.

Course fee £70 (materials included)

Contact me: 07914938643 or scan QR code to book



Art for Teens ages 13-16
SEPTEMBER 2022
 Six-week course – Tuesdays 4:30 - 6
Rebecca Simmons



Stroud based, creative art classes to develop experimental sketch booking, portrait drawing, watercolour painting, oil painting, lino printing, mono printing, still life drawing, charcoal, chalk and more!

Course fee £90 (materials included)

Contact me: 07914938643 or scan QR code to book