



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

09/10/22

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Welcome Event

As I have mentioned previously, last year following a really useful parent survey, we worked together as a staff to put in place a plan for parental engagement going forwards. As part of this, we thought hard about parents' evenings, as these are the one opportunity we get to spend one on one time with you to talk about your children's learning. We have decided as a result to change when we run parents' evenings so that they can be much more informative and useful for you and so that you will come away hopefully knowing more about your child's learning and progress.

This year, we are holding a welcome event, next Wed 12th October, for all parents to attend. This gives you chance to come and see inside the classroom and chat to the teachers informally. There will be information out in each classroom for you to look at about how we support your children in reading, writing and maths as well as information on how you can support them at home.

At Christmas, we will do our first teacher assessment of the children, we do this every year and it allows us to work out where their gaps in learning are on their new year group expectations. In order to have an informed conversation with you about your children's learning, we will now do our first parents' evening in early January, after this assessment. They will also have a lot more learning in their books at this point so it will allow you to really see how they are getting on in their new year group, rather than coming 6 weeks in to the first term. The second parents' evening will then take place after Easter, following our second assessment of the year, this will also allow us to discuss with you any issues around the end of year tests in year 2 and year 6 as well as the phonics screening and times tables tests which take place in June.

Please do come and join us next week if you are able at the following times:

Willow Class – 2.45pm in the school hall – an information session for parents about phonics and reading

Elm, Maple and Oak class – Welcome Event in classrooms – 3.15 – 4pm. We will do pick-up as normal and then you can come back up to the classrooms with your children to wander around. Siblings can go to more than one classroom of course. Anyone who is not able to attend, we will send the information home to you with the children in the following week.

We hope to see you there!

Poetry Assembly and Coffee Morning

Thank you so much to everyone who attended our poetry assembly and Macmillan coffee morning. It was such a joy for the children to share with you what they had been learning in class and show you how much they get out of learning poems off by heart each September. It was great to have parents back in school socialising and relaxing together too. Thank you so much to everyone who made all of the wonderful cakes! I'm pleased to share that thanks to your generous efforts, together we raised an incredible £232 for an excellent cause that is close to all our hearts here.

2022 Test Results

I'm very pleased to share with you all our Key Stage 1 and 2 test results from last year. These are not published by the government this year, due to the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown, but we wanted to share them with you as we are very proud of the children and how much progress they made, despite two years of immense disruption.

I have to say thank you to all my staff at Whiteshill who have worked tirelessly over the last two and half years to make sure that all our children have not been overly impacted academically by the COVID-19 lockdowns. Our ambition was to ensure the children in our care were back where they needed to be by last summer and our SATS results very much show that this is the case. You can see our results in comparison to national averages to help you understand them in context (there are no national averages for greater depth). As you can see, we are above the national average in all areas.

Key Stage 2 Results (End of Year 6)

	Reading		Writing		Maths		SPaG	
	School	National	School	National	School	National	School	National
Working at the expected standard	93%	74%	86%	69%	79%	71%	79%	72%
Working at greater depth	36%		36%		29%		36%	

Key Stage 1 Results (End of Year 2)

	Reading		Writing		Maths	
	School	National	School	National	School	National
Working at the expected standard	73%	67%	73%	58%	73%	68%
Working at greater depth	20%		13%		33%	

FoWS Scarecrow Trail – Half Term Fun!

The FOWs are running the scarecrow trail again in October half term. Last year this raised over £700 and bought money in from the wider community. This year there is a fabulous prize, a 2-night stay in a central London apartment for the best scarecrow. We really need people to support the event by making a scarecrow, there is a children's literature (books, TV, character) theme. If you live outside the village we can find somewhere to host your scarecrow so you can still enter. Please contact friendsofwhiteshillschool@outlook.com or let Laura Asplin (Lewin's mum) know.

This year we are raising money to support the school's vision of providing the children with real life experiences and encouraging the love of reading by funding a theatre trip or school performance and hopefully an author visit. We would also like to look in to the possibilities of providing more shade in the school playground. Please let Miss Francis know if you would like to help with the research needed for this project. Help us achieve our targets by supporting this event.

New Attendance Policy

As I mentioned in the summer term, following the COVID-19 lockdowns, the government have issued new advice this September about attendance in schools. As a result, DGAT have updated the school pupils' attendance policy. You can find the policy on the school website [here](#).

Parents' responsibilities for attendance, as set out by government, are as follows:

- Ensure their child attends every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies.
- Notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent (e.g. sickness).
- Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance.
- Book any medical appointments around the school day wherever possible.

In line with this new policy, all families will receive a letter home at the end of each half term informing them of their child's current attendance so that you can make informed decisions going forwards and work with us to ensure it is at a high level of 96% or above wherever possible.

Lateness

Please note that our school day begins officially at 08.45, your child will be registered as late if they do not arrive at school before 9am. If they are not in school before 9.15am, this will be classed as an unauthorised absence, unless an authorised reason is given. **Phonics, spelling and grammar sessions in school begin at 9am after register, so if your child is persistently late, this will have a huge impact on their learning as they will miss out on or be late to, these crucial sessions.**

Odd Socks Day

As part of National Anti-bullying Week, on Monday 14th November, we will be having an 'Odd Socks Day'. The children can come to school wearing Odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique! This is not a fundraising day, but just a way of raising awareness and a chance to talk to the children about the messages of Anti-bullying week both in school and at home. Please don't spend any money on socks – anything they have already at home will do!

Caterlink Job Vacancy

Caterlink have vacancies delivering and serving the meals at Whiteshill Primary School - 16 hrs per week or 5 hrs per week £9.50 per hour. Own vehicle essential - mileage paid. Please contact Leza on 07471953468 or email lbridgman-flaherty@caterlinkltd.co.uk

First Aid and Medicine Reminder

Just a reminder then when your child has an accident in school, we will send you a text message at the end of the school day to let you know that they have received first aid in school. It is our duty to report all accidents to you, so apologies that you do have to sometimes put up with text messages about paper cuts! But it is better that you know so that you can keep an eye on any open wounds.

If they bump their head in school, we will send you a text message asking you to check your email. It is important that you do as this email will let you know the time and circumstances of the head bump and will also have attached to it information on how to monitor them and their symptoms in case of concussion, which can result from even a small head bump.

If your child has an accident or head bump in school that is more severe, we will contact you straight away, not wait for the end of the day. We may ask you to come to school to get them in order to monitor them more closely as we cannot do this in school. **It is very important that we have at least two up to date emergency contact numbers for your child just in case we need to contact you for this reason.**

If your child needs medicine in school, we cannot give it to them without your written permission. Therefore, you **must not** give it to the teachers or put it in your child's bag – it has to come through the school office. We can only give prescribed medication if it has to be given during the school day e.g. asthma inhalers, allergy medicines and epi-pens or antibiotics that need to be given four times a day.

Parking Outside School

Parking close to the school can often be difficult. Traffic can exceed the 20mph limit, and passing spaces are limited. Parents are reminded to take special care when dropping off children and/or crossing this road. Please respect access to adjacent residences and please in particular do not park in the lay-by up the road from the school. This lay-by is private land owned by the adjacent property. The single private parking space ensures that the sight lines are clear for vehicles accessing the property, and also maintains an additional passing space for vehicles using the road, both of which are important safety measures on this busy section of road. Please also do not park on the white lines outside the road entrance to the village car park. Thank you, and take care.

PE Kits and Bags

Just a reminder that now it is getting colder, the children need a black hoodie and black tracksuit bottoms for PE. These can be from any shop and do not have to have the school logo on, but a hoodie with a logo on can be brought from Batemans in Stroud for £14.99. They should not be wearing colourful tracksuits – everything should be black and as plain as possible. If you don't have these, please ask at the office as we have a lot of second-hand ones in school you can try first. Please can I also remind you that the children should have a book bag, not a backpack as there is not enough hanging space in the cloakroom, which is the main fire exit to each classroom. These do not need to have a logo on, but do need to be green. Book bags with a logo can be brought at Batemans in Stroud for £8.99.



**Fundraising for Friends
Of Whiteshill Primary
School**

WHITESHILL SCARECROW HUNT

24TH - 30TH OCTOBER

**Hunt out the scarecrows and guess the children's
literature that each one represents.**

£3 a map. Available from Whiteshill village shop.

Friends of Whiteshill School Presents

£5
PER TICKET
AVAILABLE FROM THE
SCHOOL OFFICE

QUIZ NIGHT

PRESENTED BY ANNA
SULLER



SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2022

RUSCOMBE SCHOOL ROOMS DOORS OPEN 7PM QUIZ STARTS 7.45 PM
BAR & BAR SNACKS ON SALE
BRING YOUR OWN FOOD TO SHARE