



# Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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## We are scientists...

As always, as every half term begins, we start with a science week in Elm, Maple and Oak classes. The children have a scientific question which they explore and then answer across the week, in line with our 'we are curious' value.

This term, the questions were as follows:

Elm – Am I a predator? (living things and their habitats)

Maple – Why do we need bees? (plants)

Oak – Can we bend the sun's rays? (light)

As you can see, the children explored these areas in a practical way and gained a huge amount of new knowledge in the process. The knowledge organisers, which show you what the children will have learnt, can be found on the curriculum page of our website [here](#).







## We are historians...

For the rest of this term, the children will become historians, again answering key questions to advance their knowledge. The children will study four key historical themes across their time in Whiteshill, looking at them through the lens of different time periods and making connections as they progress through the school. The four key themes are monarchy and power, settlements, societal change and inventions. More information and the knowledge organisers for this term, can be found on our school website curriculum page [here](#).

- Elm – Would I rather be a child now or in the past?
- Maple – How did Britain change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?
- Oak - What did the Shang Dynasty of Ancient China achieve?

## Road Safety

Just a reminder to please park safely and sensibly near to school when you are picking up and dropping off, not blocking any driveways or drop curbs or on white lines. Please in particular do not pull up in front of school or use the road entrance and exit by the school gates whilst children are going in and out – this is dangerous for all the children as they arrive and leave school. If you park on the double yellow lines opposite the gate on the corner of Highfield Road, even if it is briefly, this causes a real problem for people wanting to cross, as they do not have the visibility or space to do so safely.

If you are parked on the road directly outside school we would ask that you please turn off your engines whilst you wait so that children passing know you are not about to move off and can judge how to pass safely. Also, for air pollution reasons as well.

Finally, please remember that as soon as your children leave the school gates and turn right, they are not on a pathway or still on part of the school, they are walking down the middle of a road that goes right around the school. As such, you must assume that a car will be on it or using it. Please watch them carefully as they go along this road and treat it like any other road that you would use.

## Kurling, Boccia and New Age Bowling!

Last week, some of our children went along to represent us down at Archway Secondary School. They spent the morning with Atlas Sports trying out three games, as well as showing off their kurling skills, which we of course do as part of our PE curriculum.

The children had a fantastically active morning and represented the school so well. For many of them, in year 3, it was their first time going out to an Atlas Sports event and we couldn't be prouder of them. The children showed great sportsmanship too, cheering not only each other on but the other teams too.

Some of the highlights of the morning included:

Penny and Dexter both managing to score in the very sought after 100 points hole in new age bowling; Penny hitting the white ball twice in boccia; Dexter and Ava winning the ball at the end of a round of boccia; Henry scoring some really high scores consistently in new age bowling, Theo showing great accuracy across all the games; particularly in boccia and Noah hitting the target right in the middle during kurling! The morning ended with Penny bravely stepping up to take part in a one on one tie breaker in the boccia! How exciting. Thanks must also go to our team captain Sam who went along to show the younger children how it was done and help them to make the most of the day, having been part of our winning kurling team when he was in Maple class.



## Netball Tournament

On Wednesday, I was lucky enough to take some children down to Stratford Park Leisure Centre for an Atlas Sports netball competition. We took the same children who went last year so that they could build on their experience and they really showed how far they have come in a year. Last year we came 9<sup>th</sup> out of 10 teams and this year we managed to win one of our games 2-0 with two goals coming from Isabelle in goal attack! Alex also netted a goal in another game too and we only let 5 goals in over the first 4 games with some excellent defensive play. We finished the competition over all in 6<sup>th</sup> position this year out of 11 and the children did us proud. They particularly impressed me with how much they wanted to learn and get more skilled each time they played, thinking about positions and tactics and never letting their heads drop for a second if the other team scored. They were a joy to spend the morning with. Thank you to George, Nancy, Alex, Isabelle, Amber, Penny, Phoebe and Bethany.



## Guitar and Drum Lessons

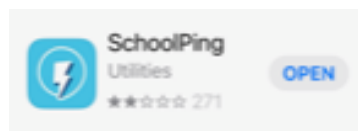
Mr Cormack-Hicks has spaces for children who would like to learn the guitar and drum in private lessons during the school day. Please contact him if your child is in year 2-6 and you would be interested in finding out more. His email is [iansguitartuition@googlemail.com](mailto:iansguitartuition@googlemail.com)

## School Ping

You will by now know about our new communication system 'School Ping'. Hopefully you are finding it a useful way of us getting in contact with you. If you haven't already, please download the School Ping App on your phone as it works much better in this way as emails don't get lost in your inbox. It is vitally important that you keep up with School Ping notifications from school as they include head bump and asthmas inhaler notifications which could be very important for your child's health. It is of course important to read the newsletter each time as well and keep up to date with any changes to PE days, clubs etc.

SchoolPing operates as a free app on your phone. Before Christmas or just after, you should have been sent an email from SchoolPing asking you to set up your account.

1. Go to your phones App Store and type in SchoolPing



2. Open the SchoolPing app and look for Whiteshill School - it should look like this:



**NOTE: You will need the second email from them, asking you to create a log in to complete your sign-up.**

If you are having any problems or don't think you received this email, please let Mrs Angove know and she can put you in contact with School Ping who will resolve it for you.

## Welcome to the world!

I'm pleased to share that Mrs Colman has had a beautiful baby boy called Walter John Colman over the Christmas break. We are very happy for her and her partner James and of course for Millie who is now a big sister! I'm sure you will join us in sending them our congratulations.

