



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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18/09/23

Welcome Back!

Well done to all of the children who have come back in to school this September and settled in to their classes so well. It has been a joy to see them moving onwards and upwards in to their new year groups. Willow class have settled in brilliantly, meeting their buddies and getting stuck in to their learning already. Thank you to all the year 6 buddies who have helped them since they started and well done to all of you too for helping them fly in their first weeks in school. We look forward to having them in full-time from Monday.

In Elm, Maple and Oak class, the learning has begun in earnest with the children starting as always with a science week. This term they answered the following questions:

Elm – Why is a rock a rock? (everyday materials)

Maple – can rocks change? (Rocks, evolution and inheritance)

Oak – Why don't we fall off the earth? (forces and magnets)

On Monday, they launched in to their 'We are geographers...' enquiries where they will find out about the local geography of Whiteshill (Elm), Stroud (Maple) and Gloucestershire (Oak). Knowledge organisers for both science and geography can be found [here](#) so that you can talk to the children about what they are learning. Look out for information coming out about opportunities to volunteer on local walks which the children will be making in the coming weeks to bring their geography learning alive.

This week, the children in Elm, Maple and Oak have also been learning to recite poems off by heart! We do this every September with them so that they hopefully learn to love spoken poetry during their time with us.

This term the classes are learning the following poets work off by heart:

Elm – Spike Milligan

Maple – Edward Lear

Oak – Benjamin Zephaniah

The children will record their performances on video and share them with each other in assembly next week.

I'm pleased to also share that I have once again booked in Sea Legs Puppet Theatre to come to school in October to put on a magical show for all the children. This year his show is called 'Edward Lear's Dream' which links in brilliantly with Maple class' learning of Edward Lear's poems e.g. the Owl and the Pussycat and the Jumblies.

We can already hear the buzz of learning around Whiteshill and it is thanks to your wonderful children who always get stuck in and go for it! We look forward to another great year of learning alongside them.

Scroll down for some photos of the children enjoying their first two weeks in school.

Leadership at School

As you will know, I started my new role as Executive Headteacher at both Whiteshill and Longney Primary Schools in September. This means that my time is now split across both sites and that my fantastic team at Whiteshill, led by Miss Middleton in her new role as Deputy Headteacher, will be more involved in the day to day running of the school as a result. It is important that you are able to contact the right person who can deal with any queries and therefore if you have any day to day enquiries about your child's school life, then please make sure you email admin@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk and not my head@ email as this will not be checked as regularly and we do not want something to be missed. Miss Middleton will be your first port of call for many things now and she is available first thing each morning and in the afternoons Mon – Thurs when she is not teaching in the classroom. If you want to email her directly, you can do so on jmiddleton@whiteshill.gloucs.sch.uk

Forest School and PE days

Forest School has started on a Friday afternoon with Mr Pritchard for Elm, Maple and Oak classes. A School Ping has gone out with the dates for the term and you can sign up to volunteer through School Ping or by coming and adding your name to the list in the lobby of the office. Please see the recent letter for details of what your children need to wear etc. on forest school days. Any questions, please contact the school office.

PE days for this term are as follows:

Elm – Tuesday (Kurling with Mr Pritchard)

Maple – Wednesday – swimming (see previous letter)

Oak – Tuesday (Archery with Cotswold Coaching) and Thursday

After School Clubs and Young Voices

Miss Middleton is currently in the process of organising the clubs list with staff. A letter will go out next week for you to sign your children up.

I'm very pleased to share that this year I have signed the school up to participate in Young Voices! This is an amazing musical opportunity that should not be missed! It is a national event which many schools across the country take part in and involves the children travelling up to Birmingham NEC on an evening in January and joining with thousands of other children to sing a huge range of different pop songs and be part of the largest children's choir in the world! I have been as a parent of my own children and it is truly an unforgettable experience which I know the children at Whiteshill are going to absolutely love! Young Voices is aimed at Key Stage 2 children (Maple and Oak) and hopefully if it goes well this year, it is something we will look to do every other year so that all the children in the school can benefit. More information will follow next week and the children will be introduced to what Young Voices involves in singing assembly with Mrs Edmonds this week. It is a voluntary event which your child can sign up for and will be run as a club by Mrs Edmonds over this term so that the children can learn all of the songs needed to perform on the night! Click on the image to visit the Young Voices website.





Willow Class exploring the classroom and outdoor area...

Elm class finding out about materials in science...



Maple class finding out about rocks and fossils in science...



Oak class exploring gravity in science...

