



Whiteshill Weekly News

29/10/23

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

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Welcome Event

On Wednesday 15th November, we would like to invite you to our annual welcome event. We held this event for the first-time last year and it was really popular so we are looking forward to a repeat!

The event is an opportunity for you to come up in to the classrooms, meet the teachers in an informal way and this year, see your children's books as well. You will be able to see the progress they have made already in their year groups and what they have been up to so far this term.

The children will be released at the end of the school day as normal at 3.15pm so that we know they are safely with you and then you are invited to return back in to the classrooms alongside them where they will have prepared the rooms to share their learning with you.

This year, we want to also provide you with some more information about how you can support your child at home with reading and how our reading books policy works. As a result, Mrs Cripps, our English subject lead and Mrs Clarke, our Early Years Lead, will also be hosting a talk in the school hall at approximately 3.40pm which you can attend with your children to find out about how we teach reading and how you can support your child at home.

Our first parents' evening will then take place in January, after the teachers have had chance to get to know and assess your children so that they have up to date and useful information to share with you on a one-to-one basis.

Those who have children on the SEN register will have a MyPlan review meeting before Christmas to discuss their needs and progress with the school.

We are Geographers...

The children in Elm, Maple and Oak have been able to get out and about this half term as part of their local geography work. Every two years in geography, they focus on the local area, building on their knowledge in each class and linking what they already know to their new learning. Elm class start by finding out about the geography of the school grounds and Whiteshill, going on a walk around the village. Maple class then venture further, looking at the geography of Stroud and how Whiteshill fits in to this geography. They had a fantastic trip down to Stratford Park. Finally, Oak class find out about the geography of Gloucestershire and on Friday they took an epic walk up to Haresfield Point to see the incredible view of the River Severn and M5 weaving through Gloucestershire – it is like looking at a map in real life! If you haven't been up to Haresfield Point for a walk, we would really recommend it! The common thread through all of these geography enquiries is human and physical geographical features which the children should be able to tell you all about. If you want to ask them questions about what they have learnt this term, please do take a look at the knowledge organisers on our school website [here](#) by clicking on the geography tab.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with these local walks – it wouldn't be possible without you and adds so much to the learning experience.

Halloween Disco!

Oh my goodness me!! What a night it was last Wednesday!! It was such a nice way to end a brilliant term and lovely to see all the children having so much fun together. They were impeccably behaved as always and brought so much joy to the occasion. The effort that had been put in to costumes by you all was immense! Thank you for getting so involved in what is hopefully our first of many Halloween discos!

A huge, huge thank you to Martin Turner who had the idea and put the whole thing together, getting everyone involved and planning it all for the children. Thank you to Craig of CR signs for sponsoring the event and for the wonderful signs outside – your support makes a huge difference. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the night too and for putting up all the brilliant decorations! Especially to the girls from year 7 who came to help with tattooing on the night – it was lovely to have you back!



Friends of Whiteshill AGM

The Friends of Whiteshill School Annual General Meeting has a new date – it will now take place on Tuesday 14th November at 7.30pm in the school hall. If you are able to come along, please do. It is a chance to get involved with other parents at school and support us through fundraising. Everyone is welcome so please come along and find out more about how you can help out with some of the fantastic events that happen through the year.

Maple Class and SENCo Jobs

I'm over the moon to share with you that Mrs Edmonds has kindly agreed to continue working in Maple class on Thursday and Friday each week until Mrs Colman returns later in the year. This will provide the class with stability and consistency for the year and we are so pleased that she will be staying in the role which she took on at the start of the year. Oak class will continue to be taught by an Atlas Sports coach for PE on Thursday afternoon and Miss Middleton on Friday afternoons.

I am also very pleased to let you know that I have recruited Mrs Sally McCauley to take on the role of SEND co-ordinator at Whiteshill whilst Mrs Colman is not able to be with us this year. Mrs McCauley is already working as a SENCO at another school within DGAT so she knows the procedures and policies that we work within. She will be working at Whiteshill for ½ a day each week and I will be working alongside her whilst she gets to know the children and staff to ensure a smooth transition.

Mrs McCauley will be joining us on the INSET day in the first instance where all the staff are taking part in Autism and Anxiety training for the morning session.

Attendance Policy

You can find the new DGAT attendance policy on the school website [here](#). Don't forget, it is a legal responsibility of all parents to ensure their children attend school regularly. You need to let us know where your child is when they are absent from school and the reason why. Please do this as early as possible either by leaving an answer machine message or sending a quick email. We have to contact you if we have not had a message and this takes up Mrs Angove's time in the morning at her most busy period when she is checking the registers and sorting the lunch orders as well as manning the front desk. If your child is going to be absent from school and you know about this in advance e.g. medical appointment, musical exam, secondary school visit, you need to fill in a leave of absence request form as soon as you are able. These can be picked up from the school office lobby or downloaded from the school website at the above link.

Attendance letters will be going out in the first week after half term, letting you all know what your children's current attendance is so that you can make informed decisions going forwards.

I'm pleased to share that the school's current attendance rate is above national average at 96% - thank you for your support with attendance this term.

Online Safety

Keeping your children safe online is a continual process and one which changes all the time. Our school website has videos and websites that you can look at for advice [here](#) if you need it. This now includes parent advice posters for some popular platforms your children may use e.g. youtube, Minecraft, Fortnite. It also includes the police 'Schoolbeat' video. Schoolbeat officers visit the children in year 6 each year to talk to them about online safety and we are also pleased to have PCSO Amy Webb coming in to school to talk to the children on this subject as well as road safety and the role of the police this year once again.

I have attached to the newsletter this week some posters for information about 'Five Nights at Freddie's' and 'EA Sports FC' which older children may well be playing online at present. I will also share these on the Facebook Page.



**WHITESHILL
SCARECROW TRAIL**

28TH OCT - 6TH NOV

Childrens literature theme: books, films, TV or characters

**Prizes for the best scarecrows:
John Lewis Voucher
2 night stay in London**