



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

March 2024

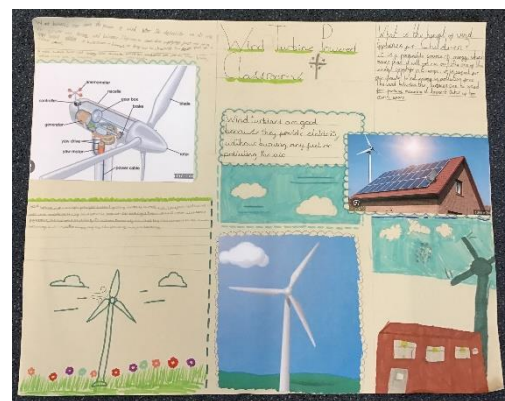
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We are curious...our learning this half term

This half term was kicked off with a science week for Elm, Maple and Oak class. They were using their scientific enquiry skills to answer the following questions: Elm class – can we shape glass? Maple class – can I ride my bike in the sand? Oak class – can we make our school more eco-friendly?

As part of their enquiry this term, Oak class took part in the Net Zero Superheroes Competition – organised by AtkinsRealis. Pete Salvin, one of the parents at our school, kindly came in to class with a colleague to introduce the project to the children, setting them the challenge of thinking about what they would design to help the school achieve net zero. They worked together in groups and presented the final ideas in poster form. These will be sent off to compete with other schools. We complete this project every other year with Oak class and last time, one of our teams reached the final so fingers crossed for this year! There were some excellent presentations, with ideas ranging from a wind-turbine powered classroom, through plastic bottle recycled huts to a school eco-bike and plastic-free supports for dyslexic learners! What a fantastic group of **curious** children they are in Oak class. More photographs can be found on the school website [here](#). If you want to find out more about the competition – click [here](#).



Next up, all 3 classes launched in to their 'we are geographers' projects. Elm class found out about a region of Kenya which included the Masai Mara National Reserve, Maple class found out about the countries of Europe and Oak class found out about North and South America. To find out more about our curriculum in geography and see what they covered, please take a look at the geography curriculum area on our website [here](#). When you look at a knowledge organiser, you will see that any knowledge coloured green, the children have learnt in a previous class – the new knowledge covered this year is in black. This allows the children to recall the previous knowledge they know already to make links and build on it successfully.



We are curious...Wildlife Quiz

Once again, we were represented by four children from Oak class in the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust annual schools' wildlife quiz. We had a fantastic team and Mr Pritchard again spent his own time prepping them for the first round. It was a thrilling match against Gastrells with both teams barely dropping any points. Our team from Whiteshill were so strong and if they had not come up against such formidable rivals in the first round, would have no doubt gone far. In the end, it came down to just one point and sadly Gastrells pipped them at the post. A huge well done to Phoebe, Phoebe, Anita and Harpo who did so well and thank you to Mr Pritchard for organising it for them.



We are unique...World Book Day

Thank you to everyone who helped to dress the children up so wonderfully for World Book Day. As always, it was a real highlight of the year and a great opportunity to celebrate reading and books. Mrs Cripps, our English subject lead, planned the day carefully to give everyone the opportunity to share and recommend books and be fully immersed in a day encouraging a love of reading for all. More photographs can be found on the school website [here](#).



We are unique...Whiteshill's Got Talent!

Well... where do I start?! What a morning of phenomenal talent we were treated to yesterday. 40 children took part, showing off such a huge host of skills. We really are so blessed at Whiteshill with an incredible group of children who genuinely blow us away with their confidence, enthusiasm and pure, pure talent!! We are so pleased to celebrate with them what makes them all unique! What makes it even more special is the support and encouragement they give to each other. The whoops, cheers, spine-tingling silences, hi fives and back slaps as they return to their seats. The children are able to share what makes them unique because they know they will be supported and loved for it by their friends and classmates and we are all so proud of your children for creating this atmosphere, yesterday and every day in school.

I have shared the line-up with you at the bottom of the newsletter as it really was such an array of talent and I want them all to have a mention so you can see what we were treated to!! I have put all of the photographs on the website [here](#) so that you can see them up on stage, including some amazing video entries (I think we have some talented video editors in amongst our parent body too!!).

I must thank the wonderful Ella and Maisie from year 6 who volunteered to present the show and held it all together with personality and flair! Thank you, girls.

Thank you as well to Mrs Edmonds, Mr Cormack-Hicks, Mr Coysh and Mrs Angove who helped put the stage up and supported the children to prepare on the day and beforehand.

Oh, and if you ever get chance to ask Charlie T what year a king or queen died... please do! You will quite simply be blown away!!

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART THIS MORNING – YOU ARE SUPERSTARS AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU MADE THE SHOW A HUGE SUCCESS – KEEP PERFORMING AND DOING WHAT YOU LOVE! WELL DONE!



We are together...fundraising

This term, we have supported both Rags2Riches and Comic Relief. For Red Nose Day the children had a relaxing and fun day together, raising an incredible £118 for comic relief! Thank you as well to everyone who donated clothes to our Rags2Riches collection – altogether we raised £50.50 for the school and supported a good cause.



RAGS2RICHES
4 Schools

Thank you for organising your collection with us today

You collected **10** / kg @ 50p per kilo **£50.50**

New Fencing Screen

You will have noticed that we recently installed some new screening between the playground and the road. We know that it is lovely to talk to the children when they are enjoying the playground but it means that they get used to talking to people they do not know and this of course not something we want to encourage on the playground. If you have a message to pass on to your child or something to give them e.g. PE kit, water bottle – please press the buzzer and come up through the office.

Summer Term Dates

We have set dates for parents' evening in April, sports' day in June and the summer fete in July so that you have plenty of advance warning. Please keep an eye on the School Ping calendar and update your diary. Parents' evening will take place on Tuesday 16th April – please hold the date for now and a sign-up form will come out on Ping after the Easter holidays.

Year 6 parents – don't forget to add SATs week to your diaries and year 1 parents, in the week of Monday 10th to Friday 14th June your children will take part in phonics' screening. Year 4 parents, a key date for you is the window of Monday 3rd to Friday 14th June when your children have to take part in the multiplication check. All of these tests are statutory and all children in the country take part in them. All of the dates are in the school ping calendar for your reference.

We are together...performing!

On top of the talent show, we were treated to two other fantastic performances this week. Mrs Edmond's show choir gave us a musical spectacular on Thursday evening to celebrate the work they have been doing **together** in their club. They belted out a range of show tunes from Wonka to the Sound of Music and everything in between! It was so brilliant to see so many children doing solos and group pieces and to see them all with a smile on their face throughout, singing and dancing as one! Thank you show choir – you were Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (or if you ask Bethan, Dociousaliexpisticfragicalirupus)!!

On Friday morning, Elm class were busy as they played the ukulele in concert to their families. They have been learning to play for the last 10 weeks with Gloucestershire music and it was wonderful to see them playing together and displaying what they have learnt. Thank you, Elm class for all your hard work. More photographs of both events can be found on the school website gallery [here](#).



We are together...Friends of Whiteshill School

Hopefully you have seen the Friends of Whiteshill Monkey hunt advertised for the coming Easter holidays. Please do grab a map from the Whiteshill shop and support the school whilst enjoying a walk round Whiteshill in the Easter sunshine! See poster below and the Facebook page for more details.

This year, the Friends are raising funds to develop the garden area to the side of the school. We have grand plans for planting areas, landscaping, meadow flowers and so much more, allowing the children to make the most of this most beautiful part of the school which has so much potential. As part of this project, we will also be re-vamping the Elm class outdoor area. It is a large project so anything you can do to support the Friends, including taking part in the monkey hunt, is very much appreciated!

Gloucestershire Libraries

[Click here to find out 'What's On' from April-June 2024 with Gloucestershire Libraries](#)

We are together...rowing competition

Our year 5 and 6 children went along to Mr Pritchard's indoor rowing competition at Stratford Park to compete against other schools. They have been practising with Mr Pritchard each year throughout Key Stage 2. They worked so well together as a team bringing home a gold medal for Bethany in the year 5 girls' two-minute sprint and a silver medal for the year 5 girls' relay team.



BREAKING NEWS

EASTER HOLIDAYS 2024



There have been reports of monkeys in the woods around Whiteshill!

Small monkeys, big monkeys, too many monkeys! We need YOUR help finding them all.

The search begins at Ruscombe and Whiteshill Community Shop and Cafe. GL6 6AN

Maps £3, toilets, parking and refreshments at the shop.

Those pesky monkeys have been hiding in the trees and woods, so unfortunately this is not a buggy or wheelchair friendly trail.

The trail is roughly 3km over uneven ground so wellies or sturdy footwear is recommended.

Trail runs 25th March - 7th April.

Good luck!

MONKEYS SPOTTED IN WHITESHILL!



**HELP US
FIND THEM
ALL!**



Name	Talent
Lewin and Ted	Believer on the guitar and drums
Lexi, Texas, Isabelle, Bethany	Group dance – choreographed by themselves to a Rihanna song
Benny	Yoyo tricks
Phoebe	Playing a piece on the keyboard
Walter	Playing hot cross buns on the recorder
Phoebe	Singing – ‘Never Enough’ from the Greatest Showman
Tabitha	Live iPad drawing – completed during the show!
Theo	Singing – Roar by Katy Perry
Evie and Autumn	Singing ‘Shallows’ from A Star is Born
Rupert	Video – bike riding over ramps and on bmx trails!
Lily	Playing the mandolin – Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
William and Julian	Drums and guitar – Buck Rogers and Seven Nation Army – accompanied by the whole school singing Buck Rogers.
Dexter	Singing Ireland’s Call
Josh and Harriet	Cello and Violin duet
Erin	Sharing her Rainbows badges
Flo	Video – gymnastics performance – choreographed by herself.
Gabriel	Photographs – lego creations – Gabriel created a lego treasure hunt for us to complete during the show – can you spot the two crabs, yellow ice-cream (that’s a tricky one!) and the sail from a sailboat?!
Gregory	Singing – Bad Habits by Ed Sheeran
Sam	Playing the guitar and singing acapella - Riptide
Amber, Marley and Livara	Singing and Dancing – a song and rap written by themselves about their love of Whiteshill school! (this one brought me to tears!) Introduced by Marley.
Alba and Ilona	Video – telling hilarious jokes
Nora	Video – solving a rubik’s cube in 30 seconds whilst skateboarding – inspired by a world record!
Penny	Singing – ‘A Million Dreams’ from the Greatest Showman
Charlotte	Reading poetry she had written herself – Birds are Lovely!

Charlie	Test my royal knowledge! Charlie can name the birth and death date of all British kings and queens – we live googled his answers and they were all correct!
James	Poi Poi (light up circus skills)
Louis, William and Louis	Electric Guitar band – self composed piece
Maisie	Telling hilarious jokes
Ava	Speed multiplication knowledge up to 12 x 12! Test her – she's fast!

