



Whiteshill Weekly News

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

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Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who made the Whiteshill Scarecrow Trail at half term such a fantastic success! As always, there were some incredible entries and we attracted a huge number of visitors to the village, raising money for the school whilst also supporting the village shop and café.

I'm so pleased to share that an incredible £2,123 was raised!

Thank you so much to the Friends of Whiteshill for organising the trail, the volunteers in the shop who sold tickets all week and to everyone who made a scarecrow or brought a map. The support from the Friends of Whiteshill makes a real difference in school, paying for coaches to trips and helping us to develop the school in ways that would not be possible without them.

A huge thank you as well to our sponsors:

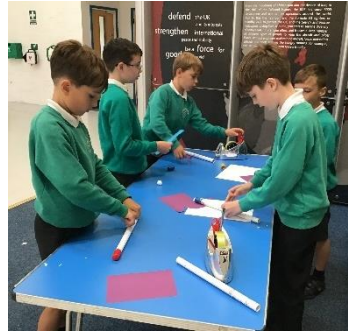
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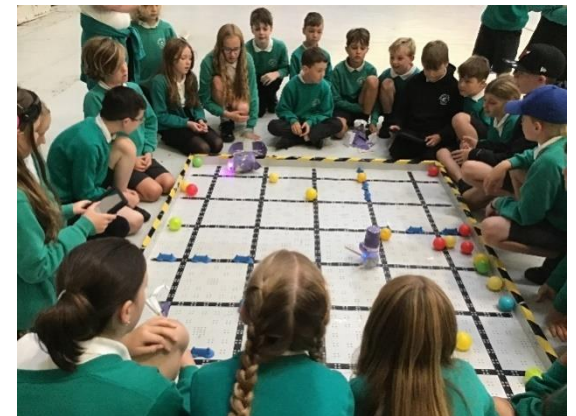
Oak Class – Competition Winners

As you may remember, in the summer term, a group of children in Oak class won the national Net Zero Superheroes competition. As a result, last half term they went on an all expenses paid trip to the RAF museum in Cosford. It was a fantastic day and if you haven't been, we would highly recommend a visit. It is free entry for families and an incredible place with so much to see. The children took part in a number of science and engineering based workshops across the day, solving problems and completing tasks together as a group. They then had chance to look round the museum and see all the incredible aeroplanes from history.

Thank you to our winners Alex, Livara and Texas for this fantastic day out!



More photos can be found on our school website gallery here.



Another competition winner!

Just before the summer holidays, we found out that our very own Julian in Oak class had won another national competition. The children in after school club had entered drawings of monsters into a book that were published alongside children from schools all over the country. Out of the hundreds of children in the book, Julian's monster was chosen to be printed pride of place on the front cover! He won a copy of the book and a goodie bag, which we presented to him in assembly. Well done Julian – what an achievement!



Sport at Whiteshill

So far this term, the children have been involved in an array of sports and activities. Every year, we are part of the Atlas Sports package of competitions and festivals. This means that every child in the school from year 1 – 6 has the chance to go out and represent the school, in our Whiteshill team kit which is provided for each child. They have chance to develop their skills in an inclusive environment and play against other schools as well. So far this term, the children have taken part in a Key Stage 1 football tournament, cross country competition and tag rugby tournament. Thank you to Mr Nurse, our tag rugby coach who worked with the children on the day and supported them to play so well together. Mr Nurse will be coming back later in the year to coach year 5 and 6 further in this brilliantly inclusive sport. The children who attended represented the school so well and we were incredibly proud of them all. At the cross-country competition, I'm pleased to share that we had some top ten finishers with Lewin coming in a fantastic 10th place and Billy proudly being awarded a medal for his incredible 2nd place finish – a really impressive feat out of 65 racers! Well done to both boys.



Willow Class Forest School

Willow Class have started their forest school sessions on a Tuesday afternoon, led by Mrs Clarke who is a qualified forest school lead. This is a really special part of our curriculum provision at Whiteshill and gives the reception children a chance to be in the local environment and spend the whole afternoon outside in nature each week. After Christmas, Mr Pritchard will be returning and so the rest of the school will be able to return to their forest school sessions up in Ruscombe Woods as well which we can't wait for! As you can see, Willow class have been really enjoying their sessions and especially seeing the autumn colours as they change through this term.



Fundraising

Tomorrow is Children in Need day in school and we also have our McMillan Coffee afternoon at 3.15pm – please see the previous School Ping for details – we would love to see you in the hall after school tomorrow to raise money for this fantastic charity which is of course particularly close to our hearts at present.

Two Village Festival

Next Saturday, 23rd November, it is the annual Whiteshill and Ruscombe Two Village Festival. As part of this, the Friends of Whiteshill will be opening the school hall from 12 – 5pm where there will be children crafts and games and mulled wine and mince pies for the grown-ups. There are several events around the villages at different venues and it is a lovely Christmassy start to the season with lots to keep the children entertained and chance to walk round the village and fundraise for the various organisations in the area, including the school.

In the Ruscombe Chapel, there will be a display of the children's artwork. Every child in school has created a piece of art for this exhibition and they will be displayed for you to see throughout the day. Alongside the art display, will be "Tea and Tales" - 2 story telling sessions during the afternoon and refreshments (tea, coffee, squash plus various homemade cakes) being served from the "Cafe in the Chapel". Please do come along and support the Friends of Whiteshill School and enjoy this lovely event.

Chapel Rooms Nativity Scene Display

This year we have been invited to take part in the Ruscombe Chapel Rooms Nativity Scene Display. The Chapel are inviting people to create a Nativity scene at home in whatever way they wish – it could be a 3-D one made from lego, plasticine etc, natural materials (eg pine cones, twigs), recycled materials, cardboard, wool, foil or a drawing, painting etc. These homemade nativities can then be brought to Ruscombe Chapel and School Room for a display on Sunday 1st December ready for the start of Advent.

This is not a competition; all nativity scenes will be put on display for people to enjoy looking at on the Sunday afternoon of December 1st as well as throughout Advent.

Festival Of Wonder

We recently found out about the Festival of Wonder in Stroud. This incredible event takes place at St Laurence Church in the centre of Stroud over the whole of this coming weekend. Mr Coysh's father is one of the organisers, so we were lucky this year to be invited for all the children in school to make a snowflake to help decorate the church. This incredible community event has a host of shows and performers from all over the country including professional circus acts and the majority of events and activities are FREE to attend and open to all ages.

“The Festival of Wonder is a festival offering a wondrous array of spectacles, activities and spaces designed to engage, enrich and inspire wonder. There's music, drama, comedy and circus performance, workshops, sounds, silence and reflective space, as well as food, warmth and community”.

Please click [here](#) to find out more about this amazing community event and do go along if you are able.

We are artists...

This term the children in Elm, Maple and Oak are becoming artists! They will be finding out about artists, learning focus skills and creating final pieces based on sculpture and form this term. The knowledge organisers for this learning are available on the school website curriculum page [here](#). They will be studying the following artists this term:

Elm Class – Jackson Pollock – creating 3D lanterns using action painting and different textures to decorate them.

Maple Class – local sculptor Sophie Ryder – chicken wire animal sculptures.

Oak class – Ai Wei Wei – clay tiles.

Later in the term, they will also be designers leading up to Christmas with our Design and Technology projects.

Final thank you!

I must finish of course with a huge thank you to Martin Turner and friends who worked so hard to put on an incredible Halloween disco for the children before half term. It was such a memorable night again and just simply wouldn't be possible without Martin's time and energy. We cannot thank him enough for giving the children such fantastic memories in what is fast becoming an annual event at school! The children were so well behaved and enthusiastic on the night and their costumes looked fantastic. Thank you so much to everyone who helped decorate the hall and helped on the day and in the run up. The DJ who came said that this is by far his favourite school to come to because the children are all so happy, polite and grateful! We were so proud to receive this lovely feedback. We hope the children enjoyed it as much as we did!

