

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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6th October 2017

Gloucestershire Adult Education – The school is delighted to be hosting Gloucestershire Adult Education at St White's School. The number of parents who have signed up to complete the free Math's Course is marvelous and the feedback on the course and tutor really positive. It is still possible to sign up to this course so do pop in and speak to Caroline Woodhead, Family Support Worker, who will be able to talk you through the arrangements.



Race for Life – On Friday 5th September, every class in the school took part in the annual Race for Life event. All pupils and their teachers ran or walked 1 mile around the school field grounds to raise awareness and raise money for a great cause. It was fantastic to see so many children with huge smiles on their faces as they took part.



Thank you to PE governor, Mr David Penney for joining us and presenting every child with their hard earned medals. He said that *'It was a well-planned and well-delivered afternoon of productive fun and effort.'*



Thank you to all the parents who came to support this wonderful event. The school is

Diary Dates

October

- 13th – Yr 5 Trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival
- 16th & 17th - Robin & Wren Class Learning Journey – Parents to come into school from 2.45 pm either day
- 17th – Year 6 visit to Forest High School
- 18th – Tempest Individual School Photos
- 18th – Yr 6 Aberdovey Residential Information session 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm
- 20th – Harvest Festival – parents invited from 2.00 pm
- 20th – PTFA AGM Meeting – from 3.30 pm
- 20th – School closes for half term break
- 30th – School reopens to pupils
- 30th – Residential week Yr 6 pupils – Aberdovey

November

- 8th & 10th – Robin & Wren Classes Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm
- 10th – Armistice Day – times TBC
- 13-17th – Cycling Proficiency Week Yr 6
- 20th-24th – Road Safety Week
- 21st – Reading Evening – details TBC
- 22nd – Height & weight checks Reception and Year 6
- 22nd – Reading Evening – details TBC
- 30th – Flu vaccination in school – Reception – Yr 4 pupils only

thrilled to confirm that the total raised was £1455.30. What a wonderful achievement – well done to you all!

Reception Class Pupils – It is absolutely wonderful to see how well all our new Reception Class children have settled in to school life here at St White's. Already they are making lots of new friends and enjoying exploring their new learning environment. The Reception Class staff ventured out with the children earlier this week for their first walk in the local woods. A fabulous time was



had by all.

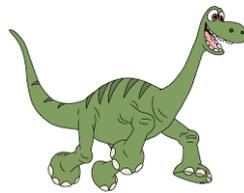


A huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped accompany the children - this help is invaluable and ensures that these



visits outside of the school premises are able to go ahead.

Key Stage 1 Topic Excitement – There has been great excitement around the school since the beginning of term, as the children in Kingfisher, Nightingale and Sparrow Class have discovered that there is



a 'dinosaur' residing somewhere on the school grounds! They were very excited when an egg was discovered in the forest area of the school and even more excited when they went back later, only to find the egg had hatched! It was wonderful to listen to all the children talking so enthusiastically and it has certainly inspired some super writing and story telling.



Harvest Celebration – On Friday 20th October at 2.00pm, parents and carers are invited to come along to school and join us to celebrate harvest time with us. Children's art work will be on display in the auditorium, along with all the donations of food for the local food bank.



Classes will also be open for parents to go along and see children learning



about harvest and the world's kitchen! Refreshments will be provided too and at 2.45 pm there will be a whole school gathering in the auditorium. The school will be welcoming a representative from the local food bank. He will explain the work of this charity who provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis.

Your donations of breakfast cereals, Soup, Pasta, Rice, Pasta sauce, tinned beans, meats, vegetables, fruit, tea and coffee, sugar, biscuits and snacks will be matched once again this year by the Coop. You are welcome to start bringing in donations from Monday 16th October. The school will then store the food in readiness for the celebration on Friday.

This year, the food bank are also making an appeal for donations of hat, gloves, socks and scarves. If anyone would like to make a donation of these important items for families to have this winter, you are very welcome to bring them along to school also. Thank you for your support of this vital local charity and everyone looks forward to seeing you on the 20th.



PTFA – The PTFA held their first meeting of the school year on Friday, 22 September. They reflected on the previous year's fundraising and the year's events. They would particularly like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support, as well as members of the public who have made very generous donations to the PTFA fund. In particular, thanks go to Lloyds Bank and Lynn Walsh who donated £500.00, Rachel Saunders and



Santander who donated £250.00, and Kirsty and Dallas Jackson who each donated £125 from the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

If there are any other parents/carers who know of companies willing to price match any fundraising, or are able to help charity fundraising, please do let a member of the PTFA know.

One of the purchases has been a traditional Piano. Other projects the PTFA are looking to assist with is the development of the school allotment. Mr Thompson kindly sourced the piano and is already thoroughly enjoying being able to play his favourite tunes on it!



A new venture that the PTFA are launching this year will be the sale of Raffle Tickets through 'The Big PTFA Raffle – Christmas 2017'. This is a national venture and prizes include a new Citroen C3, an Apple bundle and a 50" smart TV. More details will follow shortly.



The next meeting to be held will be on Friday, 20 October 2017 – the AGM. All parents/carers are welcome from 3.15 pm in the School Auditorium.

PTFA Pantomime Trip – The PTFA have managed to secure tickets for all pupils to be taken to the Bristol Hippodrome on Friday, 15 December 2017 to see Aladdin. Coaches will be leaving school at



approximately 12.00 noon and we would aim to be back at school (Buckshaft Road) at approximately 6.00 pm.

The PTFA will be funding the cost of the tickets but are asking for a £5.00 donation per child to cover the cost of the coaches involved. A letter will follow shortly to all parents/carers.

Canteen Vacancy – Caterlink are looking to recruit mobile catering staff to work in school kitchens around the area. If you are looking for work that will fit around the school day, then Caterlink would love to hear from you. 16 hours per week is being offered at an hourly rate of pay of £7.50 plus mileage as you will be expected to use your own vehicle.



For further details please contact the Gloucester Office on 01452 346796. Thank you.

Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre – October half term playschemes are being offered at the Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre.



The OFSTED registered Playscheme is open to children aged 2-7 years. Sessions run from 9.30 am – 12.00 noon and 12.30 pm – 3.00 pm. Children can attend for full days! For further information please contact Hayley Badman on 01594 837552.

Christmas Stamp Competition - The School has received a personal thank you from Royal Mail for taking part in the Royal Mail's Christmas Stamp Design competition.

Although none of the designs chosen were from any St White's School pupils, HRH the Prince of Wales was very impressed with the standard of all designs received.

No doubt the winning entries will shortly be on sale!!

Learning Alongside Your Child Morning-

On Wednesday 4th October, parents came



along and joined in a maths lesson with their children. It was super to see so many parents at this new venture. It was an especially fun morning because of the 'no pen day' initiative. Children and their parents and carers

got to grips with maths for the session together and had a brilliant time working out all kinds of calculations and maths conundrums.

Thank you to all the parents who wrote in afterwards to let us know what went well and what we could do better. One parents said, *'I really enjoyed this morning spending time with both my children. Looking and learning at what they are doing in school so much information has been gained from this and it's lovely to see them in a happy and fun learning environment thank you for a lovely morning.'* Another commented, *'This morning I had the chance to attend the Learn with Your Child in Class. It was great to see what kind of things they are learning and the aids and techniques they use. I noticed that the classroom was bright and airy and the mood seemed very positive. All the children in the class looked like they enjoyed being there and were ready to learn. The teacher*



had an upbeat energy about them and relished the opportunity to use new methods available to them. Thank you for the chance to see inside the classroom.'

This was a resounding success and the plan is to continue to invite parents and carers in to join us for learning time.

Celebration Assemblies – School celebration assemblies got

off to a fine start with lots of our children receiving awards for a variety of



different achievements. The Midday Supervisors awarded their special certificates to children for politeness during lunch time. The Headteacher presented special certificates awarded by teachers to children for exceptional work in school and parents joined us to celebrate their children's achievements.

School Council – The School Council had their first meeting yesterday. On the agenda



were a range of items, including deciding who would be chairperson,

vice chairperson, treasurer and secretary. Each member signed the school council membership contract and talked about how would be ensure that they communicate the views of their peers effectively.

They will be taking responsibility for a range of different events and activities at school, including the celebration assembly. They will



also get the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament next year.

Parent Consultation Evenings – Parent evenings were really well attended this year. The teachers valued the opportunity to catch up with parents and talk about how well children have settled into school this term. Thank you to all parents and children who completed the questionnaires for the school. Once the information is collated, it will be shared in a report to all stakeholders. If you weren't able to make the evenings and would like complete the questionnaires, they are available from the school office until half term.



Lost Fitbit – If anyone has found a turquoise Fitbit, lost in Sneyd Wood Road during the week of 25th September 2017, please could you let the school office know. Thank you.

Parentmail – Although there have been a few teething problems we believe the new parentmail system is really helping us to improve our communications and reduce the amount of photocopying and paper usage. Any parents who are not fully signed up should still be receiving paper copies of important letters – we would really like to reduce these to zero! If you are still having problems with the system, please speak to the office staff as we are gradually managing to sort out the problems.



Attendance – The Headteacher and Attendance Officer joined other school representatives at a network meeting arranged by Gloucestershire's Education Entitlement and Inclusion Team. The session focused upon school's



responsibilities to prioritise good school attendance and the right of every child to attend school on every available day. The meeting also focused on how schools must work with families to try to reduce the number of sickness absence days and also the number of unauthorised absences. The school has a dedicated team of staff who work very closely with families who need our help. This initiative has proven highly successful to date and will continue in earnest throughout the next year.

If you would like to talk with someone from our team about how we can support you with improving your child's attendance rate, do please get in touch.

To date, whole school attendance currently stands at 97.24% (Girls 97.4%, Boys 96.9%, Free School Meal Children 93.98%, SEN Children 97.67%) with 1.49% authorised absence and 1.27% unauthorised absence. The majority of the unauthorised absence is due to holidays in the first few weeks of the school year and is the equivalent of around 12 weeks.

The school has updated its pupil attendance policy so that it is in line with Gloucester County Council's requirements. The policy now states that "St White's Primary School defines regular attendance as an expectation that pupils attend every session available to them, unless the reason for absence is one that meets the school's criteria for authorising absences. The only exceptions are for authorised reasons such as sickness absence." The protocol for issuing penalty notices has also changed, and there is no longer a 10 session (5 day) period of unauthorised holiday before a penalty notice can be issued. Penalty notices can now be issued for any

unauthorised holiday which is contrary to the school's attendance policy.

Hair Bows - And finally, since returning from the summer holidays, lots of our children have been wearing oversized Jojo hair bows to school. Some schools, have already banned them because they do not comply with some school uniform codes and are 'distracting'.

Having discussed this with staff, the school has also made the decision to ban the wearing of this hair



accessory. Small hairbands, and hair clips are perfectly acceptable, but the bigger bows are causing problems and therefore should not be worn in school.



The school would like to also remind parents that nail varnish is not permitted in school and earrings must be removed on PE days.

Alternatively, tape must be used and supplied from home. This tape can be kept in PE Kits. Pupils who do not remove their earrings or have tape in school will not be able to take part in PE for safety reasons.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

School Photographs – Tempest will be in school on Wednesday 18th October taking individual pupil photographs. Proofs will be sent home for you to decide if you wish to purchase copies – they do make fabulous Christmas presents, and the photographs are also used in our school records. We will be changing the way the day is run this time, with individual pictures being taken first. **If you have more than one child at school, we will only take joint sibling photographs if you tell us that you would like them.** We

will send out more information on Parentmail next week on how to request this. If you have pre-school children and would like to have them photographed as well, please bring them along at the end of the school day and the photographer will take these pictures after 3.15pm.



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