

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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10th November 2017

Armistice Assembly – We were delighted to open our doors to so many parents/carers this morning, who were able to join our Assembly, commemorating Armistice Day.



We were again honoured this year to be joined by Captain Owen Mitchell, from the 1st Battalion Rifles, along with members of the local British Legion.



This is such an important date in our calendar, and gives us all time to reflect on the sacrifices that so many have given in combat to make our world a safer place.

Parents were able to view the wonderful artwork that the children had created to mark the occasion. If there are any parents/carers who were not able to attend this morning, but would like to purchase their child's piece of art, please could you drop £2.50 into the school office? A donation from this artwork will be made to the British Legion, as well as covering costs for framing the work. Thank you.

School Minibus – The school is absolutely thrilled to confirm that our new



Diary Dates

November

10th – Robin & Wren Classes Parent Consultation Evening – 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm
10th – Armistice Day – parents from 10.00 am
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

December

8th – PTFA Christmas Fayre
13th – Christmas Jumper Day
13th – Christmas Lunch
13th – KS1 Topic Celebration from 2.45 pm – all parents/carers welcome
14th – KS2 Topic Celebration from 2.45 pm – all parents/carers welcome
15th – PTFA Pantomime trip to Bristol Hippodrome – 12.00 noon – 6.00 pm (approx.)
18th – Reception Class Christmas Play – 1.30 pm approx. TBC
18th – KS1 Christmas Play – 5.30 pm approx. TBC
19th – KS1 Christmas Play – 1.30 pm approx. TBC
19th – Reception Christmas Play – 5.30 pm approx. TBC
20th – School finishes for Christmas
21st – School closed for Christmas break

January

5th – INSET Staff only in school
8th – **School reopens to pupils**

minibus was delivered yesterday. We are all very excited about this new venture and are sure that it will prove to be a wonderful asset to the school in so many ways.

The school has also recruited our Minibus Driver now, Mr Dennis Griffiths, who we are equally pleased to have on board.

Mr Griffiths has had many years' experience in the army, and in particular dealing with all

aspects of transport, so we know that our pupils will all be in very safe hands.

Harvest Festival - The harvest festival was a great success on Friday 20th October. During the morning lower key stage two classes worked with caterlink to make bread, soup and a fruit platter.



It was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents during the afternoon. The children thoroughly enjoyed showing them what they were learning about in class.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the food bank for taking part in the harvest assembly and telling the children about the importance of the food bank and how donations help others.

A big thank you must also go out to everyone who donated to the harvest.



The total weight of donations was 224.7kg. The coop has kindly agreed to match this, so nearly 500kg of food will be distributed by the food bank to people in need.

Co-op Fairtrade visits - This week LKS2 classes had the opportunity to visit the coop and learn about Fairtrade. The children were taken on a tour around the shop and warehouse and learnt about the process food



and goods take to reach our shopping baskets. The children had a talk about Fairtrade and then they went around the shop floor completely a quiz about Fairtrade. Finally the coop generously gave each child a bag with Fairtrade products in. The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit and now have a good understanding of what Fairtrade is and how it helps.

Bullying – If you have any concerns about bullying in school, the school has two Anti-Bullying Champions.



Clare Tilling is the Anti-Bullying Champion for the children and Caroline Woodhead is the Anti-Bullying for parents/carers. The school takes any concerns very seriously and would encourage you to go to either the class teacher or either of these members of staff if you have any concerns at all. They will carry out an investigation, seek resolution for the child who is feeling unhappy and keep you fully informed about the process.

If you have any questions, please do come in and we will be happy to explain the process in more detail.

Tree Climbing – Please could we remind parents/carers to ensure that children are not allowed to climb any trees on school property? In particular, some children are managing to get near the very top of trees, putting themselves at risk of a fall.



Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Attendance – Whole school attendance now stands at 96.96%. It is really disappointing to have dropped below 97% and we know there

have been a few nasty bugs around which have led to some sickness absence. The attendance committee met last week to review the attendance figures for the first term, and we would like to share some information with you.

This time last year, sickness accounted for 71% of the absence, with unauthorised holiday just 2%. This year, unauthorised holiday is 34% of the total absence, with illness at 52%.

Illness accounts for a very similar number of days lost in both years, although this year it is a smaller percentage of the overall absence because of holidays. Children who miss two weeks of school can only achieve a maximum of 94.5% attendance if they attend every day for the rest of the school year. Children miss so much when they are absent from school, not just their learning but also the social side of school and all the enrichment opportunities such as trips, clubs and all the special visitors who come into school to speak to the children.

All parents will have received an email, or a printed copy of a letter which refers to the school's new attendance policy which has been revised in line with the new County Council protocol on penalty notices and prosecution for term-time holidays.

Ruspidge & Soudley Parish Council – Mrs Cross met with Teresa Rose, Community Worker for Ruspidge and Soudley Parish Council recently. The Parish Council are keen to create strong links with both the school and the local community and are asking if parents/carers would like to take part in a survey to put their views across. The link can be found on <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/58226G8>

Thank you.

Earlybirds Christmas Fair – Early Birds Playgroup will be holding their annual Christmas Fair on Friday, 17 November 2017, from 3.15 pm until 5.00 pm. The School Choir will be singing at the Fair between 3.15 pm and 3.40 pm. Do come along and support the Playgroup! Thank you.



Play Leaders – This half term our fully trained Play Leaders have been working hard at lunch times. They have been organising and running games and activities for the younger children and also were pleased to receive their Play Leader Badges this week. Keep up the hard work!



Sports Captains' – This week our 8 Sports Captains received their badges. They have been working extremely hard, helping to organise the weekly house matches. Well done to you all!



Houses Matches – This week's results from the Dodgeball House Matches are as follows:-

Yrs 3 & 4 – Green 2-1 Red

Yrs 5 & 6 – Green 4-0 Red

Well done to all those involved!



Cross Country cancellation – Unfortunately due to poor weather conditions the cross country event was cancelled for the second time this week. This event will not be held in the new year, so keep your eyes peeled for upcoming information!

Hockey Tournament at Newent School –

On Thursday, 16 November, a team of Year 5's and Year 6's will be participating in a Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament at Newent School. We are very excited that this team will be the first pupils to use the new School Minibus to transport them to Newent! Find out how the team got on in the next Newsletter!

Musical App – Alert for Parents -

Musical.ly is an app that allows users to share music videos of each other, with each other. It also has instant chat and commentary functions.



Due to this, children can become exposed to unsafe situations with people they don't know. Please be aware that Musical.ly's terms and conditions state that users should be 13 or over to have their own account because of this.

For more tips on keeping your children safe online, please visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

School Value – The school's value this term is respect. The children will be learning about how they respect themselves, their peers, and their elders, as well as respecting the world around them.



'Being respectful is one of the key ingredients to being the best person you can be'.

It is really important that our children see us, their mentors, as good role models, showing each other respect. The school would ask that parents and carers show each other respect, particularly when they are on the school site, as it is not acceptable for any of our children to witness adults in conflict.

Christmas Jumper Day – To get in the festive spirit, Christmas Jumper Day will take place on Wednesday, 13th December, to coincide with Christmas Lunch.

All children are welcome to wear a christmas jumper or something festive to school. We are suggesting a donation of £1.00 which will go to Crisis, a charity which supports people who are homeless. Thank you.

Concerns – Just a reminder that should a parent/carer have any concerns about their child, then please speak with the Class Teacher in the first instance.

If you find at this point that the matter cannot be resolved through this channel, then please contact the School Office to make an appointment to meet with a senior member of staff.

Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Shoe Boxes – A huge thank you to all who donated shoe boxes this year. Teams4U collected the shoe boxes earlier this week. They will be distributed across Easter Europe, helping orphaned children.



Richard Pitman, author visit – We are thrilled to share with you that Richard Pitman,

a local author, will be visiting children in upper KS2 next Wednesday to share his experiences of book writing with the children.

Children will have the chance to purchase copies of Mr Pitman's book, *Jeremy Threepwood*, at a cost of £5.00.



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