

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3GD ★ admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk ★
Tel: 01594 822 311 ★ www.st-whites.org

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Visit from Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service - Wren

and Robin classes had some very special visitors on Monday. Fire Fighters from our local fire



station came to visit. They talked to the children about their jobs, staying safe and the fire engine. All the children had the opportunity to sit inside the fire engine and use the water hose. The children were rather soggy but very happy indeed!

Police Visit – Drugs Talk – Upper KS2 classes

were visited by Gloucestershire Police last week to talk with the pupils about substances that are classed as drugs as well as



the different classifications of types of drugs. Officers talked about prescription and non-prescription drugs as well as legal and illegal drugs safe. Officers advised pupils of the effects that drugs can have, and who to contact if they had any concerns.

The team from Gloucestershire Police will be returning after the half term to complete their information talk on dealing with negative pressure and saying 'no' when their peers try to influence and encourage them to engage in taking risks that may be harmful.

Diary Dates

February

- 12th – 16th – Half Term
- 19th – Pupils return to School
- 22nd – GSUS Bus – visit to Forest High Year 6 pupils
- 26th – Cheltenham Dance Festival – from 3.00 pm
- 28th – Adult Education (English) starts

March

- 1st - Learn alongside your child in class – Reading 9.00 am – 10.00 am
- 1st – World Book Day – Dress in single colour
- 1st – 5th – Book Fair
- 21st – KS1 Topic Celebration – 2.45 pm
- 22nd – KS2 Topic Celebration – 2.45 pm
- 27th – Yrs 2 & 6 Parent Information Meeting re SATS – 3.30 pm
- 28th – Talent Competition – times TBC
- 30th – Easter holidays start

April

- 16th – Pupils return to school
- 17th – Reception Classes Hearing & Vision Testing
- 27th – Tempest Class Photos

May

- 1st – 31st – KS1 SAT Testing
- 10th – Learning alongside your child in Class – 9.00 am
- 14th – 17th – KS2 SATS Testing

June

- 5th – Aspirations Day
- 6th - Cheltenham Science Festival Trip – Yrs 1 & 2
- 7th – Cheltenham Science Festival Trip – Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6
- 8th – Cheltenham Science Festival Young Scientists visit
- 11th – 15th – Phonics Testing Week

Police visit – Internet Safety – St White's received a visit from the Gloucestershire Constabulary Safer Cyber Team Division during Safer Internet day on the 8th of February. Pupils had the chance to discuss how to keep themselves safe online, looking at some of the dangers that they might encounter on the internet.

One of the key pieces of advice given to all our children was that when using apps, they should never 'friend' anyone they don't know in real life.



The internet is an incredible tool but is also a dangerous place for our children to visit, if they are not supported and encouraged by adults to use it safely. We all have a responsibility to protect our children from cyberbullying and exposure to sexual predators

Please reinforce this message with your children, especially for gaming platforms and apps like Roblox, Minecraft, X-Box live or the Playstation Network.

Our thanks go to Mrs Victoria Brinton, a parent of one of our children, for delivering the sessions right across the school; from reception through to the Year 6 children.

The website links below are really helpful to parents and children:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<http://www.childnet.com/>

<http://www.childinternetsafety.co.uk/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Tri-Golf - Key Stage 2 children were given a taste of golf last week with a Tri Golf session. They learnt about different types of golf clubs, the technical features of a golf course and the techniques for the 'perfect swing'. All our children had the opportunity



to practice their skills with fast paced games and team challenges.

A month of fun follow up sessions are being arranged at school after half term.

Adult Education – English Classes – A reminder that it is still not too late to sign up for the next session of Adult Education, this time studying Functional English.

The start date has been put back one week, and classes will now commence on 28 February 2018.



If anyone has any questions relating to these classes, please pop into school to see Caroline Woodhead. Thank you.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Governors – Part 3 - In previous newsletters the role of the school's Governors has been explained.



The committee system was talked about and how they are used discharge the responsibilities governors have. It is appropriate, and we hope interesting, to give you more details about the sorts of matters we discuss at these meetings, which, typically, last a couple of hours once every six weeks or so (i.e. each 'small' term). You will understand that the need for confidentiality will mean that we will not be able to go into sharply focused details of each area discussed. However, the minutes of each committee and of the full governing body meetings are available to be read after they have been accepted by the relevant committee as a true and accurate record, which is usually at the next scheduled meeting of that committee. Again, for the reason of confidentiality, the minutes of the Personnel Committee are obviously **NOT** available.

The Curriculum and the Assessment committees have recently amalgamated, having found that this arrangement is a far better use of everyone's time and expertise as so much of the business of their meetings is to do with the same detailed matters. During this school year so far, therefore, the following matters have been discussed:

Curriculum and Assessment Committee(s)

- Pupils' attainment and progress data
- The extent to which the School's Development Plan is on track
- Curriculum Development and the long-term overview of provision in all areas of the curriculum
- Learning Walks (Governors and senior leaders gathering information at first-hand)
- The proposed timetable for monitoring all aspects of the work of the School
- The underlying principles that govern the expectations we have of pupils' behaviour and the effects on good order in the School
- The actions taken by the School to involve pupils and parents as fully as possible in the education on offer.
- Receipt of detailed reports on subjects, such as mathematics and the provision for those children with Special Educational Needs



Finance and Buildings Committee

- Updates on the state of the buildings and grounds
- Health and safety report
- Reports on the continuing state of the School's finances
- Funding for clubs, including the Breakfast Club



- The desirability and viability of running a minibus
- Lettings
- Policies to do with, among others, Health and Safety, lettings and teacher appraisal

Personnel Committee

- The staffing structure
- Effectiveness of staffing arrangements, including deployment
- The provision and effectiveness of Continuous Professional Development for staff
- Absence patterns for all staff



Full Governing Body (FGB)

The FGB ensured that all annual duties, such as declaration of interest forms, the reading and signing of Governors' Code of Conduct forms and other statutory paperwork, were undertaken. They discussed and ratified or rejected draft policies recommended by committees. Additionally, they received full notes of any monitoring visit made by Governors to the School.

The FGB also monitored and challenged, as appropriate,

- The draft minutes for all committee meetings
- The School's Self-Evaluation Form
- The School plans for raising attainment and accelerating progress for all pupils
- The extremely detailed and informative reports from the Head Teacher and other senior and subject managers
- Copies of the analysis of Parent surveys

During the course of each meeting Governors have been diligent over fulfilling their roles and responsibilities with regard to:

- monitoring the work of the School,
- ensuring that the School's financial decisions are focused on improving

the provision for, and progress of, the children, and

- Supporting and challenging, as appropriate, the senior management of the School.

Absence reporting - Parents may have read the very sad case of the Daykin family whose father died and the young children were left alone at home all day.



Their school has been heavily criticised for not making enough of an effort to contact the family when the children did not arrive at school. In light of this tragedy, we have reviewed our school absence policy and procedures for managing unexplained absences. If contact cannot be made with any of the usual parents/carers that the school has on its database, this may mean that a member of staff makes a home visit to check that all is well. If this visit gives continued cause for concern because no one in the house can be roused, then the member of staff may call the emergency services.

It is therefore extremely important that parents/carers contact the school by 9.00am in the morning either by telephone, email or using the contact form on the website. This then ensures that the school knows both you and your children are safe.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Attendance Celebration – It is a real pleasure to announce that the school is celebrating our children's good attendance with a photo gallery of children who achieved outstanding



attendance for the whole of the Year 2016-2017. The gallery is situated in the corridor opposite the sports hall and will be a

permanent fixture for each year so that those children who achieve outstanding attendance for a complete academic year, will have their photo on display for the following year.

Super Writing! – Our children are all working really hard on developing their writing and presentation skills in their books. Today, three children from Robin class came along to show me their super writing! It was a delight to see how our youngest members of the school, are already showing off their newfound skills, writing wonderful sentences that are correctly punctuated, with capital letters, full stops and beautifully crafted letter formations. Well done!

School Council Triumphs! – Last night, the School Council met with the governors to put forward a proposal to purchase sports



equipment for a new venture. Members of the Council explained that they want to set up a fitness club

during school lunchtimes for our children to participate in. To do this, they would need a CD player and music CDs and then the circuit equipment for the different fitness activities.

Governors were highly impressed with the Council's presentation and applauded them for putting together such a strong argument. As a consequence, governors have agreed to fund their new venture. Congratulations to them all and watch this space for news on their new club.

Safety in the car – We have received some reports that parents have been driving to and from school with their children not properly secured in the vehicle with car seats/seat belts.

This is obviously an offence not to have your child properly secured in the vehicle, but is also highly dangerous.

Please ensure that all passengers are secured properly in your vehicle before you start any journey.

On behalf of all here at St White's, have a wonderful half term.

Next Newsletter – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 23 February 2018.



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