

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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Bugs Galore – It has been a really tough week in school, with many pupils off with either a sickness bug or flu-like symptoms. It has been interesting to note that the pupils who were offered and took up the flu vaccination, appear to be fairing much better through this current spate of illness.



The worst day of the week accounted for almost 10% of our pupils out sick. The school is reminding children of the importance of hygiene to restrict the spread of germs. Your help with reinforcing this at home is very much appreciated.



Finally, a reminder that if your child has been sick or has an upset tummy, and you believe this to be a stomach bug, please remember that the child should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/diarrhoea. Thank you.

News from Around the Classes – This term, as part of an initiative to give our children the chance to explore a wider range of physical and sporting activities, the school has introduced Yoga and fencing to the PE programmes. The idea behind including Yoga



Diary Dates

January
30th - Whole school Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30 pm

February
1st – Whole school Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30 pm
12th – 16th – Half Term
19th – Pupils return to School
26th – Cheltenham Dance Festival – from 3.00 pm

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 – KS1 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 – 8th – Cheltenham Science Festival Trips (details TBC)
11th – 15th – Phonics Testing Week

in the curriculum is twofold. Physically, it enhances flexibility, strength, coordination, and body awareness. In addition, it helps with concentration and sense of calmness and relaxation



improves. Doing yoga, children exercise, play, connect more deeply with their inner self...and it is great fun!

Skylark, Jay and Swift Class – The children in lower Key Stage 2 began their new topic on China with some wonderful Tai Chi sessions that focused on coordination, balance and body



awareness. All the children had a wonderful time, not just learning the basics of this fascinating

ancient form of exercise but also facts about its origins.

Forest Schools – Last term, Heron Class built a wonderful 'bug hotel' down by the school pond. They also whittled willow branches and sculptured faces out of mud on the trees by the base camp.



This term Woodpecker class are venturing outside with Mrs Barrow. They explore the site and found some amazing little creatures and plants and have decided that next week they would like to make fat balls for the birds to keep them going through the last months of the winter.

The roles and responsibilities of Governors

Part 2 – Last time we told you the purpose of Governors in Maintained schools generally throughout the country. We also reminded



you that, while you should feel free to contact any Governor, should you wish to do so, the best course of action would be for you to talk

with those volunteers who are Parent Governors in St White's. In this newsletter, we will try to explain just how we go about discharging our responsibilities in our school specifically.

We operate through a number of committees and each Governor sits on at least one of them – normally more! There are committees for Finance and Buildings, Assessment and Curriculum and Personnel. Each of these committees has a specific remit that is reviewed each year – their "Terms of Reference". All meetings have clear agendas and are fully and professionally minuted. Personnel Committee minutes are confidential with detailed but anonymised information shared in meetings of the Full Governing Body (FGB). Each committee and the FGB meet up to six times a year to review what has been done by the management of the school to meet the strategic targets set by the Governors. The details of what is discussed in these meetings is confidential, but the minutes of each meeting, once ratified as a true and accurate account of that meeting, are freely available to you.

At many of the meetings, we receive extremely detailed reports from the Head Teacher or the School Business Manager. The meetings serve as the opportunity for Governors to hold the school to account for standards and provision, to challenge the management of the School, to congratulate them on successes and to oversee the spending of available finances; in other words, to fulfil our responsibilities, as outlined in the previous report.

This is, however, not the only method by which we judge the success and health of the School. Many Governors have particular responsibilities, such as checking that we meet the requirements for Health and Safety. Other individuals take on responsibility for overseeing the effectiveness of the spending of money given by the Government to be

spent on specific curriculum areas or on designated groups of children. Still more Governors spend time monitoring the work done by children and teachers in particular classes – Key Stage 1 for example – or take part in “learning walks”, which enable Governors to focus on, for example, behaviour at lunch times or specific events, with Notes of Visit being written and shared in FGB meetings.

If you have any questions about this or any aspect of the work of Governors, please do not hesitate to ask. As stated earlier, ask any one of them or direct your enquiry through Michelle Saddington, who is the Clerk to the Governors. Equally, if you have any suggestions that would help us in our determined quest to become an outstanding school at our next inspection by Ofsted, please do let us know!

Adult Education - In the next couple of weeks the Functional Skills Maths course held



at St White's will be coming to an end. Well done to the parents/carers who have taken part and have learnt new skills whilst also gaining a new Maths qualification!

Following the success of the Maths course, we are thrilled to now be offering you the chance to complete the Functional Skills English course starting on 21st February 2018. The free course will



be held every Wednesday in school between 9am - 11am, with funded childcare if you have little ones not in school. It will be open to those people wanting to complete Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 English. The school is so pleased to be able to provide these sessions in school for our parents. It is a

fantastic opportunity for you to develop your reading and writing and grammar skills.

For more information, pop in to see Caroline.



Street Dance Classes – Classes are being offered on Wednesdays – 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm at Drybrook Memorial Hall and Cinderford Artspace – 7.45 pm – 8.45 pm. Sessions cost £1.00, with the first session free. No booking necessary – just turn up!

London Marathon – It is a pleasure to announce that Mitch Griffin,



one of the school's teaching assistants will be running in the London Marathon on the 22 April 2018, in aid of 'Meningitis Now'. If you would like to sponsor Mr Griffin, please contact the School Office. We wish him the very best of luck!!!

Attendance Updates - Although the past week has seen the school's overall attendance levels dip just below 97% due to the unusually high levels of sickness absence, it is a real pleasure to be sending out so many letters of congratulations to families whose children have achieved 100% attendance from the start of the school year to Christmas, as

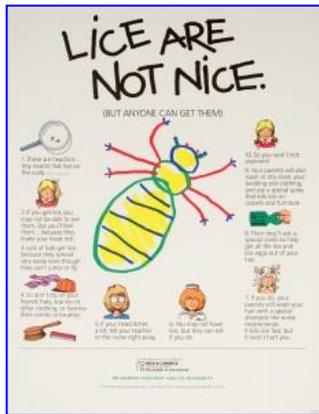


well as letters to congratulate children whose attendance has significantly improved this year.

Head Lice – The school has another outbreak of Head Lice in School. Please check your child's head regularly and treat as required.

The School Office has made enquiries about parents/carers being able to obtain free Head Lice Treatment under the Minor Ailments Scheme.

Individual Pharmacists have to sign up to be eligible to operate this scheme, but the



school has been in contact with both the Co-op Pharmacy, Dockham Road, and Boots in Market Street, who have advised that they are in the process of signing up for the scheme. Boots hope to be operational within the next 10 days approximately, and Co-op in the next 2-3 weeks.

There are other treatments/medication available under the Minor Ailment Scheme too, and details of who is eligible. Do visit the website www.medexpress.co.uk and search for the 'Minor Ailment Scheme explained', or call into one of the above Chemists for more details.

Learning alongside your child in Class –

There was a wonderful turn-out from



Parents/Carers on Thursday morning for the next session of Learning alongside your child in Class. This time the topic was Maths.

Thank you to all who gave up their precious time to attend. The children thoroughly enjoy spending time with their family in class and showing off their skills! The school has

received some lovely comments from parents who found the session really interesting and felt that it gives them a much better understanding of how lessons are taught in class.



World Book Day

Takes place this year on 1st March and we will be having a whole school focus on the book "The Day the Crayons Quit". Children will be invited to dress up all in one colour and take part in exciting activities during the day. More information to follow.



Neighborhood Watch information

A burglary occurred in the Ruspidge Road area on the 21st of January. Between the hours of 12 midday and 7.15pm unknown offenders forced a ground floor window and Jewellery has been taken. There have also been two shed burglaries in the same area. A property has been broken into in the Springfield Drive area on the 22nd January. Unknown offenders gained entry by smashing the glass in a door. If you have any information about these incidents please call 101 or e-mail 101@gloucestershire.police.uk

Next Newsletter – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 9 February 2018.

