

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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24th November 2017

Poppy Appeal – Following the success of last year's donations raised for the Poppy Appeal, and raising a staggering £481.92, the School was completely stunned to learn that this year donations raised totalled **£686.73!** This is an incredible achievement and something the whole school can be very proud of. The funds, as you know, are used to support the necessary work needed to help support service men, women and their families. Many thanks to everyone for their donations.



Children in Need – Again, another worthy cause and yet again the donations received for Children in Need totalled £230.00. Thank you so much for all the funding that you give to the charities that the school supports.



Roles and responsibilities of Governors -

Recently, parents and carers were invited to take part in a survey arranged by the management of the School as part of their self-evaluation. The results of the survey help to shape our priorities for further development. One



Diary Dates

November

- 20th-24th – Road Safety Week
- 29th – Learning alongside your child in Class – Reading 9.00 am – 10.00 am
- 30th – Flu vaccination in school – Reception – Yr 4 pupils only

December

- 8th – PTFA Christmas Fayre – 6.00 pm
- 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 – Carol Concert, St John's Church TBC
- 20th – School finishes for Christmas
- 21st – School closed for Christmas break

January

- 5th – INSET Staff only in school
- 8th – **School reopens to pupils**
- 17th – Learning alongside your child in class – Maths from 9.00 am
- 30th – Whole school Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30 pm

February

- 1st – Whole school Parent Consultation Evening from 3.30 pm

of the findings of the survey was that many of you do not know what it is that the Governing Body does or how to contact them. Over the course of the next few parent letters, the Governors intend to explain who they are, what it is that they do, how they do it and how to contact them should you wish to do so. Much of this information already exists

on the School website under the section "Governors/governor overview".

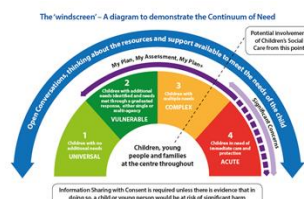
Governors are volunteers who spend several hours each month attending meetings and working to further the school's development. They are drawn from many different backgrounds and are representative of the various categories of people with a legitimate interest in the School, including parents, staff, LEA, community and other groups.

Each school has its own Constitution, prescribed by the Government, which states the maximum number of people that should represent each of the groups. Although you can approach any of the Governors for information or to have a chat, it is most appropriate to contact those individuals that you, the parent body, have elected to represent you on the Governing Body. Currently, these people are:

- Dan Beard
- Debra Clough
- Gemma Higgins
- Richard Jones
- Alan Meredith



Safeguarding Audit – The school is in the process of completing the audit of statutory duties and associated responsibilities for schools and settings in relation to



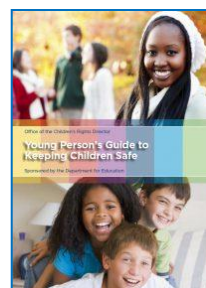
'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Sept 16) It is a legal requirement under SECTION 14B OF THE CHILDREN ACT 2004, for schools and settings to respond to this audit. It is the responsibility of governors to oversee the process and ensure that the school is complying with all the robust requirements of safeguarding, as set out in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (Sept 16). This is a link to the document you're your information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2> .

One of the most important elements of the audit is checking that the school's offers of Early Help are far reaching and meets the needs of all our

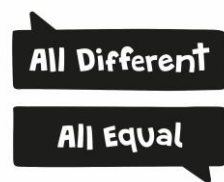
children and families. Mrs Tilling, the SEN Coordinator and Mrs Woodhead, the school's Family Support Worker, have compiled the school's offers of Early Help in three documents. These are accessible on the school's website. Hard copies are also kept in Reception. They form part of the school's Safeguarding policy, which is in the process of being reviewed by stakeholders. A copy of the draft is available for parents to read and comment upon. This has been sent via your email or a hard copy is available from the school office.

School Council - The Headteacher met with the Pupil School Council yesterday to talk



about a range of different items, including safeguarding so that the school is taking into their views also. The school have already shared their views about the anti-

bullying policy but because the school is required now to write a policy that includes what we do to ensure that everyone understands what hate crime is, the policy has been amended, incorporating their views.



The school council also wanted to talk about fund raising at the Xmas Fair for a music machine so that the can run a fitness club at lunch times. They will have their own stall and are very

excited about their first enterprising project of the year!

Attendance – Whole school attendance has climbed back up to 97% this week. There are still a few bugs around, but we are experiencing much less sickness. Nightingale are currently leading the competition for the class with best attendance each week, closely followed by Swift and Sparrow Classes.

The children are always very proud when their class receives the Attendance Trophy at Celebration Assembly, and there will be a reward for the classes with the best attendance during the autumn, spring and summer terms!

Christmas Lunch Menu/Christmas Jumper Day

– Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday, 13th

December 2017. The menu will be:

- Roast Turkey served with Chipolata Sausage, sage and onion stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy
- Cranberry, Feta and spinach Roulade
- Herby Roast Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots and Garden Peas
- Gingerbread
- Homemade Christmas Pudding



Don't forget that children can wear their Christmas Jumper too and any proceeds raised will go to CRISIS, the Homeless Charity that the school is sponsoring this year.

Parking – Polite reminder –Please would all parents and carers remember that parking in front of the double gates to the staff car park prevents staff from being able to exit. Staff must be



able to leave to attend courses for example or indeed in the event of an emergency and so it is essential, that the entrance to the car park is not blocked please.

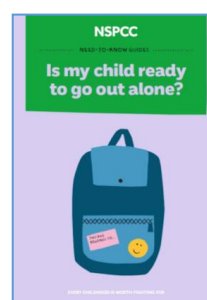
Many thanks for your assistance in this matter.

Road Safety Day – PCSO Sue Pritchard PC and Austin Myrie from Gloucestershire

Constabulary, spent the day here at school on Wednesday, helping to teach our children about road safety. Reception and KS1 children learnt to use the different crossings and representatives from lower KS2 went out onto St White's Road to learn about how the police monitor the speed of traffic.



In the afternoon Sue talked to the upper KS2 children about keeping safe on the way to and from school, reminding them how to cross roads safely and also keep themselves safe when they are out alone.



If you would like more information about when your child is ready to go out on their own, the NSPCC Need to Know leaflet that talks about giving children more independence and on the school's website under the

Family Support Worker's section.

Following on from Wednesday's visit, we were delighted to be joined by Colin the Crocodile. Colin from the Road Safety Team, who visited the children in Reception, KS1 and LKS2 classes on Thursday afternoon.



He had a few problems with his tail in one class by knocking everything off the shelf!!!

Colin also met with the School Council.



Colin the Crocodile has set a competition for pupils to enter if they would like to. Colin would like a new 'skin' designed for him. At the moment you can see he is green and he is looking for a new image for the new year! Colouring sheets can be collected from the School Office. Don't forget to put your child's name and class on the back when you return the entry. There will be a prize for the winner!

News from around the Classrooms -

As part of our Road Safety Day, Heron and Peregrine measured the school field to calculate its distance in miles and kilometres. As a challenge they had to calculate how many times they would have to go around the field to equal the distance to other destinations. They found out that they would need to go around the field 1,160 times to go from here to Aberdovey and 2,560 times to reach London!



Heron Class – Thank you so much to Heron parents for sending in materials for our Bug Hotel. Heron Class spent last Monday afternoon at Forest



School, designing their bug hotel and it looks fantastic! Let's hope we have some residents very soon!

The children still have space for more materials so if you have any air bricks, plant pots, fizzy pop bottles, or anything else that small



creatures would like to live in, then please drop them in to school. **Many thanks.**

Author visit – Heron, Peregrine and Woodpecker were lucky enough to be visited by Rich Pitman, a local author, who has written about Jimmy Threepwood. He told them all about his life as a Policeman,



as well as an author. All the children created a new character and talked about how they were able to transform. Peregrine Class have followed this up with letters to Rich Pitman describing the characters they have created. They are hoping they will be included in his next book!

Bikeability – Children from Year 6 completed their Bikeability training last week and learnt all about how to keep safe when riding on the roads. Well done to all who took part.



Sporting Events –

Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament – Last Thursday a team of Year 5's and 6's went to Newent Community School for a Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament. The children were very excited that they got to be the first sports team to use our new minibus! The children

showcased some fantastic hockey skills that they have learnt in PE lessons. The team won one match, lost one match and drew two matches. Very well done!

Upcoming sporting events – Our next competition is Sports Hall athletics at Dene Magna School on Tuesday, 5 December. See the next Newsletter to find out how the children performed.

House Match Results – Well done to all children who participated in this week's Dodgeball House Matches. The results are as follows:-

Year 3/4 – Green 2 – 1 Yellow

Year 5/6 – Green 0 – 3 Yellow

Anti-bullying Week – Peregrine Class used a film 'For the Birds' as part of their work on anti-bullying. It was used to give children the opportunity to explore the content and talk



through how the big bird might be feeling when the small birds were mean to him because he is different. Pupils acted out parts of the film and created their own dialogue. Not only were they learning about how being unkind to one another can be hurtful, they also got the chance to practise some English grammar skills, when they wrote the scripts for their play. This is a link to the film, if you would like to explore the subject of bullying further at home with your child.

<https://www.literacyshed.com/anti-bullying-shed.html>

Reading Evening – Thank you to all parents who attended the Reading Evening this week.



children explaining how

It was great to see a range of activities going on across the school, including



they learn to read. Siblings came along and thoroughly enjoyed hot chocolate and a video, whilst their brothers and sisters showed off their skills to their parents and carers.

Well done to all of the parents for joining in so enthusiastically with the activities and a big thank you to the teachers for organising the evening.

Learning alongside your child in class –

Reading – A reminder that the next session will be taking place on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 from 9.00 am – 10.00 am. *Both entrances*



will be available for parents and carers to gain access to school. Please make sure that you report to the School Office to sign in. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Parentmail and Parentpay – There appears to be some confusion, probably because of such similar names, of two systems that we use in school.

Parentmail is a communication system. We have asked all parents/carers to register so that the school can communicate both effectively and at short notice as a whole school, or individually. Text and email messages are sent through to parents/carers. The bulk of messages will come through as emails so please do check emails regularly. The reason for emails sent as a preference over a text is that sending an email through Parentmail is free for the school.

The school administrators are also able to access and send messages out away from the school environment – with the whole school

trip to the Pantomime nearly upon us, having everyone signed up is imperative to ensure any last minute change of arrangements, arrival times, etc can be sent through.

If you are not registered for Parentmail at all, please contact the school office asap so that we can send a link through to you.

Parentpay – The majority of parents will already be signed up to this – the only exception at present being Reception Class parents who have not needed to pay for trips as yet!

Parentpay allows you to pay for school meals, trips, wrap around care, and enrichments clubs on line. The school has strived to become a cashless school, and so it is vital that all payments are made in this manner.

If you are not signed up yet, please do contact the school office and we can generate your initial log in for you. We will generate a log in for all Reception Class parents when the first trip is planned – probably early next year now!

We do hope this all makes sense. Any problems do please contact the school office.

Mrs Ann Fisher – It is with real sadness that I report the death of Mrs Ann Fisher. After a short illness, Ann passed away on Tuesday at the Dilke Hospital. Many of you will, I am sure remember her. She was a highly valued member of staff at St White's School for many years and is remembered with great affection by some of our parents, who were indeed taught by her and also our of children about their career, please do get in touch. Thank you in advance!

longstanding members of staff, who worked with her.

Along with her expert teaching, Ann directed many memorable Year 6 plays through her drama club. They were so very well written by Ann herself and incorporated beautiful music, dance routines and drama too. They were such fun for everyone who was involved in the production. Ann was passionate about bringing out the best in her 'actors' and did so with great skill. She will be sadly missed.

Her funeral is Friday afternoon, 8 December, and many of our longstanding members of staff will be in attendance to pay their respects and say their goodbyes.

On behalf of the whole school, I would like to express our sincere condolences to Ann's family. Our thoughts are with her brother and two sons at this most difficult time.

And finally..... A date for your diary.

Following the success of last year's Aspirations Day, we are already starting to plan for next year's event and would really appreciate your help.

If you know someone who would be interested in spending the morning with us on Tuesday, 5 June 2018, to talk with groups



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