

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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20th October 2017

A Very Special Invitation – We are sure Mrs Cross would love to share with you news of a very special invitation that she received from the Duke of York to visit Buckingham

Palace on Monday afternoon. The Duke of York is Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, an educational charity that uses the outdoors to help develop young people from all walks of life.



Through the generosity of donors, they are able to run adventurous and challenging outdoor learning courses that equip young people with valuable skills for education, work and life. The sessions help them become more confident, more effective and more capable at school, college and in the workplace.

Mrs Cross was invited to attend an education forum in London to join in a discussion around the opportunities that exist to support young people developing relevant skills to allow them to be economically active.

She had a wonderful time, and as a school we were absolutely thrilled that she was chosen to join in with this very special event.

Our Year 6 children will be visiting one of Outward Bound Trust Centres in Aberdovey, during the first week back after half term, for their residential trip this year.

Diary Dates

October

- 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

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**

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 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 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

Governing Bodies have the task of helping the School to provide the best possible education for its children by:

- Thinking and working strategically to help raise standards by setting medium and long-term goals;

- Monitoring and evaluating the extent of progress made by the leadership and management of the School towards these goals;
- Holding the School to account for the quality of its educational provision and the standards that the children achieve as a result of that provision by both supporting and challenging the Senior Leaders, and
- Ensuring that the finances received by the School are spent in the best interests of the children and with the principles of Best Value in mind.

News From the Classrooms –

Swift Class have been talking about food from all around the world.



The pupils have researched traditional foods from countries in each continent and have made a collage of the food that is produced on each continent.

Year 6 visit to Forest High School – The Year 6 children spent an inspiring day at Forest High School on Tuesday. They were given the opportunity to try many different lessons which they will experience when they move on to secondary school next year.

The day included print making in the Art Department, Fajitas cooking (and eating) in Food Tech and scientific experiments involving light and fire!



It was a wonderful day with the added bonus that we were able to see past



students from our school thriving in the next chapter of their lives!

Math's Challenge – Well done to the Year 6 Math's team who represented the school in the Math's Championships at Dean Close School last week. Morgan Meredith, Hannah Partis, Ollie Taylor and Ben Phillips worked in two teams to undertake three rounds in this fast-paced competition.



Well done, their overall standing was 5th out of 22 for the first pair and 9th out of 20 for the second pair.

Attendance - Whole school attendance for the first half term stands at 97.12%. The absence is 1.62% authorised – which is generally sickness or medical appointments, and 1.26% unauthorised which is holidays or lateness.

This last figure is really disappointing, as it is absence which is entirely avoidable, and without it our overall attendance rate would be well over 98%.

This term last year was much better with 97.7% overall attendance and only 0.4% unauthorised.

Today we are delighted to be giving out over 170 certificates for 100% attendance in the first half term.

Safety on site – Please can we remind all parents/carers and pupils that scooters and bicycles should not be ridden within the school premises. Please ensure that your child



dismounts as soon as they reach the school gate and push the scooter/bicycle around to the racks to be stored until the end of the school day.

Also can we please remind parents/carers that they are responsible for their child until 8.40 am in the morning and when the children are dismissed from class at the end of the school day. It has been noted that a small number of children are running out of school and straight to the roadside – something that is extremely dangerous and could have terrible consequences.

Please take care and ensure children are supervised appropriately.

Harvest Festival – Our annual Harvest Festival celebrations will be taking place this afternoon from 2.00 pm. We are looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible during the afternoon.



Soup is being served by Cater link and there will also be drinks served by the PTFA.

Parents will be able to view a display of the pupils work from all classes and hopefully stay with us for the formal assembly, where a representative from the local Foodbank will be joining us.

We have received a huge amount of donations and these will be matched by the local Co-op store in Cinderford and passed onto the local Foodbank.

Thank you to all who have donated. Photos of the afternoon will be published in the next Newsletter.

Permission to Leave School Early – We have a growing number of parents asking to take their child early from school, particularly on the last day of a term.

This should be requested in exactly the same way as holiday permission, ie. in writing.

If the child is still here for the afternoon attendance, they would be marked in school as normal, but please be advised that if a child is due a 100% attendance award, this will not be issued as technically the child will not be in school for the full term.

We trust that this clarifies the situation, and thank you for your co-operation in the matter.

And finally.....

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful week off, and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday, 30 October 2017 for another exciting term.



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