

# 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.gloucs.sch.uk

**14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Welcome Back** – A very warm welcome back to you all, particularly our new Reception Class children and also families who have joined us in other year groups for the start of this new academic year. We do hope you are fully refreshed and looking forward to what is going to be a truly exciting year ahead!



To set the stage for this term's project, pupils and staff alike dressed up on the first day back in World War I attire. A 'street party' was held in the afternoon, with pupils enjoying food that would have been served during the early 1900's. Thank you so much to parents for providing the costumes. They will be used again later on in the year when the school commemorates 100 years since Armistice Day in 1918.



As you know, the school is embarking on a major project that will see the children finding out all about the rich, local history during Edwardian times. There will be more news items on the project as the term unfolds.

Thank you to Mrs Greensmith for coming in to bake 28 loaves of soda bread with UKS2 pupils. The bread was enjoyed by the whole

## Diary Dates

### September

- 20<sup>th</sup>** – Whole School Reading evening – 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
- 25<sup>th</sup>** – Parent Consultation Evening (except Reception classes) – from 3.30 pm
- 27<sup>th</sup>** – Parent Consultation Evening (except Reception, Raven, Heron & Peregrine classes) – from 3.30 pm

### October

- 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Whole School Open Day for Reception intake 2019 and new families to area – 1.30 pm – 2.45 pm and 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup>** – Cross Country event Five Acres High School – 2.00 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup>** – Yrs 1, 2 & 5 – Trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival
- 8<sup>th</sup>** – Yrs 3 & 4 Trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival
- 10<sup>th</sup>** – World Mental Health Day
- 10<sup>th</sup>** – Yr 6 Trip to Cheltenham Science Festival
- 11<sup>th</sup>** – Aberdovey Information session – from 3.20 pm – 4.00 pm
- 12<sup>th</sup>** – Harvest Festival celebrations – times TBC
- 12<sup>th</sup>** – Learning alongside your child in class – times TBC
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>** – Yr 6 Residential Trip Aberdovey
- 16<sup>th</sup>** – World Food Day
- 16<sup>th</sup>** – Parent Consultation Evening – **Reception Classes only** – from 3.30 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup>** – Parent Consultation Evening – **Reception Classes only** – from 3.30 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>** – **Half Term**
- 29<sup>th</sup>** – School reopens
- 31<sup>st</sup>** – Tempest individual photos

### November

- 9<sup>th</sup>** – Armistice Day – details TBC
- 20<sup>th</sup>** – Height & weight checks in school Reception & Yr 6 pupils only

school at the tea party. Thank you also to members of the PTFA who helped with the afternoon celebrations.

**Heritage Centre Visits** – Key Stage 1 and 2 classes all visited the Dean Heritage Centre in Soudley last week to



attend workshops provided by the centre on life in the 1900s. All three days were superb! The walk through Abbots Wood to Soudley Ponds was stunning and then the workshops a real treat for all the classes, who made poppy displays for school, learnt about life in the trenches and lots of fascinating information about our local history during WW1. Thank you to all the parents who kindly joined us on the walks to the centre.

**New Members of Staff** – It’s my absolute pleasure to welcome new members of staff to St White’s School.



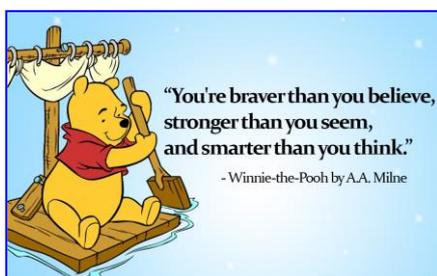
Mrs Erica Fearn is our new Family Support Worker and Mrs Tazmin Morgan is the new class teacher in Kingfisher Class. Mrs Tracy Cowan, Mrs Ann Smart and Mrs Michelle Williams have joined the team of teaching assistants this year.

**St White’s Open Day** – The school will be holding its annual Open Day on 3rd October 2018. Parents/carers of children due to start Reception class in September 2019, as well as families new to the area are invited to come along and visit the school. Doors will be open between 1.30 pm and 2.45 pm and again from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm. Please pass the message around!

### Open House



**The School Value for This Term** – This term’s school value is ‘**Courage**’.



Here is a wonderful quote by A.A. Milne, a prominent author of the 1900s, who wrote a collection of short stories for children, *A Gallery of Children*, and other stories that

became part of the Winnie-the-Pooh books, first published in 1925.

### Adult Education –

A reminder to all parents/carers that



Maths classes started again this week. If there is anyone else interested in joining the group, please contact Erica Fearn, our new Family Support Worker as soon as possible.

### Secondary School selection September

**2019** – The new term has only just begun but already the wheels are in motion for the current Year 6 pupils to make their selection for secondary schools for September 2019.

Packs have already been issued this week to all Year 6 pupils. **Parents should complete the forms and return on line ideally by 31 October 2018. Any applications submitted after this date will not be considered until after 1 March 2019.**

**Forest High School** – Excellent news has been reported, following Forest High School’s recent Ofsted Inspection. They have now been taken out of Special Measures. Our sincere congratulations to Paul Holroyd, the Headteacher and all the staff and pupils.

Their Open Evening for Year 6 intake 2019 will be taking place on 25th September from 4.45 pm – 8.00 pm. Invitations will be sent out to all year 6 pupils next week.

### Five Acres High School Open Evening –

This will be held on 18th September 2018 from 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm. Leaflets have been passed to relevant pupils already.

### Whole School Reading Evening –

Each year the school holds an open evening for parents to come along and find out how the school teaches children to read and inspires them to become



avid readers. Our next Reading Evening is being held on Thursday, 20th September 2018 from 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm. It is open to all our pupils and their parents from Reception through to Year 6.

During the evening, 'Books for Bugs' will be attending. This company sells books extremely cheaply and are well worth a look.



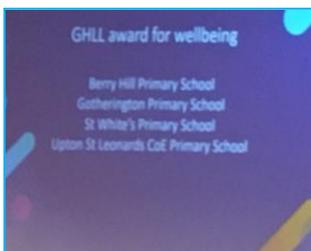
Richard Pitman, the author of the



Jimmy Threepwood children's books will also be in attendance. There will be refreshments for everyone and we encourage our little ones to come along in their PJs and have hot chocolate and a bedtime story. The staff look forward to seeing you at the evening's events.

### Gloucestershire Active Schools Awards

**2018** – I am delighted to announce that St White's Primary School was nominated for



the GHLL Award for Mental Health this year. Last year's school council attended the awards ceremony that took place at Cheltenham

Town Hall. It was an amazing evening and we are very proud to have been nominated. Congratulations to Berry Hill for winning the award and also Steam Mills, who won the award for up skilling staff in teaching PE and sport. It's super that there were a number of Forest schools nominated this year.

### Parent Consultation Evenings (Years 1-6)

**only** – The first Parent Consultation Evenings for this academic year are being held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 from 3.30 pm.

**Please note there will be appointments available on 25th September 2018 for ALL classes, Years 1**



**– 6. Appointments on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 will be for parents of pupils in Years 1 – 5 only. Reception Class consultations will be held just before the half term break.**

You will receive a message on Monday inviting you to book an appointment through the Parentmail system. Please keep a look out for this! Any problems do not hesitate to contact the school office.

**You and Me Mum** – Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on our children. Sadly, some experience abuse, including witnessing domestic violence. This can profoundly affect them and prevent



lifelong health and opportunity. Women's Aid are running a new course at Hilltop Children and Family Centre Latimer Road, GL142QA. The course will run on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 am – 11.30 am and is designed to help Mum's understand how domestic violence affects them as a parent and the impact on their children, as well as how to begin to recover from this.

Anyone who would like further information can contact the Family Information Service on 0800 542 0202.

**Artspace Workshops** – Artspace, Cinderford will be running a variety of workshops again during this academic year for children and young people. Classes include painting, drawing and even circus skills!



New classes will be starting on 17th September and anyone interested can contact Artspace on 01594 825111 (Ext 1).

**Harvest Festival** – Our annual Harvest Festival will



be taking place on 12th October 2018. This year any donations received will be passed to the British Legion. More information will follow towards the end of September regarding the day's celebrations.

**Summer Journals** – Well the journals this year have been incredible! It has been a joy for staff to read all about the adventures of our families through the summer break. A huge well done and thank you to all pupils who worked so hard to create their summer journals during the holidays.



The journals will be displayed during the Parent Consultation Evenings for all to see.

One winner from each class will be announced during a later Celebration Assembly and the winning children will be rewarded with a trip on the minibus to somewhere exciting!!!

**Enrichment Clubs** – Letters will be coming home by the end of this week for pupils in Years 1 – 6. Please make your selections and return forms to the school office as soon as possible as activities are booked incredibly quickly and there are only limited numbers, especially with the sporting activities. Thank you.

**Attendance** - The year has started off very well with whole school attendance at just over 98% for the first two weeks. Sadly this is likely to drop over the next few weeks as we have already had a high proportion of holiday requests this term.

What is very pleasing is that the number of pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the year went up from 25 in 2017 to 44 in 2018. This is a tremendous achievement. Congratulations to all this children. Their pictures will be taken next week and



pupils who achieved 100% attendance for the year went up from 25 in 2017 to 44

displayed in the gallery opposite the sports hall for the year.

The school is still working toward that elusive 100% whole school attendance day. It would be wonderful to achieve this target this term.



I would like to remind parents that the school expects pupils to attend school every day unless there is an authorised reason for absence such as illness. The school does not authorise holidays.

Parents who take their children out of school without authorisation even for just a couple of days may receive a penalty notice from the local authority. The school's pupil attendance policy is on the school's website or a copy of the policy is available from the office. If you have any queries about attendance, do not hesitate to contact the school.

**Aberdovey Information Evening** – With time marching on it won't be long before this year's Residential Trip will be leaving for Aberdovey. The school will be holding a final information drop in information session for parents/carers and pupils taking part on Thursday, 11th October 2018, between 3.20 and 4.00pm. Staff will be on hand to share details of the trip, including accommodation information, coach travel and meal times. This is a great opportunity for you to ask any questions you might have about the trip and so I do hope that all concerned will be able to attend.

**Parking** – As you will all be aware. The school has a Travel Charter. It provides clear and concise guidelines to parents/carers and staff in the form of the St White's Primary School Access



and Parking Policy. An explanatory letter containing the policy was sent to parents/guardians of new pupils and is available for all parents/carers and staff through a range of media including the school prospectus, school website and regular bulletins such as school newsletters and parent mail.

Since our return to school, I have received a number of complaints regarding parking and also unsafe driving. I understand that parents are parking on the Zig Zag lines on Buckshaft Road. Whilst the Highway Code explains



that yellow Zig Zag lines without signs to accompany them do not have a Traffic Regulation Order giving the local council powers to issue PCN fines, they are placed on the road by schools to advise motorists not to wait or park on the lines **for the safety of children**. Although the local council do not have the powers to enforce penalties, police frequently issue tickets in such cases. Tickets are issued on the grounds of causing an obstruction to either other motorists or pedestrians and not for parking on the yellow zig zag lines directly. I would urge parents not to park on the zig zags because it is blocking the road and putting our children in danger.

Please drive with due care and attention, which ever entrance that you use. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

**School website** – A reminder to parents and carers that there is lots of information on the school website to view, including photos and information for all classes. To view you will need to accept Cookies! Thank you.

**Barking Mad!!** – Exciting times at school as we research the possibility of having a school dog. A therapy dog in school would be a valued member of the team to assist with reading, specific needs and mental health within the school.

For more information about the benefits of a school dog, please visit the Dogs Helping Kids website. We would love to hear your thoughts!

[www.kidshelpingdogs.co.uk](http://www.kidshelpingdogs.co.uk)

[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/barkandread](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/barkandread)

**Next Newsletter** – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 28th September 2018.



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