

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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30th November 2018

Donations – Following the sale of artwork from both the Harvest Festival and Armistice Day, the school has raised a further £50.60 which has been passed onto the Royal British Legion.



Least We Forget

Altogether this year, this means that St White's School raised £583.29.

Over the last 3 years, because of the generosity of our school community, the school has raised over £1,700.

It is also wonderful to report that our school community raised a staggering £204.30 this year for Children in Need.



A huge thank you to everyone for your generosity.

Hockey – St White's was represented recently by a team of 12 pupils at Newent Secondary School in the Kwik Sticks Hockey Competition.

Team 'A' won one, and drew two matches against club level hockey players, with all the games being extremely close.

Team 'B' came second in their group and made it to the



Diary Dates

November

30th – PTFA Meeting after school from 3.15 pm

December

4th – Flu Vaccinations in school – Reception – Yr 5 pupils

5th – Basket Weaving for Parents/Carers – 1.30 pm (Dining Hall, St White's)

6th – Sports Hall Athletics – 3.15 pm – 5.30 pm Dene Magna School

6th – Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime in School organised by PTFA 1.15 pm

14th - PTFA Christmas Fayre from 6.00 pm

17th – Reception Christmas Play – afternoon performance – 2.00 pm

17th – KS1 Christmas Play – evening performance – 5.30 pm

18th – KS1 Christmas Play – afternoon performance – 1.30 pm

18th – Reception Christmas Play – evening performance – 5.30 pm

19th – **Christmas Lunch**

20th – Whole school Topic Celebrations from 2.30 pm

20th – PTFA Christmas Discos – 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm Reception & KS1, 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm KS2

21st – Annual Carol Service St John's Church – 9.30 am – 12.00 noon

21st – School finishes for Christmas

21st – **MRS CROSS – LAST DAY** ☹️

January

7th - INSET – no pupils in school

8th – Pupils return to school

23rd – Young Voices Concert – Birmingham

29th – Parent Consultation Evenings – 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm

31st – Parent Consultation Evenings – 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm

February

5th – Learning alongside your child in class – Online Safety details TBC

final, where they lost in the very last second, but secured a silver medal. Congratulations to all who took part – we are very proud of you!

Attendance and Penalty Notices - Over the past couple of years unfortunately the number of children being taken out of school for term time holidays has increased and now represents a significant proportion of school absence (22% of absence so far this school year). In April 2017 the Supreme Court ruled against a parent from the Isle of Wight whose challenge had led to penalty notices being put on hold for a while. Guidance was issued to Local Authorities and schools were advised to ensure their Attendance Policies contained a clear definition of regular attendance.

In October 2017 St White's Primary School Attendance Policy was updated and our definition of regular attendance states that 'The level of attendance that St White's school aims to achieve is 100% and no unauthorised absences. The Education Act 1944 and the Education Act 1996 require pupils to attend school regularly. St White's Primary School defines regular attendance as an expectation that pupils attend every session available to them, unless the reason for absence is one that meets the school's criteria for authorising absences. The only exceptions are for authorised reasons such as sickness absence.'



There are a total of thirteen weeks each school year that are available for parents to take children on holiday without impacting their school attendance. In its judgement on the Isle of Wight Case, the Supreme Court recognised that *"It is not just that there is a clear statistical link between school attendance and educational achievement. It is more the disruptive effect of unauthorised absences. These disrupt the education of the individual child. Work missed has to be made up, requiring extra work by the teacher who has already covered and marked this subject matter with the other pupils. Having to make up for one pupil's absence may also disrupt the*

work of other pupils... Most of all, if one pupil can be taken out whenever it suits the parent, then so can others. ... thus increasing the disruptive effect exponentially."

Parents who request term time holidays will continue to receive a standard letter explaining that they are at risk of a penalty notice. Penalty notices can also be imposed on parents who have not written in advance but where the school has reason to believe that children have been on holiday.

Since the start of this school year, the school has applied for penalty notices wherever the Local Authority guidance is met and will continue to do so. Penalties are issued per parent, per child for each unauthorised holiday. The amount is £60 if paid within 21 days, rising to £120 if paid within 28 days. If parents do not pay the penalty notice then the Local Authority may take the case forward for prosecution which can lead to a fine of up to £1000 and a criminal record. The Local Authority have revised their Penalty Notice Code of Conduct and provided some model standard letters for schools and forms for parents which the school will be using from January 2019. The school attendance policy has been updated recently to further clarify penalty notices. The revised policy will be forwarded to all parents on Parentmail and is available on the school website. A paper copy will be provided to any parent who asks.

Any parent who is considering booking a holiday during term time is advised to write to the school as soon as possible. You will then receive a response with a form to complete. If you proceed with a term-time holiday, it is highly likely that a penalty notice will be issued.

Action Research Project – The school is very excited to be taking part in an action research project being facilitated by the University of Gloucestershire. Action Research involves implementing a new initiative and measuring

its impact. The aim of this project is to increase further the impact of marking and feedback on children's learning.

You will receive a letter very soon explaining about the purpose of the research and asking for your permission to have your children's data included. All information about children will be anonymous and the school will not financially benefit from this research. It is very exciting to work with the University and get our children involved in research into learning. At the end of the project, the children will host a feedback session for the parents so that you will know what has been learnt.

STAFF VACANCY - Wrap around Care

Assistant(s) required - Wrap around care at St White's Primary School has become very popular with numbers continually increasing for both before and after school care. As a result of this there are some sessions requiring an additional member of staff to assist the Club Leader.



We are looking to recruit relief Wrap-Around Care Assistant who is/are able to help out on an ad-hoc basis. You would need to be available to cover between the hours of 7.30 am – 8.40 am and 3.15 pm – 5.30 pm.

If you are interested, please do pop into the School Office for an informal chat to discuss the position. An enhanced DBS check would be required to be carried out for this position.

Earlybirds Christmas Fayre

Earlybirds Playgroup will be holding their annual Christmas Fayre on Friday afternoon, 30 November 2018 from 3.15 pm – 5.00 pm. Lots of stalls, Santa and real life Donkey's! All welcome!!



YouTube - YouTube can present exciting learning opportunities to our pupils to pursue their interests at home but can also pose many dangers.

Inappropriate content is often only several clicks away. Harmless searches for children's TV characters can often lead to content designed to disturb them.



To help you support your children using YouTube, please consider using the

'Kids' version of the app, available on the iTunes and Google Play stores.

The app isn't perfect, and we would encourage you to remain vigilant whenever children are using the internet as harmful content can sometimes still slip through.

The app does have a stricter filtering system and allows you to block specific channels or to only allow specific channels to be viewed. It also allows you to limit content to a specific age group.

Please also remind children that they shouldn't be creating their own channels as the YouTube terms and conditions state that a person must be at least 13 to be able to do so.

More information can be found on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/yt/kids/>

Golden Oldies - A group of children from Robin and Wren visited the Golden Oldies group on Tuesday afternoon. Children were very excited riding on the new mini bus to the village hall. When we arrived the Golden Oldies were setting up for Bingo. Children



enjoyed looking at their bingo cards and spent time chatting to the group.

On Monday the children had baked some Bear Biscuits to take to the group. We then sang our Christmas play songs to the group. The Golden Oldies clapped and had a fantastic time listening.

The children were very lucky to have a gift and cakes to bring back to the rest of the class.

The Golden Oldies sent a lovely message back to school after the visit, *'We really enjoyed having the children, and hope that they enjoyed themselves. We are a new committee (and we have never done anything like this before) we are trying to bring something new to the club, so when the members were overjoyed with the children we feel as though we are doing something right'*.

Next Newsletter – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 14th December 2018.



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