

# St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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**23 March 2018**

**Snow....yet again!** – What an interesting week it has been. The snow beat many schools in the Forest of Dean yet again, despite a valiant attempt by 3 very kind parents, unfortunately St White's joined the closure list once again. As a consequence the school has been very busy this week rearranging events.



Thank you all for your patience. The school aims to run the Swift Class Attendance treat to Slimbridge now after Easter, and there is still a group awaiting a revised visit to Cinderford Fire Station. As soon as these dates are finalised we will advise those concerned.

\*\*\* A pair of gloves was left behind by one of the kind volunteers who helped to clear snow earlier in the term. If you think they could belong to you, please contact the school office.

**Talent Competition** – The two Heats for the Talent Competition took place earlier this week, with some fabulous acts entertaining pupils and staff.



## Diary Dates

### March

- 17<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sports Relief
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Yrs 5 & 6 Museum of Gloucester trip
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Trip to Viney Hill
- 26<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Topic Celebration – 2.45 pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Yrs 2 & 6 Parent Information Meeting re SATS – 3.30 pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> – LKS2 Topic Celebration – 2.45 pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Talent Competition – 6.00 pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Easter Bonnet Parade
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Easter holidays start

### April

- 16<sup>th</sup> – Pupils return to school
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Reception Classes Hearing & Vision Testing
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Maths Challenge, Dene Magna
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Tempest Class Photos

### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – KS1 SAT Testing
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Learning alongside your child in Class – 9.00 am
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS Testing

### June

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Aspirations Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Cheltenham Science Festival Trip – Yrs 1 & 2
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Cheltenham Science Festival Trip – Yrs 3, 4, 5 & 6
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Cheltenham Science Festival Young Scientists visit
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – Phonics Testing Week

The standard of acts entered was incredibly high, and the judging panel had some very difficult decisions to make – the 'pupil voice' was well and truly heard and the 'wild cards' used by the judges to put through two acts that were very popular with the audience.

Needless to say, next Wednesday evening is set to be a truly exciting night!

Tickets are available from today (Friday) for families of those children who are performing in the final. Tickets will be made available generally from Monday. There will be no charge for tickets, but there will be a raffle on the night, and a donation for anyone wishing to give towards PTFA funds for the school.

**Parking** – A reminder to all that everyone should remember to park courteously when coming into school/picking up at the end of the day. Also with school events a regular on the calendar, if you are driving, please be mindful towards our neighbours, and keep disruption to an absolute minimum.

Many thanks for your continued support in this matter.

**Newsflash.....** Very exciting news about the talent show. The school council wrote to BBC Radio Gloucester to tell them about the event and they have invited us to feature on a show on Wednesday afternoon. They will pre-record interviews with pupils



who will be introducing the afternoon show, talking about St White's Got Talent and choosing a song.

You can listen in between 3 – 5pm on

Wednesday afternoon on 104.7FM, or catch the show online.

### **Change of Menu Thursday, 29th March –**

On the last day of term we will have a Special Menu – Fish & Chips, or Vegetable Pasty, or Jacket Potato and Beans,



followed by Lemon Cake.



**Changes to School Meal ordering after Easter VERY IMPORTANT** – All parents should have received a letter with information about the new system for ordering school meals after the Easter holidays. All parents **must** order school meals online by the Sunday for the following week. ***Even if you don't currently pay for a hot meal for your child, you will still need to enter the menu choice on Parentpay for the week ahead.***

***Please be aware that once your selection has been made for the week ahead, you will have 2 hours to ensure that adequate funds are available to pay for the selections made.*** Failure to do this will result in the system rejecting the choices made, and no lunch would be ordered through the canteen as a result for a child.

A demonstration is being held on Monday, 26 March 2018 at 3.20 pm. You will need your Parentpay login to choose the menu options. If you do not have this or it has been mislaid, please contact the school office, who can generate a copy for you.

The price of school dinner is also increasing from 16 April 2018 to £2.36 per meal.

**Attendance** – Whole school attendance is continuing to recover and now stands at 96.53%. Fortunately most of the nasty bugs seem to be over, although there are still a small number of pupils off with Chicken Pox, stomach bugs and flu type symptoms.

**Drop in sessions Children's Speech & Language Therapy** – Are you concerned with your child's speech and language development? Drop in sessions are being offered



for pre-school children in the Forest of Dean.  
Dates available are:

11/4/18 – Stonebury House, Lydney  
25/4/18 – Cinderford Health Centre  
16/5/18 – Stonebury House, Lydney  
23/5/18 – Cinderford Health Centre  
13/6/18 – Stonebury House, Lydney  
27/6/18 – Cinderford Health Centre

All sessions are from 9.30 am – 11.30 am. Tel:  
0300 421 6722.

**Adult Education** – We would like to congratulate all our parents who have recently completed the Adult Education Maths Course here at school, and have gained either an Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 qualification.



The feedback has been really positive, with participants saying they feel so much more confident and better able to help their children.

Following the success of the Maths course, the school is currently running an English course, with Maths re-starting again in September – look out for more details!

**Sports Relief Week** - A huge well done to all children who ran a mile around the school grounds with Mr Griffin to raise money for two fantastic causes: Sports Relief and Meningitis Now.



All the children put in a huge effort to run their mile and were very supportive of Mr Griffin,

who is training for the London Marathon on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Thank you so much to parents and carers, who generously donated money to these charities. It was a sea of colour in assembly and it was clear that everyone really took pride in wearing red to raise awareness and money for Sports Relief. *All Sponsor money should be returned to school by Wednesday of next week at the very latest so that it can be sent to the charities.*

**Tri Golf** – Over the last half term, the Tim Hall School of golf have been running a tri-golf after school club for our Year 3 and 4 pupils.



This week, the children were very lucky to get the opportunity to visit Ross on Wye Golf Club, where they had a go on the golf simulator and were able to practice their shots on the driving range. The children had a fantastic time and are looking forward to their final golf session next week in school!

**Museum of Gloucester** – Years 5 & 6 spent the day at the Museum of Gloucester today. The children had time to explore the museum, focusing particularly on the Vikings, which they are currently studying.



Many thanks to all the parent volunteers who came along to help with the pupils. There will be a report on the visit in the next newsletter.

**Viney Hill** – The school was very lucky to have been offered a complimentary day at Viney Hill today. 30 pupils went from Years 3 and 4.

They spent the day building shelters, mapping and measuring tunnels, and working on aqueducts and catapults.



Great fun was had by all who should all be sleeping soundly in their beds tonight, after such a busy day!

Many thanks to Miss Lewis, Mr Thompson and Mr Pritchard for accompanying the pupils, and to Viney Hill for providing our pupils with this wonderful day's adventure.

A full report on their visit will be in the next newsletter.

**Kingfisher Class** – The pupils have been very busy in class making 'poo'!! (Don't be alarmed, it wasn't the real thing)!! The topic under discussion was to learn about different diets – herbivores and carnivores – and how what you eat affects the digestive system. As you can well imagine, the children all had tremendous fun



making different types of 'scat' and then getting other children to

identify different animal droppings! Kate Humble and Chris Packham would be delighted!

**Goodbye to Mrs Barber** – It is with great sadness that the school will be saying goodbye to Mrs Ruth Barber at the end of

this term. Ruth has worked here for 28 years and has played a central role as a teaching assistant, in the lives of many children. I am sure there are parents of children who remember her supporting them during their time here at St White's.

A message from Mrs Barber – *"I would like to say goodbye and thank you to you all at St White's. As they say, 'all good things come to an end' and after 28 years of working at St White's, I will be leaving this Easter to achieve some goals my husband and I have set over the years.*

*I hope that whatever direction your children wish to pursue, I have played a small part in helping them on their way, and wish everyone all the best for the future".*

The staff and Governors, would like to wish Mrs Barber a long and happy retirement, and convey a massive thank you to her for the huge contribution she has made to St White's over the last 28 years! She will be missed.



**And finally.....**The staff and Governors would like to wish everyone a wonderful Easter and a well-earned rest. (School will finish for the Easter break on Thursday, 29 March 2018, and reopen to pupils on Monday, 16 April 2018).



**Next Newsletter** – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 20 April 2018.

