

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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20th December 2018

PTFA Christmas Discos – A reminder that the PTFA Christmas Discos will be taking place today (Thursday, 20 December 2018). Tickets are still available from the School Office - £1.00 per pupil.

Reception and KS1 pupils will be able to go straight from class into the hall – *please send your child into school with their 'party outfit', clearly named in a carrier bag. Staff will get the pupils ready and take them to the Dining Hall for the disco.*

Reception and KS1 parents should go to the Classroom via the playground area to collect their child at 4.15 pm prompt.



KS2 pupils disco will take place from 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm. Please come to the main office to collect your child at 5.30 pm prompt.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Mobile Phones are NOT allowed in school. ALL pupils MUST be collected from the disco by an adult, and if this is anyone other than Mum, Dad or your normal Collection List 'responsible adult', you must notify the school office prior to the disco starting. Thank you.

Diary Dates

December

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

24th – Learning alongside your Child in Class – 9.00 am

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

Nativity Plays – The annual nativity plays took place in school this week. Reception pupils' performance was called 'Shine Star Shine'. Children this year took the part of the narrators and were absolutely fantastic!

All the children had the most wonderful time performing and will probably be singing the songs at home and in school for months to come!



A huge thank you, as always, to all parents for the costumes, some of which I understand, were handmade! You should all be very proud.

Key Stage 1 also performed their Christmas play, 'A Midwife Crisis'. A huge well done to all the children who worked so hard to learn both their lines and the songs. Again, it would not have been possible without the support of families providing children with their wonderful costumes and helping them to learn their lines!



Thank you to everyone who came to watch, we hope you enjoyed the show!

Attendance - We have had some really nasty sickness bugs and flu like illnesses over the last couple of weeks – whole school attendance now stands at 96.81%.

Nevertheless, the school is on track to give out 150 certificates and badges for 100% attendance this half term. Even more good news is that there are 93 children who have 100% attendance for the whole year so far! Congratulations to all those children and a huge thank you to parents for their continued support.



Indoor Athletics Dene Magna School – A team of our children took part the 2018



Forest of Dean Athletics tournament, competing in a wide range of track and field events. 18 children in total,

participated and did the school proud. They were rewarded with a fantastic third place medal. Congratulations to all who took part! Once again, a huge thank you to parents who supported the event.

PE Kit – A reminder to parents/carers that full PE Kit should be both kept in school during term time, and worn at all times during PE. Here is a reminder of the expected PE Kit to be worn:-

White or light blue T-shirt, black or navy blue shorts, black or navy blue jogging bottoms for outdoor PE (no leggings), black daps or dark trainers (to be worn when outside), black or navy blue jumper (to be worn when outside). Children will be allowed to wear their school jumpers when doing PE outdoors if they do not have an alternative jumper.

As a consequence of some children frequently coming in to school without PE kit, the school purchased sets of kit for all year groups to lend to children when they forget their own, as it is really important that this isn't a barrier to them joining in lessons. There are a number of pupils who have been loaned a school PE kit. It has then gone home but has not been washed and returned. Please would you be kind enough to check if you have one of these and then return them to school as soon as possible.

What the school will do from now on, is pop a slip in your child's bag to say that the school has loaned your child kit. The staff will then keep a record of the loan in school so that we know where the kit is.

Thank you for your support.

Morale Boxes – This term's topic has been immensely successful, with the whole school learning about Britain in the 1900s and in particular, the 1st World War. Our children explored some of the significant events of the First World War and what life was like for soldiers, women and children.

Our armistice commemoration served not



only to remind our children of the huge sacrifice made by so many during the war but also how

important it is to remember members of the armed forces who serve today to maintain the peace that we are so fortunate to have. I am heartened by the response of so many families who have, as part of the final embers of this topic, brought in items that will fill shoe boxes to send to serving soldiers who will be abroad for Christmas.

Families and members of staff who have relatives in the armed forces, know from personal experience that morale boxes they have sent to their loved ones, during periods of deployment abroad have meant so very much to them. Each time that they received a parcel they knew that inside was a little bit of 'home' and that family was thinking of them.



Once again, being able to send so many morale boxes off this Christmas, is a measure of the kindness and generosity of our families. Thank you to all for your support.



Topic Celebration afternoon – Don't forget this term's topic celebration afternoon is open to all families! We hope to see you here at 2.30pm.



Shoes in School – Over the past few weeks, staff have noticed quite a few children coming to school in trainers. May I remind all families that pupils must wear



a formal school shoe in school at all times? It is really important our children are in good habits regarding school uniform in readiness for when they transfer to secondary school, where the expectations and standards are just as high as ours.

If for any reason a pupil is unable to wear formal school shoes on a temporary basis, please advise the school prior to your child's arrival at school so that staff can be informed in advance. Thank you.

Gloucestershire Music Boys Choir –

Gloucestershire Boys Choir will be starting on Sunday, 20 January 2019, and are offering a free taster session to any boys in year groups 5, 6, 7 and 8. The session will take place from 2.15 pm – 4.30 pm at Christ Church, Cheltenham. It will be led by Ben Sawyer, co-director of Gloucestershire Youth Choir, conductor and vocal tutor to the choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum.

If you require further information bensawyermusic@gmail.com

Lost Property – There are lots of items of lost property in school at the moment. If parents would like to come to the front office, to have a look for any items that they think might belong to their children, it would be really helpful.



Goodbye to staff leaving and hello to our new recruits – Before we wish you all a wonderful Christmas, we must mention a few staff who are sadly leaving us for new challenges in the new year, as well as a huge 'hello' to new staff joining us in our exciting new journey in 2019.

Mr Griffin will be leaving us to take up a completely new role in



Engineering in January 2019. He has been with the school for a number of years now, firstly through Progressive Sports, delivering PE lessons to our pupils, and then securing a role as a Teaching Assistant in school. He will be truly missed by staff and pupils alike. Good luck and please come back and visit!

Mrs Clowes-Burke is a long standing member of staff who will be leaving us to take up a role as Deputy Head Teacher at Coalway Junior School in January 2019.



Mrs Clowes-Burke has been with St White's since 2011 and has been a key member of staff throughout her time with us. She will be sorely missed. Good luck and again please come back and see us!

And finally, last but by no means least, our wonderful Mrs Cross will be leaving us to join County from January 2019 in an Advisory capacity.



Since Mrs Cross joined the school in 2013, she has taken the school on an incredible journey, taking it out of Special Measures, to a school which is now a Beacon of Excellence, not to mention playing a key role in bringing us into the incredible school building we stand in today.

Shoes are huge to fill with Mrs Cross leaving us, but the legacy she has left will live on in us all at St White's. Please do come back and visit often, and we promise we will do you proud! Thank you for everything Mrs Cross – good luck, we will miss you so very much!

Mrs Clowes-Burke will be replaced by Miss Hodson, who many Reception parents will have met already. Miss Hodson will be

joining the existing Reception Team straight after Christmas.

With Mrs Hewitt stepping into the role of Acting Deputy Head Teacher, Miss Scantlebury will be covering Jay Class for the rest of the academic year. Miss Scantlebury will be a wonderful asset to the school and we very much look forward to having her on board!

We are also pleased to advise that Mrs Threadgall will be joining Nightingale Class from January 2019 to take over from Mr Griffin. Mrs Threadgall has a wealth of experience and we are very excited to have her on the team!

And finally..... The staff and Governors would like to wish

everyone a very Happy Christmas



and a very peaceful

New Year. Enjoy the break and we will see you all in school again on **Tuesday, 8 January 2019.**

Next Newsletter – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 18th January 2019.



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