

# 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.org

## 23 February 2018

**Welcome Back** – A very warm welcome back from the half term break. Hopefully everyone has had a restful week, in readiness for what is set to be another very exciting term ahead.



**Second Anniversary Celebrations** – The 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018 marks the school's second anniversary in our beautiful school. It has been an incredibly busy day today, with every child planting summer flowering bulbs around the site, to commemorate the occasion. They have been carefully chosen to



attract insects and will, undoubtedly provide a wonderful display of colour around the school grounds for everyone to enjoy.



A big thank you to Scott Baine and his team for helping us this year. Scott and the REWILD project team work closely with the school to provide our children with opportunities to connect with nature and the joys of growing plants.



## Diary Dates

### February

- 23rd** – Netball Match at St White's – 3.15 pm (vs Lydbrook)
- 23rd** – Bulb planting in school – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
- 23rd** – Yrs 3 & 4 Trip to Cinderford Fire Station
- 26th** – Cheltenham Dance Festival – from 3.00 pm
- 28th** – Trip to Slimbridge – Attendance reward
- 28th** – Adult Education (English) starts

### March

- 1st** – Learn alongside your child in class – Reading 9.00 am – 10.00 am
- 1st** – Trip to Slimbridge – Attendance reward
- 1st** – World Book Day – Dress in single colour
- 1st – 5th** – Book Fair
- 2nd** – Yrs 3 & 4 Trip to Cinderford Fire Station
- 14th** – Slimbridge Trip – Attendance reward
- 15th** – Slimbridge Trip – Attendance reward
- 19th** – Slimbridge Trip – Attendance reward
- 21st** – KS1 Topic Celebration – 2.45 pm
- 21st** – Heat 1 Talent Competition
- 22nd** – KS2 Topic Celebration – 2.45 pm
- 23rd** – Sports Relief
- 23rd** – Heat 2 Talent Competition
- 22nd** – Slimbridge Trip – Attendance reward
- 27th** – Yrs 2 & 6 Parent Information Meeting re SATS – 3.30 pm
- 28th** – Talent Competition – 6.00 pm
- 29th** – Easter Bonnet Parade
- 30th** – Easter holidays start

### April

- 16th** – Pupils return to school
- 17th** – Reception Classes Hearing & Vision Testing
- 27th** – Tempest Class Photos

### May

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

### June

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

Next term, Scott will be coming along every fortnight to work with groups of children in the allotment again. You will notice that it is being completely refurbished to make it much more accessible for the children. A very big thank you to Mr Alan Meredith for the work he has done on the allotment.

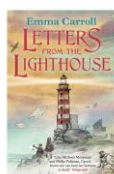
**News from around the Classrooms –**

**Peregrine Class** have been very busy learning how to play Banagrams as part of their spelling lessons. Miss Cinderey is planning a competition to find the Top Banana in school. Watch this space!!!



**Letters from the Lighthouse –** Miss Cinderey and a group of Year 5 children are currently reading Letters from the Lighthouse, along with their parents!

They meet after school once a fortnight to discuss the book and have cake/hot chocolate. They haven't finished the book yet, but would definitely recommend it to children in Year 5 and 6.



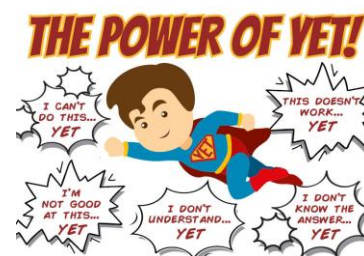
As well as discussing the book, they have written postcards, designed meals for evacuees and, most recently, created codes for others to break. Miss Cinderey is still trying to work out one created by Casey's Mum. Please let her know if you can help to crack it:

16 10 24 5 / 14 10 9 26 2 1 / 5 24 2 1 10 14 /  
 2 5 5 9 3 2 6 16 18 1 14 / 4 15 8 26 3 15 13 16  
 / 5 3 18 1 13

**Growth Mindset –** You may have heard your children talking about how they are learning to develop their abilities and think of

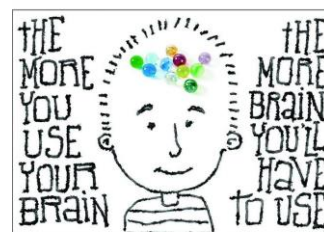
challenges as opportunities to grow. This is a long term strategy the school is implementing where our children are learning about the Growth Mindset and how anyone can learn anything because your brain is like a muscle that grows.

They are discovering that learning is all about practice and



perseverance. As parents I'm sure that you can relate to this yourselves.

Over the coming months there are 'learning alongside your child' sessions coming up. Within these sessions, you'll see 'Growth Mindset' in action.



If you would like more information on how you can help us help your child's growth mindset, there is some really good information on this link.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/help-your-child-try-new-things>

**Pupil On-Line Survey –** As you may be aware, our year 4, 5 and 6 children are currently taking part in the Gloucestershire Online Survey. It was developed by a research partnership to find out what children



**Gloucestershire  
 Healthy  
 Living and Learning**

and young people really think about a range of health related issues. It started in 2006 and gathers anonymous information from over 70,000 children and young people in Gloucestershire aged 8-18 years old. The school gets its own personal summary of the

survey and this helps us to develop our health and well-being curriculum within the school. One of the questions included in the survey refers to internet safety. It asks children if they have ever met a stranger in the real world that they have got to know first online.

The school really needs your help to drive home the message about online safety and that this means any form of social media message communication including:

Whatsapp, Musical.ly, messenger, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and oovoo to name just a few. This list will change on a regular basis as new platforms emerge and it's important that parents, as well as the school, keep abreast of developments in order to safeguard our children.

Supervision of your children when they are using any online services is the key to keeping them safe



especially as most of the aforementioned apps are not for use by primary aged children, as what the survey is showing is that some children don't understand the dangers of meeting with strangers that they have had contact with online. Stranger Danger applies to online contact too.

**Visit to Fire Station** - A student from Forest High School, who is working toward the Duke of



Edinburgh Bronze Award, asked us for our help. She is working with the Cinderford Fire Station personnel to complete tasks and asked if St



White's would provide her with groups of children to train! As you can see from the photographs, our children have had a brilliant time. There are most definitely some future fire fighters amongst our children.

**Think Day** – To celebrate Thinking Day, members of the Scouting and Girguiding organisations wore their uniform to school on Thursday, 22 February 2018.

Members of the organisations think about other members and people across the world. This year's theme is Impact and Mr Paterson led a KS2 Assembly where children were asked to consider the impact they have on other people.



**GSUS Live** – On Thursday, 22 February 2018, Year 6 from Heron and Peregrine classes went to Forest High to visit the GSUS live bus. They had an interactive story about Sophie who was facing her fears and had an opportunity to discuss what they were scared of.



**Teach your Monster to Read** – This is an app that normally costs £4.99 but next week it is FREE! We recommend that all parents in EYFS and KS1 download this if they are able to as it can help children with their phonics and reading.



**World Book Day and Learn alongside your child** – A reminder that World Book Day is next Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018. Children are



invited to come in to school dressed in one colour in the style of a crayon from 'The Day the Crayon's Quit'. There will be a Learn alongside your Child session in the morning from 9.00 am – 10.00 am where the focus will be on reading and how reading can lead to writing. We look forward to seeing you all then.

**Aspirations Day** – The school is planning to hold its annual Aspirations Day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June and we need your help to make this day a success! This is a very



special day as we like to invite parents, carers and members of our community in to school for the morning to talk to the children about their jobs and professions. The aim of the morning is to really inspire them and give them a flavour of



what the world of work.

Throughout the morning, the children are put into small mixed aged groups spending about 20 minutes at a time with each of our visitors. It's always a lot of fun and we always have great feedback from all involved. If you or someone you know would like more information about being a part of this day, please contact the school office or pop in and see me any time. Thank you, Miss Underwood.

**Talent Show** – Once again we are looking for lots of budding acts to take part in our annual St White's Has Got



Talent Competition. Forms will shortly be coming home with all pupils interested in taking part in the competition.

There will be two heats taking place in school on 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2018, with the final being held on Wednesday, 28th March 2018 at 6.00 pm.

It is such an exciting event. Our children are brimming with talent and this is a wonderful opportunity to show case it.

Forms must be handed in as soon as possible, so that the school council and PTFA can begin to organise the event.

**Easter Bonnet Parade** – There will be an Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term – Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. There will be prizes for each phase, and children will be invited to wear their creations at the Celebration Assembly during the afternoon.



**Community Event** – Ruspidge Gardening Club are holding an event on Saturday, 10 March between 10.30 and 12.30 at Ruspidge Memorial Hall.



The event, 'Community Sow and Grow', invites parents and children to come along and plant seeds. There will be a competition for the tallest Sunflower, but the winner will have to wait until the autumn to find out if their Sunflower has won! Good luck to all who take part!

**School Dinners** – Unfortunately the school is having to manage increasing numbers of families who are accumulating a significant amount of debt around school dinners on Parentpay accounts.

Administration staff are continually chasing parents for money due to the ever increasing debts stacking up. At the point of writing this Newsletter, there were no less than 88 parents showing debts against their child's school meals.

As a result of this, the school is considering only offering hot dinners to children on Free School Meals and the Universal Meals supplied to all children up to and including Year 2 pupils.



This is not a decision the school wants to have to make but the time and costs involved in staff chasing these debts has become a major concern.

As a consequence, from the start of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018, any child ordering a dinner, where there are insufficient funds on the Parentpay account, will not be able to have the hot meal. Parents will be notified of this, and will be asked to supply sandwiches or make a payment immediately to their account to ensure the meal is paid for in advance.

The school cannot be held liable for the debts incurred, which will inevitably happen if we allow this matter to continue.



Please can all those families who currently owe money on Parentpay, clear the debts as quickly as possible and also ensure that there is sufficient credit showing on Parentpay accounts to cover meals from next week for

all those families concerned and continuing thereafter.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**PE Kit** – A big *'well done'* to everyone who has supplied the correct PE Kit for their child to wear in school. The children are looking very smart as a result of this. Thank you to all parents.

### **Sporting Events –**

**Girls Football:** On Tuesday, a group of 6 Year 5 and 6 girls took part in an indoor football

tournament at Forest High School. The team put on a fantastic performance and



drew two games, lost one and won one. The girls are now very much looking forward to starting a Girls Football Club during lunchtimes from next week onwards.

**Gymnastics:** A group of gymnasts took part in a Years 3 and 4 competition, held at Dene Magna School

yesterday. This was the first gymnastic competition our pupils had taken



part in, and naturally all were very nervous. They did incredibly well - congratulations to all those who took part.

**Netball:** There will be a friendly match against Lydbrook after school today, with a Netball Tournament taking place on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Newent Community School. The game this afternoon will be a great opportunity for our team to play a match before the day of the Tournament. Do come along to support if you can!

**Tri-Golf Club:** We are very lucky to be holding a Tri-Golf after School Club this half term, delivered by James Dobbs from the Tim Hall School of Golf (based in Ross on Wye). The children who attend the club will be given the opportunity to visit the Ross on Wye Club in the final week of the club (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018). We look forward to hearing all about it!



**Attendance** – The school has some extremely good news regarding attendance this week. Every year the government publishes a data dashboard that compares lots of facts and figures about schools, including attendance statistics. The information that has just been published for the last school year, shows that St White's Primary School's attendance has not only improved overall from the previous year but also for all the different groups of pupils who are measured – Boys, Girls, Free School Meals and SEN.



Not only did our attendance improve on the previous year, but for the first time we are now better than the National Average for all groups.

A very big thank you to all the families who make school attendance a real priority.

Of course, the school's aim is to continue to improve its attendance data, as it is undoubtedly a significant factor in every child's success in school. Since our return after the Christmas break, a lot of our children have been very poorly, with an unprecedented number suffering with the flu and/or norovirus. A high proportion of



children have also contracted Chicken Pox, all very unpleasant illnesses but it looks as though most are over the worst of it now.

However, the school figures show a high number of unauthorised holidays which were taken in the first half term of the year and this has had a negative impact on the current figures. Whole school attendance has fallen to 96.42%, which is below the school's targets.

#### **School Matters!**

What we hope is that over the next



few weeks attendance will improve so that when the DfE take in our figures for the next set of statistical information, we will once again have improved and be at least in line with National figures for 2017-2018.

Thank you for your support.

**Next Newsletter** – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.



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