

St White's Primary School

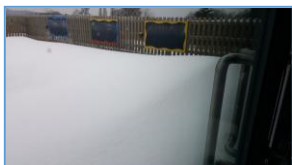
Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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Snow Days – Well as you can see from this photograph taken from Wren Class, the snow caused quite a stir last week!



On Sunday over 40 families, staff and governors responded to the school's plea for help to clear enough of the snow so that we could reopen. It was 'all hands on deck' and the site was made ready for business in no time.

A huge thank you everyone who came along.



There was a real community spirit.

It wouldn't have been possible to reopen on Monday, without the support of our staff, governors and families.

The 'B' Word – On Thursday, Years 1-6 were visited in school by Firehouse Productions.

A story was re-enacted to pupils about bullying, and the effects it can have on those on the receiving end of this cruel behaviour.



The story showed pupils how being put in this position can make someone feel, as well as showing how standing up to the bully can

Diary Dates

March

- 13th – Slimbridge Trip (reschedule date for Nightingale Class)
- 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
- 22nd – Slimbridge Trip – Attendance reward
- 17th - 23rd – Sports Relief
- 23rd – Sport Relief – pupils to wear 'RED' to school
- 23rd – Heat 2 Talent Competition
- 23rd – Yrs 5 & 6 Museum of Gloucester trip
- 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

help to turn situations completely around, making something good come out of something bad.

A big thank you to the Firehouse Production team for spending time with us today.

The anti-bullying alliance have a brilliant tool on their website for parents to use. Here is a link to the site. <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Governor Diary - The Governing body welcomed three new governors in February – Gareth Hughes was appointed by the Local Authority and Lynne Adams and Kathryn Goddard were co-opted onto the Governing Body. Gareth is a district councillor and also works for our local MP. Lynne is a teacher at Dene Magna School and a former pupil of St White's. Kathryn is well known to the school as she has run a photography club, helped to produce the Year 6 leavers' books and the school prospectus and is parent of a former pupil. They have attended their first meetings and been into school for induction.



This half term started with a governance review meeting. Governors met for a morning to go through the action items from the previous review and to discuss priorities for the next year. One of the things planned is to create a governor blog on the website, and a Governor Diary report once per half term in the newsletter. Governors will also hold workshops with an external advisor which will be about disadvantaged pupils, wellbeing (to include behaviour and safeguarding), data/outcomes and strategic planning & monitoring.

Our first committee meeting of the year (Finance and Premises) had to be cancelled due to the snow, but yesterday the Assessment and Curriculum Committee met to discuss the progress of pupils. Governors have a training session next week in preparation for the next Ofsted Inspection which will be due in the Autumn. The Full Governing Body will meet on 22nd March. So far this term a number of Governors have

been into school to review safeguarding and safer recruitment procedures, and to help review the school website.

Attendance – The school's attendance is picking nicely, as the remnants of all the unpleasant viruses finally dissipates. Whole school attendance now stands at 96.49% and is improving every day. So far for this half term, there are 238 pupils on track for 100% attendance! That is really impressive. There 61 pupils on track for 100% attendance for the whole year, which would certainly beat last year's 27. It would be brilliant to have so many children celebrating 100% on the last day of term in the summer.



Parentpay and School Lunches – You will remember on the last Newsletter, that we spoke about the alarming debt that the school had on Parentpay for school lunches.

Whilst the debt is slowing going in the right direction now, it is still part of the daily routine for the Office Team to ring parents if their child has ordered lunch that is not covered on the Parentpay account balance.



This continues to waste valuable time for the staff involved in this.

Parentpay accounts are the responsibility of the parent/carer, and to that end can we again urge everyone to regularly check their account, ensuring that if your child is ordering a school lunch that funds are on the account to pay for the lunch taken. A school lunch will be refused, and a packed lunch will need to be supplied if the funds are not available.

Netball - On Tuesday a team of eight Year 5 and 6 pupils went to Newent School to take part in a high 5 netball competition.

The team played 4 matches, winning one and drawing three. They came second in our group out of five schools and the children showed some excellent team work on the court.



Well done to all pupils who took part!

Sports Relief – This year St White’s will participate in Sports Relief week (17th – 23rd March).



On 23rd March, children will be invited to dress up in red.

During the week, all pupils will be running a mile with Mr Griffin, who is training to complete the 2018 London Marathon.

Mr Griffin will run a mile with each class, completing 11 miles in total. Donations of £1.00 per child will be gratefully received for dressing in red and all donations will be split equally between Sport Relief, and Mr Griffin’s charity – Meningitis Now!



We will be sending out Sponsorship Forms next week so that children can raise money for running their mile with Mr Griffin. Again, any donations will be gratefully received and going towards two very good causes.

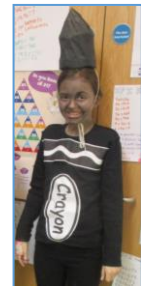
A letter providing full details will follow next week.

Earlybirds Easter Fair - Earlybirds are holding their Easter Fair on Friday 23rd March at 3:15pm. There will be plenty of Easter themed



activities and stalls including an Easter Egg hunt, as well as refreshments and homemade cakes. There are also some fantastic raffle prizes to be won. Everybody is welcome.

World Book Day – World Book Day was a resounding success, despite the delay due to the weather. Always, our families’ support this event meant that there was a rainbow of absolutely beautiful colours across the school. The children were so proud to represent the crayons from the book, ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’. Well done to everyone.



Dance Festival - The Dance club consisting of children from years 5 and 6 represented the school last week at The Cheltenham Dance Festival. The Dance, which they have been rehearsing since November, was performed on stage in front of 500 people at the Cheltenham Town Hall. A great opportunity relished by all of the 32 pupils from St White's.



And finally – I would like to ask for parents’ cooperation regarding two matters, the first is hair styles. Our boys in particular, are coming to school with increasingly ‘unusual’ haircuts, including shaved sides on the side of heads. It is a challenge for the school, as it is good to see children taking a pride in



their appearance but there seems to be an awful lot of children trying to push boundaries well beyond what is acceptable. Please would you ensure therefore that hair is one natural colour, a No 3 cut as the shortest, long hair is tied back and there are no extremes of colour or styles. This seems to be the general consensus in our local secondary schools and the school asks that this is adhered to here please.

This sort of behaviour is completely unacceptable and again, the school would appreciate your support in this matter.

Next Newsletter – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 23rd March 2018.



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Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate



The other request of support is in relation to children's behaviour on the way to school but in particular, on the way home. A number of our children are knocking over toddlers when they are running around outside the classroom

before they go in but also when they run down the path at the back of the school on the way home. Some children are also hanging on the trees at the bottom of the path. Please would parents ensure that children are behaving sensibly both to and from school.

It has also been reported to school by members of staff and the public, that some of our older children, who are allowed to walk home on their own, are behaving extremely disrespectfully as they do so; shouting and waving at drivers, running in front of cars and messing around with the salt and grit bins along the roads. The greatest concern is the lack of understanding about the risk children are taking when they are playing 'chicken' in front of cars but also the fact that they do not understand that they represent St White's School, even when they are out in the community.

