

# St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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11<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Cheltenham Literature Festival Trips** All the classes from Year 1 upwards have been to visit the Cheltenham Literature Festival over



the last week. Year 5 saw the author of the Murder Most Unladylike Mysteries, Robin Stevens. During the talk, she spoke about her school life and how she got

into writing murder mystery stories. Robin asked the group to come up with their own murder mystery short story; apparently there were some very interesting scenarios! Year 6s went to see Sophie Anderson who wrote the book 'The House with Chicken Legs', which



they have been reading in class this term. Georgia and Lily introduced Sophie on the stage to talk about her book and life. Peregrine class were able to get their books signed and have a group photo. They went on the trail at the festival and met some characters on the way. They are very excited to read her other book 'The Girl Who Speaks Bear'. On Thursday it was the turn of Years 1, 2, 3 and 4! KS1 attended a live performance, did a secret seven trail and then made secret agent eye masks and did



## Diary Dates

### October

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Residential to Aberdovey

16<sup>th</sup> - Closing date for Writing Competition

18<sup>th</sup> – PTA meeting 2.15pm

21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> – Parents Evening Reception only

22<sup>nd</sup> – School Photos

24<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Festival – art display from 2pm, Learn alongside your child from 2.15pm, Assembly 2.45pm  
Last day of school

25<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day

### November

4<sup>th</sup> – School starts for all pupils

4<sup>th</sup> – Bring in finished sketching competition entries

11<sup>th</sup> – Armistice Assembly

19<sup>th</sup> - Open Day for 2020 Reception Intake

22<sup>nd</sup> – PTA Annual General Meeting 3.15pm

29<sup>th</sup> – PTA Christmas Fair

### December

18<sup>th</sup> – Pantomime trip

some code cracking. Years 3 and 4 saw the author Zanib Mian who wrote the book "Planet Omar" which they have been reading in class. Their class copies were signed. Everyone was very excited by their days out and lots of learning is going to happen following these trips!

**Assembly Battles** On 4<sup>th</sup> October the Year 2s in Nightingale beat Sparrow class in a TT Rockstars battle! Especially well done to Harry who scored the most points for Blue House. Today's battle is between Year 4 pupils in Jay and Swift.

**Harvest Festival** A reminder that Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October is our last day of term and our Harvest Festival Celebration. We are collecting donations



for the Royal British Legion to distribute to homeless veterans, so



please bring in donations of tinned food and warm clothing on the day. Parents are invited in from 2pm to view children's artwork and then into classrooms for Learn Alongside your child from 2.15pm. The harvest assembly will start at 2.45pm. Parents may buy their children's artwork by leaving their name and a donation of 50p at the school office.

**Science Corner!** A message from Miss Underwood: all children love science enquiries and here's a great website with some experiments that you could try at home! <https://sciencebob.com/> Please come and let me know if you try any.

**Residential trips** As you will probably be aware, the Year 6s are off next week on their Residential Trip to Aberdovey. This trip is full of exciting adventure and the children all learn lots about teamwork and resilience as well as having the most amazing adventures. For some children, this is the first time that they have ever stayed away from home overnight and this is a big challenge for them. For this reason, the school is this year going to arrange overnight trips for the year 4s, and in the future possibly even year 2s. We are very excited and are busily preparing information for you. Watch this space!



**Lunchtime helpers** Application forms have gone out for our children to volunteer in the canteen. This is a very enjoyable experience for them and they love taking responsibility for helping their peers. To recognise their achievements in this area, the children who commit to this act of service will be invited to Fabulous Feast Fridays at the end of term. They will sit at the front in Celebration Assembly munching on something yummy.



**Mental Health Day – non-uniform for Teens in Crisis** – Thank you to all the families who made donations to come in non-uniform today. We are

very pleased to have raised £258 and proud to be able to support Teens in Crisis who do such amazing work supporting our young people in this county.

**Sticky Questions** This year the school is once again working on improving communication skills. We hope that you are enjoying the Sticky Questions stickers that your children are coming out of school with on Tuesdays. I have heard lots of children leaving school discussing whether adults are 'better' than children, or whether we can be 'equal' as we are all so 'different'. Staff are finding opportunities to discuss these in school and we hope that they are causing debate at home. Please do feedback about how you are finding these discussion points and if there are any really good arguments either for or against!



**Attendance** Sadly, the fabulous start to the new school year has now dropped off with some nasty sickness and other bugs. Whole school attendance now stands at 97.5%

**30 Day Sketching Challenge!** Reminder that the daily challenges are on the school website and facebook page. I know that a lot of our children, and staff, are really excited about these challenges! Finished entries should be brought in on the first day after half term.

**PTA meetings and Pantomime** The next meeting of the PTA is next Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 2.15pm, and then they will hold their Annual General Meeting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 3.15pm. New members are needed so all parents and carers are very welcome to come along. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their slips and money for the pantomime. Reminder that slips and payment need to be in by Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Parentpay is not available as this trip is organised by the PTA – payment should be in



cash or a cheque payable to "St White's Primary PTA.

**Writing Competition** As promised in the last newsletter, the Year 6 pupils have organised a writing competition and the details are on the school website competitions page under "Learning". Please note you have to accept "cookies" in order to see this page. Entries need to be submitted by 3.30 on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.



**School Uniform** There seems to be some confusion about what is appropriate to wear to school at the moment. In response to this, and in an attempt to ensure that everyone is clear about expectations, the school has created a School Uniform Policy, which is in the policies section of the website. If you have any questions about this, please do call in and ask.

**Volunteers needed to listen to children read** If you have some time to spare regularly one afternoon a week, we need you! Please contact the school office if you are able to volunteer.



**Gardening Club** It would be lovely to have some more parents and children to join the gardening club, which started this week. On Wednesday, the group spent the time planting crocus bulbs on the grass area below the Buckshaft entrance which will form the letters "S W S" in the spring.



Thank you very much to the Rotary Club for the kind donation. The Rotary clubs help to plant millions of purple crocuses every year to raise awareness for efforts to end polio.

**Helmets** It is wonderful to see so many children coming to school on scooters and bicycles. We are especially pleased to see those parents who ensure that their children wear helmets as it is so easy for children to fall off bicycles and scooters and hurt their heads. The school always recommends that all children wear helmets when riding.



**Big Soup Share – This Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October** At Ruspidge Memorial Hall, from 12 noon to 2pm – everyone is welcome. There will be fresh homemade soup & bread for £1 and also harvest produce, jams, cakes and other refreshments for sale!



**Governors News** The Full Governing Board met on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October and reviewed a number of school policies including Behaviour Principles, Special Education Needs and Attendance. The revised attendance policy will be sent to all parents on Parentmail. We have had a resignation from a parent governor, Alan Meredith, who has worked very hard to support the school for many years. Gareth Hughes who was our Local Authority Governor has also resigned and we will be seeking a replacement as soon as possible. The Governors and school staff would like to thank them both for all their help and hard work. This means that we will be holding a Parent Governor election – look out for more information next week.

### Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who filled in the parent questionnaire at parent evenings this term. I thought that you might like to know what is being said about your school.



I am very happy to state that 97% of parents/carers stated that their children were happy at the school and 99% stated that their child feels safe at this school.

One parent wrote that their child was very enthusiastic about the topic this term and has been telling family members all about it. This is great to hear and we are grateful for the feedback that this is going well.

One person had a concern about bullying. I would remind you that the school has two anti-bullying champions, Clare Tilling, Headteacher, and Erica Fearn, Family Support Worker. If you have any concerns about your child being unhappy at school, please do get in touch with one of us and we will always ensure that it is dealt with as swiftly as possible. Children are always welcome to go and share any concerns with Erica, their teacher, or indeed any other member of staff that they feel comfortable talking to.

Two parents were worried about the crossing at St White's Road. The school shares your concerns and is seeking to have a crossing put in there. Governors are pursuing this and I am sure that letters that you write to the council will make our argument even more persuasive.



### Activities in Half Term week

In the school office, we have 50% off vouchers for the National Sealife centre in Birmingham.

Barnados Holiday Lunch Club - Come along to learn fun and healthy cooking ideas with your child and experience Outdoor Cooking. (Children must be accompanied by a parent) Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 - 11:00am-12:30pm (1<sup>st</sup> Session) 13:00pm – 14:30pm (2<sup>nd</sup> Session) at the River Children and Family Centre, Naas Lane, Lydney, GL15 5AU Please contact to book your place stating your preferred time. Text to 07738860812 or sarah.finlay@barnardos.org.uk

There is a Halloween Party at Cinderford Library on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 2.30pm. There will be games, stories and refreshments – dressing



up is encouraged (but not compulsory) – Tickets are free from the library.

**Cross Country** Last Friday there was a fantastic effort from both boys and girls at the Forest of Dean cross country competition. All the children managed to complete the 1.2km where Ollie came 3rd out of 101 runners. A fantastic effort by all the children who ran.



**Communication** We are increasingly trying to be a paperless school. To ensure communication with you is as effective as possible we are sending information via email more frequently. If you have problems receiving emails through Parentmail – please firstly check your spam and junk folders, and please ask for help at the office.

**School Transitions** Firstly a reminder to Year 6 parents that you should apply for your child's secondary school place by 31<sup>st</sup> October at the latest. If there are any parents who need help with the process, please contact the school office. The application process for children to start in Reception in September 2020 will be starting soon. The County Council will send information out to parents in November, and anyone who hasn't received a letter by 1<sup>st</sup> December should contact Gloucestershire County Council – or ask the school office for help. If you know anyone who has a child due to start school next September please let them know that we will be holding an Open Day on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November with two sessions – from 1.45 to 2.45 and then from 4 – 6pm. Applications must be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**Next Newsletter** – The next Newsletter will be published on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

