

# 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.gloucs.sch.uk

## 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Welcome back to all our families and a very warm welcome to our lovely new Reception children and their families!!

### Topics for this term

EYFS – This is Me

KS1 – Why did the Great Fire of London spread so quickly

LKS2 (Y3 & Y4) – Stone Age

UKS2 (Y5 & Y6) – Anglo Saxons and Vikings: Raiders or Traders

### Value for this term: Courage

**Assembly Battles** Today in Assembly we will be holding our first Battle – between the Year 6 pupils in Peregrine Class. Children will be able to win points.



Next week it will be Woodpecker v Heron. Parents from the relevant classes are very welcome to come

along and join in the cheering! Be prepared, these are very noisy events! All the dates are on the calendar on the school website so parents can plan to come along.

**Stonehenge Trips** This week, our year 3 and year 4 pupils had the marvellous opportunity of visiting Stonehenge as part of our topic on the Stone Age and Iron Age. During the visit, we visited recreations of Neolithic homes and experienced some aspects of Neolithic life. We developed our weaving skills and gained some insight into how difficult life may have been! Some pupils had the chance to learn about the myths and legends of Stonehenge

## Diary Dates

### September

19<sup>th</sup> – Fizz Pop Science Club starts 3.30pm

19<sup>th</sup> – Reading Evening

20<sup>th</sup> – Adult Education starts – Brush up your English  
Assembly Battle Woodpecker v Heron  
School councillors announced

24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – Parents Evening Years 1 – 6

27<sup>th</sup> – Assembly Battle Swift v Jay (Year 4s)  
PTFA meeting 3.20pm

### October

1<sup>st</sup> – Aberdovey Residential trip meeting for Year 6 parents

4<sup>th</sup> – Cheltenham Literature Festival Year 5

9<sup>th</sup> – Cheltenham Literature Festival Year 6

10<sup>th</sup> – Cheltenham Literature Festival Years 1,2,3,4

11<sup>th</sup> – Mental Health Day – non uniform to raise funds for Teens In Crisis

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

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

22<sup>nd</sup> – School Photos

24<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Festival  
Last day of school

25<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day

### November

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

11<sup>th</sup> – Armistice Assembly

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

29<sup>th</sup> – PTFA Christmas Fair

and then create their own myth or legend using Lego. Some very creative story telling skills were on display! A great time was had



by pupils as they improved their understanding of the significance of this world famous site and began to investigate

the mystery of its purpose and construction. The children behaved beautifully and were told that they were the 'best ever group'. A special thanks to those parents and governors who volunteered to join us for the day. Without you the trip would not have been possible.

**Adult Education** will start again on Friday 20th September from 9 – 11am. The first course will be "Upgrade your English". This is a free course which is designed to build your English skills, help to support your children with homework and can lead to a qualification. If you are interested please let the office know. A flyer has been sent out on Parentmail. The course is open to all parents and carers.

### Rags to Riches Collection

The PTFA are handing out bags to parents for the next collection which will take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Please fill the bags with

**"reusable clothes**

that people will want to buy and wear as affordable clothing around the world - all



clothes need to be something you'd wear out yourself or pass on to friends and family." Please bring bags to the school office on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at the start of school. Sadly, we cannot accept any early bags as we do not have anywhere to store them.

**The Forest Economic Project (FEP)** are holding an event on 14 October at Dene Magna school that will showcase some of the employers in the Forest. The aim of the event is to capture the imagination of primary age students and show them possible careers that can be followed locally. There will be 4 main areas in the first of our Inspiring Events, engineering, leisure and tourism, health and social care and IT. Companies from across the forest will encourage students to have a go at their specialisms. We will be taking a

small group of pupils to this event. Parents are welcome to bring their children to this event after school hours. For more information, please contact Dene Magna.

**Aldi's Kit for Schools** We are joining in with the Aldi Kit for Schools promotion which will



give us a chance to win £20,000 and an exclusive sports kit. Please collect Team GB Stickers when you spend £30 in an Aldi store, and bring them in to

school to add to our poster. We realise that Aldi isn't one of our local supermarkets, but if you have friends or relatives who live near one, let them know that we are collecting stickers and bring them in!

**Attendance** we have had a fabulous first couple of weeks with whole school attendance at 97.9%. The school's attendance policy has been reviewed and we will be sending it out through Parentmail to all parents next week.

**The REWILD Project** Our pupils are all



familiar with the Rewild Project who come in on Wednesday afternoons to run allotment sessions. The Rewild Project have a range of workshops which are open to everyone – for more information see their website

at [www.therewildproject.com](http://www.therewildproject.com) There are some leaflets at the front desk.

**Name tags for uniform**– the school has signed up with an online company called My Nametags who provide personalised name tags either as stickers or iron-on labels for school uniform and other items. If parents use this company for name tags then the school receives a donation from the company which we can spend on extras for the school. The stickers or labels cost £11.95 + £1 postage for 56. Please note there are other suppliers available, and we do not know what the quality of these stickers and labels is like – but it is really important that everything your

children wear or bring to school is labelled. There is already some lost property appearing in the box outside the office! The website is [www.MyNametags.com](http://www.MyNametags.com) our school ID code is 30496. We will put a link on the school website too.

**Jargon Buster!!** Apologies for any confusion particularly when booking clubs, which has been caused to parents not knowing the meaning of some of the phrases and acronyms we use in school – so here is a brief explanation of primary



education phases which we hope will be useful!

**EYFS** stands for Early Years Foundation Stage which is our Reception year group (Robin and Wren)

**KS1** stands for Key Stage 1 – this is sometimes referred to as “infants” and is Years 1 and 2 (Kingfisher, Nightingale and Sparrow)

**KS2** stands for Key Stage 2 – sometimes referred to as “juniors”, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. This is also sometimes split for topic and curriculum purposes in Lower KS2 (Years 3 & 4 – Skylark, Jay and Swift) and Upper KS2 (Years 5 & 6 – Woodpecker, Heron and Peregrine). Please let us know if there is any other jargon, abbreviations or acronyms which we can bust! The chances are there are lots of parents in the same boat!

**Uniform & Personal Appearance** – a reminder to parents that all children are expected to wear full school uniform every day and that extreme hairstyles are not appropriate for school. Use of styling products should be kept to a minimum and children should not have



decorative patterns cut into their hair or have hair coloured or dyed. Our uniform details are on the school website, and the governors are to discuss the formal uniform policy at their meeting in October and this will be sent to all

parents through Parentmail once it is approved.

**Parents Evenings – Years 1 - 6** The Parents Evening booking system is live today – you should have received a message on Parentmail with a link to go on and book your appointment. If you have already been invited to an SEN meeting then you will not be invited to attend. Parents Evening for Reception children will be held later this term on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. If you need help making a booking please contact the office.

**Litter and Parking** Unfortunately, since the start of the new term the school has received complaints from some of our neighbours. The first one is about litter at the entrance to the school area, in particular people smoking while waiting for children to come out of school and dropping cigarette ends. Nobody should be smoking on or adjacent to the school premises and cigarette ends should certainly not be dropped. We have also received a complaint about inconsiderate parking. If you have to bring or collect your child by car, please drive safely and park so that you are not blocking driveways or creating a danger for other road users and pedestrians.



**Reading Evening** Each year the school holds an open evening for parents to come along and find out how the school teaches children to read and inspires them to become avid readers. Our next Reading Evening is being held on Thursday 19th September 2019 from 5.30-6.30pm. All our pupils and their parents from Reception through to Year 6 are welcome. During the evening, 'Books for Bugs' will also be attending. This company sells books extremely cheaply – every book



£2.50 - and are well worth a look. There will be refreshments for everyone and we encourage our little ones to come along in their PJs and have hot chocolate and a bedtime story. The staff look forward to seeing you at the evening's events.

**Clubs** Progressive sports clubs all started this week. There are spaces on some clubs. Please complete a form and bring into the office if your child would like to join one. KS2 Homework club is full, but there are still a few spaces for KS1 Homework club. Next week the new Artspace, archery and guitar clubs



are starting. At the time of writing there is only one space left for Artspace. If there are more children who

want to do this club, please let the office know as it may be possible to run another session on a Friday evening. There are still a few places left on the Archery club for KS2 children only. Please book through Parentpay.

Guitar club invitations have been sent to the children who were taking guitar lessons last year. If there are any other children who might be interested, please speak to the office.



A gardening club for parents and children is being organised and will start later this term. Letters will go out soon so keep your eyes open for this exciting opportunity.

Finally the Fizz Pop Science club starts next Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September for children who have signed up on-line. This club is full.

**Aberdovey** – Our exciting Y6 residential is coming up on 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> October. A parent meeting has been arranged for 3:15pm on 1<sup>st</sup> October in Peregrine class. Please come along for the opportunity to receive any information and ask any questions that you may have.

**Vacancies** – we have vacancies for Midday Supervisors. More information on the school website or speak to office staff!

### **A Note From Erica, Our Family Support Worker** *Why do Children Need Routines?*

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and that your child(ren) are excited about the new school year. I know I am! As it's the start of the school year, I felt it was a good time to talk about the importance of routines at home. Here is a list of 6 (although I'm sure there are many more) reasons why a good home routine is crucial for kids (adapted from

<https://www.petitjourney.com.au/10-reasons-a-daily-routine-is-important-for-your-child-and-how-to-set-one/>):

1. Helps your child to get on schedule (especially gives them the ability to sleep well at night)
2. Establishes expectations (the child becomes accustomed to knowing when it is homework time, bath time, bed time, etc.)
3. Creates a calmer household (the child knows what to expect so there is less stress and anxiety)
4. Gives your child confidence and independence (the child will be proud that they know what they are supposed to do and do it by themselves)
5. Establishes healthy habits (like brushing teeth, completing homework, etc.)
6. Offers stability in times of change or stress (divorce, change in school, etc.)

Children fear the unknown and need routines at home (and at school). If you feel you need assistance with this, please see me for a chat. I'm here to help!

**Next Newsletter** – The next Newsletter will be published on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

