

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer and Celebrate



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January 2021

Welcome to our January edition of the newsletter, the first one of 2021 and in lockdown 3.0. Thank you to everyone for supporting and being patient with us whilst we come to terms with the new rules and guidance.

Firstly, I'd like to say a HUGE thank you to all of our parents and carers. You are amazing! We can't thank you enough for all the support that you are giving to your children with their home learning. I know that this is a massive challenge to all of you and we really appreciate it especially at a time when there are so many other challenges for you all. The only reason we can manage the home learning so effectively is because you are keeping your children at home whenever you can. This makes such a difference to the school because it means that we can keep everyone safe in school and we have sufficient staff to support those at home effectively. Most of the feedback that we've had about the home learning has been very positive and we are working closely with those parents who are having issues to try and iron out any problems. I would also like to thank all our wonderful children. They are doing an amazing job of managing the technology AND learning curriculum subjects too! All the teachers have been very impressed by the work that is being produced so well done everyone!

We are pleased to tell you that all school staff are now having twice-weekly covid19 testing using lateral flow devices. Lots of staff are really pleased to have this regular reassurance, and we hope that it will also help parents to feel that school is a safe place for children once we start to re-open, hopefully in March. We are waiting for confirmation from the government of when, and how we will start to re-open. We have been promised two weeks' notice to put our plans in place and we will let you know as soon as we can.

Snow days

I want to reassure you that snow days are not completely a thing of the past! If the school does have to close on the **first** day of snow, we do have learning ready for the whole school, which we will send out. It includes things like 'build a snowman'.

Diary Dates

February

2nd February: Robin, Nightingale, Skylark and Woodpecker Parent Evening
3rd February: Peregrine Parent Evening
9th February: Safer Internet Day
9th February: Wren, Sparrow, Jay and Heron Parent Evening
12th February: Last day of term
15th-19th February: February Half Term
22nd February: School starts for key worker and vulnerable children
24th February: Kingfisher and Swift Parent Evening

March

4th March: World Book Day

Safer Internet Day

Now that more of us are using remote learning and internet we feel it is especially important to promote safer internet day which is being held on Tuesday 9th February 2021.

On the link below are resources that will help you and your child understand the reliability of the internet and top



tips on how to keep safe. We have included the resources on the school website, under the family support page.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/safer-internet-day-2021-ways-schools-and-other-settings-celebrate-remotely>

Adult Education Courses in February

Adult education are running two wellbeing courses for parents to attend, starting in February. All of their family learning courses are being delivered via Zoom. The following courses are available:

- Calming the Mind
- Happier and Calmer: Wellbeing at Home

All information on how to book yourself onto these courses can be found on our school website under the 'Family Support' page.

Parent Evenings

From next week we will be holding parent evening appointment so that you can have catch up with your child's teacher if you would like to. We will be holding virtual appointments via Microsoft Teams. You can book your appointments through parentmail and we will send you a link to the meeting for the time slot you have requested. If you do not receive a link please contact parentevening@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk to check the appointment is confirmed. Please don't feel that you must make an appointment – I am aware that some of you are in daily contact with the teachers and may well feel that this additional time is unnecessary. Appointment dates will vary depending on your child's teacher as they will only be running on the week they are in school. Please see the table below to see when your child's teacher is running appointments and when the booking system goes live, this will be 5 days before the parent evening date. Further information has been sent out through parentmail.

Class/Teacher	Booking live date	Appointment day
Robin Class	Thursday 28 th January	Tuesday 2 nd February
Wren Class	Thursday 4 th February	Tuesday 9 th February
Kingfisher Class	Friday 19 th February	Wednesday 24 th February
Nightingale Class	Thursday 28 th January	Tuesday 2 nd February
Sparrow Class	Thursday 4 th February	Tuesday 9 th February
Skylark Class	Thursday 28 th January	Tuesday 2 nd February
Jay Class	Thursday 4 th February	Tuesday 9 th February
Swift Class	Friday 19 th February	Wednesday 24 th February
Woodpecker Class	Thursday 28 th January	Tuesday 2 nd February
Heron Class	Thursday 4 th February	Tuesday 9 th February
Peregrine Class	Friday 29 th January	Wednesday 3 rd February

Access to Healthy Start Vitamins in Gloucestershire

If you're pregnant or have a child under 4 and you are getting benefits, you may be able to get Healthy Start vouchers to help buy some basic foods. This important scheme provides vouchers to spend with local retailers and also gives you access to free vitamins. You can find out if you are eligible to get these benefits by visiting <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/healthy-start/>.

Forest Foodbank

Our school is an E-referral agency for the Forest Foodbank.

The Forest Foodbank offers toiletries and pet food. If your family is in need of shower gel, soap or liquid soap (only one of either of these), toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant (if available), men's razors, dog food, cat food, household cleaning products, washing powder, toilet rolls or sanitary products, **please contact our school Family Support Worker, Erica Fearn**. The Forest Foodbank makes home deliveries on certain days of the week.

Happy birthday to the children (and staff) who have celebrated birthdays or will be celebrating during January:

Brooke, Ollie, Gracie-Lou, Briellah, Adam, Ellie, Kyler, Abdul, Keaton, Neiva, Heidi, Jacob, Lily, Lilly-Hanna, Rupert, Isla-Faith, Violet-Belle, Joshua, Harrison, Amber, Oliver, Elsie, Emily S, Charlie C, Leiah, Emily C, Niall, Ben, Mrs Hampton, Mr Paterson and Mrs Reynolds.



Next Newsletter – Our February newsletter edition will be published on Friday, 26th February 2021. If there are any achievements or any other celebrations you want to share with everyone, we will be very pleased to feature your child in the next newsletter. Please email admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk by Monday 22nd February.



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