

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer and Celebrate



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April 2021

Welcome to our April edition of the newsletter. We hope you all had a lovely restful Easter break. It has been so lovely to have everyone back feeling refreshed and now we have a bank holiday weekend too!

Thank you so much to everyone for continuing to follow all our covid safety measures. It is through a combination of your support, closely following the DfE advice, and a bit of good luck, that we have not yet had to close a bubble due to a positive case! Like you we are desperate to return to normal and we would like to reassure you that as soon as we are advised that we may relax our protective measures, we will. Our children have missed so much over the last year and now they are back learning with their friends, it would be devastating to have to return to home schooling again.

We urge everyone to continue to follow all the government guidelines, and in a couple of weeks' time, when the impact of the most recent relaxation of national restrictions can be seen on infection rates in the community, we will carry out a parent survey to find out how parents feel about after school clubs and hot lunches so that we can make plans for after the June half term break.

Goodbye and Good Luck

Earlier this week Mrs Sturman-Guest left the school to move onto new adventures. She has been a really valued member of the team here at St White's and we are very sad to see her go. Everyone here at St White's wishes her well for the future; we will really miss her.

Parking and driving by the school

A reminder to parents to please be careful and courteous on your way to and from school on both Buckshaft and Sneyd Wood Roads. We have recently had some concerning comments from residents in the area in regards to this issue. Please make sure that you drive slowly and park carefully so as not to obstruct pavements, driveways and resident's access and private parking spaces.

Diary Dates

May

3rd May: Bank Holiday
5th May: Peregrine Allotment
10th May: Heron Project Group Spin Bike Sponsor Day
12th May: Jay Allotment
13th May: Reception Height, Weight & Vision Checks
19th May: Skylark Allotment
26th May: Swift Allotment
28th May: Last day of term

June

7th June: School starts
9th June: Heron Allotment
16th June: Kingfisher Allotment
23rd June: Nightingale Allotment
30th June: Sparrow Allotment

Star of the Week Awards

Now that we are all back in school our weekly virtual assemblies have restarted. Every week there is a 'star of the week' and a 'sports star of the week' pupil in each class. Well done to the children who have been awarded this month.

Week Commencing 29th April 2021

	Star of the Week	Sports Star of the Week
Robin	Rory	Emily
Wren	Isaac	Harley
Kingfisher	Toby	Jackson
Nightingale	Rory S	Lowri
Sparrow	Alex	Evie
Skylark	Rahnie	Zara
Jay	Lucy	Lily
Swift	Riley	Mckenzie
Woodpecker	Charlie	Harry H
Heron	Ethan	Archie
Peregrine	Nat & Scarlett	Grace W

TTRockstars

Every week, KS1 and KS2 children practise their timetables on TTRockstars. To celebrate their achievements will we are sending out a weekly bulletin to parents.

Well done to Lowri who answered the most correct answers last week and Alex H who answered the most correct answers this week. Alex got 513 answers correct, this is an amazing effort for KS1! Also a

massive well done to Abdul who was top of the leader board last week and this week for KS2, scoring a combined total of 6,539 correct answers.

Happy birthday to the children (and staff) who have celebrated birthdays during April:

Kelsi-Rae, Freddie, Toby, Lexi-Anne, Madison, Evelyn, Phoebe, Nate, Noah, Georgia-Rose, Maiya, Adrian, Angelina, Poppy, Megan, Keith, Hollie, Charlotte, Tia, Tommy, Jackson, Ruby, Penny, Harriet, Keela-Marie, Rory, Miss Creed and Ms Nicholls.



A Message from Heron Project Group

As of March 2021, our school and local community is missing a crucial defibrillator and we have been given the chance to resolve our dilemma. This is important because if a resident or member of our school were to have a cardiac arrest, a defibrillator would be needed immediately. The reasoning for this is that every minute in a Cardiac Arrest, the chance of survival for the person decreases by 10%. Currently, the closest defibrillator is 18 minutes away walking, therefore, by the time we got back, the person having the Cardiac Arrest would have most likely passed. Approximately, 1,300 people live in our community (including the School and Residents of the houses) and anyone of them could have a Cardiac Arrest at any moment. A defib can especially be used on sports day, not just on a day-day basis. A defib is about £1000-£1600, so, £1000-£1600 is definitely worth it to save lives!

On 10th May 2021 we are having a sponsored spin-bike competition to raise more money and to be able to obtain a defib. 6 pupils from Heron class will be cycling for the whole school day to help with this. If you would like to help us raise enough funds to reach our goal, please donate as much or as little as you can to our just giving page. We have already raised a section of the money (£1050), all we need now is £400! If we raise more than our target, we will donate the remaining to charity. We have already received £285 in less than 48 hours so thank you to everyone who has donated so far.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stwhites-primaryschool?utm_term=BaBaZEEZR

SkillZONE

Although year 5 and 6 have not been able to get to SkillZONE this year, they still took part in a virtual visit and got to have a tour of the SkillZONE house as well as learning about what to do in the event of a fire. We hope that next year we can go to SkillZone and see the action in real life.

Census Day

Thank you to everyone who completed their census counting the books in their house. Peregrine were lucky to escape the £1000 fine if they didn't complete it but did have to count all of the books in the library to add to the total. We are fortunate to have some new titles in the library and are looking forward to when we can all use it regularly again.

Year 5 and 6 have found another opportunity to use the census data in their Religious Education work where they have looked at the different religions of the people in Cinderford and compared them to the percentages in England.

St White's Has Talent

On the last day of term, we posted out the finale video for the talent show which lots of you have already watched it. It will still be available to watch up until the summer holidays. Everyone who entered

into our talent show has received a certificate and our finalists have been given a special medal. Well done to Ada, Olivia, Miah, William. Lily and Sophia for your amazing performances. Remember to keep practising your talents ready for next year's St White's Has Talent.



Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

We have signed our school up to musical concerts that are live on a Saturday morning at 11am. They only run for 20 minutes and you are more than welcome to tune in or you can go back to watch the recordings. Here are the dates of the next concerts:
Saturday 24 April: Meet the Brass
Saturday 1 May: Meet the Wind
Saturday 8 May: Meet the Strings
Saturday 15 May: Meet the Percussion
Saturday 22 May: Explore the Orchestra Finale:

How to access:

Copy the following link into a web browser. <https://bsolive.com/digital/explore-the-orchestra-livestream/> This will take you directly to the livestream page where you need to input the password **symphony**. There is also a link on this page for a sign language version.

All the videos will appear here as the live dates pass and will remain here for you to use at any time. We hope you enjoy them!

Year 6 Transition

Year 6 are preparing to go off into the big wide world of secondary school! This year, pupils are off to Forest High, Dene Magna, John Kyrle, Five Acres and Dean Academy. Mr Jones and Miss Cinderey are currently communicating with all of the secondary schools to ensure that they have information to provide a smooth transition. The secondary schools are hoping to have our year 6 pupils to visit them and get a taste of what it will be like. All schools send staff to have discussions with our teachers too. They then meet our children, giving them a chance to talk about their hopes and any anxieties - this makes the transition even smoother. These meetings work either in person or virtually so your children will not miss out. In school, we will be reading books, and completing transition activities that ensure that everyone is ready to go on and BE AWESOME! If any parents would like further information about transition, please get in contact with Miss Cinderey (peregrine@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk) who will do her best to support you.

Year 5 and 6 Project - Natural disasters

Do you know what to do if there were an earthquake at the school? What about a storm and strong winds? Luckily, year 5 and 6 have the answers. Before Easter, they worked hard on writing a Disaster Policy for the school. Year 5 and 6 ensured that their language was formal and that they covered different circumstances. They have been approved by Mrs Tilling but will be presented to the Governors in their next meeting for ratification.

Achievements

Lockdown has meant that lots of clubs have not been able to continue but Poppy in Peregrine has been keeping up with her kickboxing and gone from a green belt to a blue belt to a purple belt! Well done Poppy for showing what you can achieve with hard work and commitment!



Book groups

Year 5 and 6 started book groups while they were still in lockdown and have continued them in school. One group have just finished *Murder Most Unladylike* by Robin Stevens. They won't spoil it by giving it away but the ending surprised everyone! The other group are just finishing *The Midnight Guardians* by

Ross Montgomery and keep getting in trouble with Miss Cinderey for reading too much! That's not something you expect to hear every day!

We are really enjoying sharing novels in our classes and look forward to reading them together after lunch. Some of the books that KS2 have enjoyed have sequels or books written by the same authors. Here is a selection of books they have read so far if you wish to give them a try:

Year 3 and 4

- *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* by Nizrana Farook
- *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White

Year 5 and 6

- *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell
- *A Place Called Perfect* by Helena Duggan

'The UEFA EURO 2020' Challenge

UKS2 are participating in 'The UEFA EURO 2020' challenge! Their task is to design a football on the entry form that has been sent home and bring this back to school. Pupils have the chance to win £3000 pounds for their school, a £50 voucher for themselves or a football shirt of their choice for the winning design. The first 40 pupils to return the form to their class teacher will receive a Euro 2020 sticker album ready to collect the Panini stickers. Every entry that is returned will receive a pack of stickers ready to start their collection! If you have any questions, please ask email Mr Jones heron@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk. Closing date Wednesday 12th May. Best of luck.

Royal Mail Competition

Royal Mail are running a competition for children aged 4-14 to take part. Children entering the competition are asked to design an image of their hero or heroes from the coronavirus pandemic which could be used as one of the Royal Mail special stamps! All entries must be in school by Tuesday 25th May 2021 so that they can be sent off via post before the closing date. Any entries given into the office after Tuesday 25th May will not be accepted. Entry forms have already gone home and we have already received some amazing designs. If you need another form, please ask the office who can provide you with one. We look forward to seeing your designs! Remember that all competitions and challenges can be found on the school website under our learning section so please feel free to have a look regularly.

My Child's Art

Over the next week, all the children will be creating a self-portrait which will be uploaded to a portal for parents to purchase a variety of items such as tea towels, mugs and water bottles printed with your child's design. It may be a bit early but they would make fabulous Christmas presents for relatives. You will receive a leaflet with login instructions once the

portal is ready. This will raise some much needed funds for the school.

School Pond

You may have noticed by our Buckshaft Road Entrance that we have a new school pond which has appeared over the Easter holidays! This has been built with the support of Forestry England and we are very grateful to them for all their hard work organising and building it. The pond is now complete and we are just waiting to have a few rainy days to fill it up.

British Legion Cherry Tree

Due to the pond renovation we have had to move our lovely cherry tree to a safer place. This is now up by the top entrance of the school. This tree was donated to Mrs Cross by the Cinderford Royal British Legion to mark the affiliation between the British Legion and St White's.



PTFA news

The PTFA have continued to support the school through the pandemic with funds towards the Leavers' Books and a donation to the defibrillator project. Now they are eager to start fundraising again. They are on the lookout for new members, and are planning to hold a Teams meeting next Thursday at 2.30pm – if there are any parents who would like to join the meeting the link will be sent via parentmail early next week. If you just want to find out more, please contact the school office and we will put you in touch. There will be a PTFA raffle this summer, so if anyone is able to donate a prize please let the office know. Tickets will be sent home with children later this term.

The Big Pedal

Thank you to everyone who has walked, cycled, or scooted to school the past two weeks. We are currently 176th out of over 2500 schools with the number of pupils we have walking, cycling or scooting to school. This is a fantastic achievement and hopefully we will win some prizes!

Drama Queens

There is a new performing arts club starting in the local area for children aged 8 to 10. This is a great opportunity for the children to be part of something which is fun, meet new friends and boost their confidence. Please see the poster for more information.



Governor News

Congratulations to Jordan Schroeder who has been elected unopposed as our new Parent Governor. We look forward to working with her.

Advice and Support from Erica

Women Will Get Rugby Buzz at Cinderford - Allianz Inner Warrior

The Covid-19 pandemic has particularly affected the mental health of women and, having been isolated, an opportunity to play sport, and in particular a team sport, has never been more welcome. That's why more than 160 community rugby clubs nationwide are running the Rugby Football Union's Allianz Warrior Camps which introduce women to the sport or welcome those returning and help to both empower women and broaden rugby's reach. Cinderford RFC have girls playing rugby at U13, U15 and U18 level and are working to build a women's side for the older girls to move on to and to provide rugby locally for women of every age and ability. If this is something you wish to join their Allianz Warrior Camp takes place at Cinderford RFC on May 2nd from 1pm to 3pm.

Parent Circle Groups

We are running our parent circle groups again every Wednesday at 10am. These meetings are a great way to connect with other parents and discuss any anxieties you may have. If this is something you are interested in joining, please join in by following this link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MTOyNWQ3OWUtYjU3NS00NGI2LTkwZTEtMGI3Njc1MjE3MGYy%40thread.v2/0?content=%7b%22id%22%3a%22f45cfd16-2a28-42de-a802-fa828d0e8c1b%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c5671619-5a7f-45a6-98c7-d9821e53b689%22%7d

We hope to see you all there!

Online safety

Online safety is always high on our agenda and we have been made aware of another app which some children in our school may be using - it is called Discord and is often used to chat alongside computer gaming. Some issues have been raised around this app and we thought that you might find some additional information useful. We always strongly advise parents to make sure that they know what their children are doing and who they are communicating with on their tablets, phones etc. and ensure that everything they have access to is age appropriate. Above all please make sure that your children know that they can and should tell you straight away if there is anything they see, read or hear which worries them.

The information below is from the website Common Sense Media

"Discord requires that users be at least 13 years old, although they do not verify users' age upon sign-up. Because it is all user-generated, there's plenty of inappropriate content, like swearing and graphic language and images. At this time, Discord doesn't offer parental controls, so there's no way for parents to restrict content or password-protect the privacy settings within the app."

Adult Education Workshops

Adult Education are running 3 workshops next month for one day only which parents may enjoy and find useful. They have put the following workshops in place:

Interview Masterclass Workshop: Wednesday 5th May 10:00am – 2:30pm – Online via Zoom

Money Management Workshop: Wednesday 5th May 9:30am – 12:00pm – Online via Zoom

CV Masterclass Workshop: Wednesday 12th May 10:00am – 3:00pm – Online Via Zoom

Further information and how you can join can be found on the school website in the family support section.

Spring update from the School Allotment.

Hello, this is such a busy time of year for gardeners and as you will see the children have been working hard and learning about sowing, planting and growing vegetables and flowers.

In March **Sparrows** learned about the failure of the autumn sown Broad Beans, helped plant some more ready for planting out later by the **Robins**. They also



learned about growing tomato plants from a slice of tomato in a recycled mini propagator – this has been a great success.



Woodpeckers dug the trenches and learnt about how we 'chit' potatoes before they are planted; then earthing them up to protect from frost. We were



lucky enough to have some early Cabbage plants donated and Woodpeckers also potted these up to be kept safe until the raised bed was prepared for **Wrens** to plant them in their permanent place.



Peregrines sowed Beetroot and Carrot seed direct and went away with a project to grow the French Beans for planting out after the last frosts – don't worry – I have back up spares!

Robins had great fun digging the holes and planting the healthy Broad Bean plants and they also helped me sow Sunflowers into the Wild Flower Bed.

Finally, well done to

Wrens, despite the much needed downpour of rain yesterday, they planted out the Cabbage and Cauliflower plants. Then they built the protection from Cabbage White Butterflies and their baby caterpillars.



Thanks to **Mrs Self** who is so kind every week helping me and the children to enjoy the Allotment. I am

looking forward to a warm and sunny summer term. If your child has been in the allotment and you wish to see what we have been doing I try to do a regular weekly update on the Facebook page @ruspidgrows



Nicky the Gardener

Next Newsletter – Our next newsletter edition will be published on Friday 28th May 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 24th May 2021.



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