

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer and Celebrate



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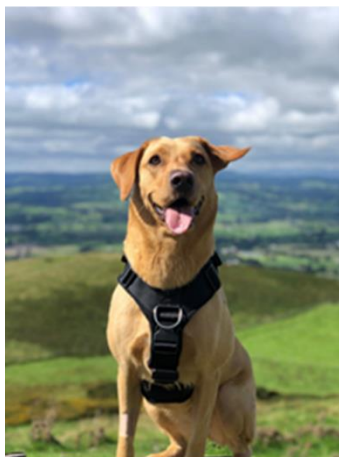
March 2021

Welcome to our March edition of the newsletter. Thank you so much for all your support over the last few weeks as the children have returned to school: together we have made this a great success. We are so grateful to everyone for continuing to manage the staggered starts/finishes and the site rules which have helped to keep everyone safe as we have got back to the 'new' normal. We are hopeful that things will become even more 'normal' over the summer term, but we will, as ever, follow all the guidance to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible. As ever, if you have any suggestions, please do let us know.

The DFE and Public Health have asked schools in the Easter holidays to continue to assist with tracing and contacting anyone who may have been in close proximity to a confirmed covid case. So far, we have been very lucky and we have not had to close any bubbles because of positive cases. **If your child displays symptoms of covid during the holidays, please arrange to get a PCR test, and if the test result is positive, please let the school know immediately** by email to admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk

Goodbye and Good Luck

At the end of this term, sadly the school will be losing Miss Evans. She has been a really valued member of the team here at St White's and we will be very sad to see her go. Miss Evans is leaving us to take up a new role at another school. Everyone here at St White's wishes her well for the future; we will really miss her. Unfortunately, this also means we will be losing Ginnie as our school therapy dog. Ginnie has a little message for you all:



*To all my friends at St White's,
Thank you for taking care of me,
And all of you being my friend,
It's sad that my time here at St
Whites has had to come to an end!
Thank you for all your love,
And for making sure I was fed,
I loved all the special cards
An my nice and cozy bed!
My time at St Whites was so
special,
And that is all down to you,
Thank you for always waving,
And adoring me like you do!
It's shame I can't stay longer,
It's not fun to be apart,
But please remember always,
My paw prints in your heart!
Lots of love,
Ginnie*

Diary Dates

April

1st April: Last day of term
2nd April: Good Friday
19th April: School starts again
21st April: Robin Allotment
28th April: Wren Allotment

May

3rd May: Bank Holiday
5th May: Peregrine Allotment
12th May: Jay Allotment
19th May: Skylark Allotment
26th May: Swift Allotment
28th May: Last day of term

Mrs King is also leaving the school at the end of this term to move onto new adventures. She has been here for many years and we wish her well for the future. Mrs Hampton is expecting a baby and will be going on Maternity leave after the Easter break. We wish her luck at this very exciting time!

Free School Meals

The impact from the pandemic over the last year has led to changes at home for a lot of our families. If there has been a change in your circumstances which has led you to claim universal credit or any other benefits, then your child/ren may be entitled to Free School Meals. There is a simple online application form to complete, and if you are eligible, then not only will your child receive free school lunches for the rest of their time in primary school, the school also receives an additional amount of money, some of which we use to fund school trips for FSM children. The link you need to apply is: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

School Lunches

After the Easter break the price of school lunches has now increased to £2.34 instead of £2.32. This will be automatically changed on Parentpay.

Parking and driving by the school

A reminder to parents to please be careful and courteous on your way to and from school. 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. The building works on Buckshaft Road will be going on for a while and are making this area even more difficult. The narrow pavements can be dangerous, particularly for parents with pushchairs and young children. If you have to drive, please try to park a bit further away from school and walk with your children.

World Book Day

Thank you to everyone who joined in the virtual celebrations for World Book Day. It was great to hear pupils of all ages discussing 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'.



Well done especially to everyone who joined in the Readathon and joined the Teams meeting which was running all day. It was great to see pupils turning up to read alongside Mr Paterson as a pirate and Mr Brown as a banana! We managed to get to 64 hours and 32 minutes - what a great effort! Well done St White's.



TTRockstars

Whoop Whoop! Well done St White's we are so proud of you! Your team effort meant we held on to our second place position on the final day of the competition and finished with 286,181 points. The final standings being Heron in 5th place and Peregrine in 4th position – IN THE WHOLE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE! The final pupil achievements saw 5 children in the top 50. Jamie at 50th, Dewi at 40th, Vibisha at 29th, Chloe B in 8th and Olivia Y at 5th. This is just absolutely incredible guys be so proud of yourselves! The Forester newspaper did an article about our amazing efforts and how we "rocked our way to the top", did you see it?

St White's got Talent

Well done to everyone who sent their entries in for the talent show. We hope you enjoyed sharing your talents with everyone. We had a large number of children, staff and governors vote and have now counted who had the most. The top 5 acts with the most votes have been put onto our 'End of the Show' show video. There is also a special guest who had a little message for you all. This is now available on the talent show padlet which can be found on the school website. We hope you enjoy it! Huge thanks to Miss Blake for editing it all together so fabulously!

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 15th March 2021

	Star of the Week	Sports Star of the Week
Robin	Emily T	Mabel
Wren	Daniel	Nayfeh
Kingfisher	Teddy	Toby
Nightingale	Albie	Elsie
Sparrow	Alexa & Isla	Connor
Skylark	Alice	Ava
Jay	Daniel	Jacob
Swift	Evelyn	Lucas
Woodpecker	Lila	Darcie
Heron	Beth	Alex-Jon
Peregrine	Taylor	Maria

Week Commencing 22nd March 2021

	Star of the Week	Sports Star of the Week
Robin	Katy	Orion
Wren	Charlie J	Freddie
Kingfisher	Freddie	Charlotte
Nightingale	Grace L	Millie
Sparrow	Jonah	Paige
Skylark	Belle	Freddie
Jay	Maiya	Eva
Swift	Bella	Jack
Woodpecker	Lacey	Summer
Heron	Jamie	Kai
Peregrine	Poppy	Keenan

Week Commencing 29th March 2021

	Star of the Week	Sports Star of the Week
Robin	Callen	Ava
Wren	Penny	Grace
Kingfisher	Tiana	Athena
Nightingale	Josh	Ellis
Sparrow	Megan	Harry
Skylark	Zara & George	Oakley
Jay	Lydia	Luis
Swift	Sophia	Oliver
Woodpecker	Nathan	Briellah
Heron	Amie	Tylan
Peregrine	Toby	Ellie T

Sound Out Schools Concert

On Monday 22nd March, all classes joined together and logged into the London Sinfonietta School's Concert. This was live streamed from Royal Festival Hall and gave our children a chance to explore how to compose and create music, hear musicians perform pieces by living composers and was the first audience to hear new work by young people who took part in the Composition Challenge.

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



Owen, Oliver, Abigail, Isabelle, Oakley, Logan, Finley, Keely, Harry, Nayfeh, Alex, Adelaide, Jessica, Asha, Thomas, Matei, Hector, Poppy, Dexter, Luis, Millie, Mabel, Alfie, Miss Lewis and Mrs Self.

Vacancy – we have a vacancy for a School Mini Bus Driver to start with us in September as our lovely Dennis is retiring in July – he has been a very active member of the school community, collecting our children in the morning and supporting swimming and many other sporting events. He will be sadly missed. If you would like more information about the position of minibus driver, please go onto the school website or speak to office staff!

Advice and Support from Erica

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.

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/>.

Chance is Change

Tom Hoskins is a life coach (and former teacher) who works with children of all ages in many schools in Cheltenham, Gloucester and the Forest of Dean. He has his own business which is called Chance is Change. As a school, we have worked closely with Tom and he has supported several of our children with their mental health. The children enjoy meeting with Tom and appreciate that he can relate to some of the life challenges they are experiencing.

Tom would like to invite parents/ carers to listen to his podcast, which has lots of tips for supporting children with their mental health. You can listen to his podcast on Spotify or Apple music, please see the links below:

Podcast

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3cILT6Zep5hBOZmYt39IPY?si=35h9jQETjWD-RxuAq0o7g>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/chance-is-change/id1554684827>

He would also like to invite parents/ carers to check out his mental health project which is happening in Gloucestershire:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-mental-health-life-coach?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-mental-health-life-coach?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

Parent Circle Groups

After several parent requests we have decided to run our parent circle groups again. If this is something you are interested in joining, we will be holding a meeting for all parents who wish to join on Wednesday 21st April at 10 am. A link to the teams meeting will be sent out on parentmail. We hope to see you all there!

Suspicious Vehicle

Gloucestershire Police had notified us that a vehicle had been reported for acting suspiciously in Yorkley and Berryhill. Following on from this, our PSCO Sue Pritchard will be talking to our children on Thursday 22nd April about stranger danger.

Next Newsletter – Our next newsletter edition will be published on Friday 30th April 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 26th April 2021.



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