

St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer Celebrate



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15 September 2017

Welcome back – A very warm welcome back from the summer holidays. We do hope you all had a wonderful summer and a well-earned rest.



A special mention to all the new children who have joined us this academic year, as well as to our new members of staff.

Volunteering in School – With the new academic year now well underway, the school is looking to recruit new volunteers to help in class.

If you think you would like to help pupils in class, perhaps with reading or just generally helping out, please let the school office know. All new volunteers to school would have to go through an Enhanced DBS check, which would take a few weeks to complete, so please be aware of this.



For more information, or to offer your services, please speak with a member of the Office Team. Thank you.

Absence Reporting – If your child is absent from school, it is very important that parents and carers let us know promptly. This is because, if your child doesn't turn up and you haven't explained why, the school has a duty

Diary Dates

September

15th – Race for Life and second Anniversary of School's official opening – from 1.20 pm (see letter issued 7/9/17 for Class timings)
20th – Maths Adult Education Classes start 9.00 am
22nd – PTFA Meeting from 3.15 pm – all welcome!
27th – **Whole school Open Day for Reception intake 2018 and new to area parents 1.30 – 2.45 pm & 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm**

October

3rd & 5th – Parent Consultation Evenings for Years 1 – 6
13th – Yr 5 Trip to Cheltenham Literature Festival
18th – Tempest Individual School Photos
18th – Yr 6 Aberdovey Residential Information session 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm
20th – Harvest Festival – times TBC
20th – School closes for half term break
30th – School reopens to pupils
30th – Residential week Yr 6 pupils – Aberdovey

to ensure that they are safe. This is particularly important for our older children who walk to school unaccompanied, as we must be able to raise an alert immediately if a child who is expected at school does not arrive.

If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, the school will make a concerted effort to contact you by telephone and text to ascertain the reason for absence. The office team or family support worker will use all the contact numbers that have been provided including home, mobile and work numbers.

If a child is absent from school without explanation, this absence is recorded as unauthorised. In some circumstances, the school may have to report unexplained absences to the Local Authority, if they are concerned for the safety of the child.

What the school asks is that, parents and carers contact the office team by 9.00 am,



either by telephone, email, or using the link on the school website. When you do so, please let the person that you speak to know the

reason for your child's absence – i.e. the nature of the illness, and when you expect your child to return. If you have told us your child will definitely be absent for a number of days, then you do not need to contact us on a daily basis, but if there is any uncertainty, or if the absence goes over a weekend, please do let us know.

Many thanks for your continued support with this matter.

Adult Education – Maths – The school is so pleased to be able to offer parents and carers the opportunity to boost their knowledge and skills.

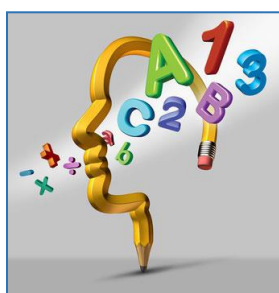


Adult Education
in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire Adult Education's free numeracy class is being delivered here at St White's Primary School. The course will be running every Wednesday morning between 9.00 am and 11.00 am, starting on the 20th September 2017. A crèche will also be available if you have young children.

For people working towards Entry Level, Functional Maths means that maths is taught in a way that is relevant to everyday life, focussing on your individual needs and

providing you with the essential skills required. And so it's a golden opportunity for you to improve your employment prospects but it's also a great way to learn about how to



help your children with their homework?

There is still time to book a place, so contact Caroline by popping into school, or telephone the office.



Attendance – The current whole school attendance stands at 97.3%. Although this is really good news so early in the term, as the school's aim is to be as close to 100% as possible this year, it is concerning that the vast majority of absences so far, are due to children being taken on holiday.

Getting your child to school on-time, every day, unless they are sick, is really essential. There are lots of reasons why it's important for your child to miss as *little* school time as possible. For example, children who miss school, often fall behind with their work and do less well than their peers. When children return from extended periods of absence it can also be hard for them to resettlement into school routines. It is one of the most important building blocks for their future success.



The school's attendance is monitored very closely by different authorities, to ensure that we are placing the right degree of importance on our children attending school. The school understands that the Local Authority are introducing a new protocol for issuing penalty notices. Further information on this will be provided for parents and the school will reflect their expectations in our pupil attendance policy.

Celebration Assembly – Celebration Assemblies are a regular feature of the school

week. Children really look forward to them and I know you do too. This year, they will usually be held on Fridays.

Our first celebration takes place on **Friday 22nd September at 2.45pm.** To ensure

that you have plenty of time, pupils will be nominated for special awards the week before and parents will receive an invitation **via parentmail**, eight days in advance, giving you more notice to make arrangements to be able to attend.



Free School Meals –Are you entitled? - A reminder that although your child may already have meals under the *Universal Free*

School Meal system (applicable to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils), you may still be entitled to free school meals. Your child might be able to get free school meals if



Are you entitled?

you get any of the following:

- *Income Support income-based Jobseeker's Allowance income-related Employment and Support Allowance support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 the guaranteed element of Pension Credit*
- *Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit*
- *Universal Credit*

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

If you this applies to you, it is well worth applying online for Free School Meals through Gloucestershire County Council. The website is

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

If you have any queries, please do contact the school office team.

E-Safety – The children's wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do here at St White's. This is why the school's safeguarding policies

and procedures are constantly being reviewed and updated. It is a top priority in school for

example, to talk about internet safety.

Because it is so incredibly easy to access children can easily be exposed to very inappropriate content. There are lots of dangers that exist for children and they need supervision when using the internet whether they are 5 or 15 years old. Adults need to remain attentive both in school but also at home.

YouTube is very popular with children, who I know use it often to watch pop videos for example. However,



this week children having been talking about watching clips of films that are adult rated and this has led to some particularly unpleasant stories being circulated about clowns. This has caused some distress to other children in school and the school has had to reassure some children that it is just silly nonsense.

The school has however, had a report that a person has been seen driving in the local area

wearing a clown mask.

Having spoken with our local PCSO, we understand that they are aware and are keeping a look out. What they have asked is that if someone sights a person in

a car wearing a clown mask, to try to get the registration and a description of the car and then report it to the Police on 101.



PTFA – The School's PTFA will be launching their new campaign for the coming academic year. Their first meeting will be held on *Friday, 22 September 2017 from 3.15 pm*, here at school.

All our welcome, complete with children! We look forward to meeting with lots of new members who are able to bring new ideas to the group for fundraising events in school.



Board Games required – Our Board Games Enrichment Club is always such a huge success.

The children all absolutely love to play draughts, Lotto, Monopoly and other competitive games. They also like the construction kits and Lego that we provide but because the club is so well attended every term, we are in need of some additional board games and construction kits. If you have any unwanted games or kit that is good condition that is suitable for children aged 4 to 11, and you would like to donate it to school, that would be wonderful!



Year 6 Transition – The school has received some wonderful reports back from secondary schools, where our Year 6 pupils have moved onto. Moving to secondary school is a huge change in a child's life, and we are proud of how well our children have managed this change. Good luck to them all for the future!



Whole School Open Day event – St White's is very proud to be hosting its first Open Day

– aimed at parents with children starting school in September 2018, and also families who are moving into the area.

It has been advertised in the local newspaper and visitors will

be welcomed to the school on *Wednesday, 27 September 2017*

between 1.45 pm and 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm. No appointment is necessary!



Staff will be on hand to offer tours around our beautiful new school, and answer any questions you may have.

Adverts have been placed in the local press, but do please spread the word! Thank you.

Admission to Primary School September 2018

– Gloucestershire County Council will be taking applications for children due to start school in September 2018.

If you have a pre-school child due to start school next September, are unsure if your details are registered with Gloucestershire County Council, and St White's is your preferred choice, please do get in touch with the school office.

All children linked to Nurseries should automatically receive paperwork through by mid-November 2017. **If you do not receive paperwork through by this time, please contact the Schools Admissions Team at Gloucestershire County Council on 01452 425407, or email:**

school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Secondary School Admissions September 2018

– A reminder to parents/carers of our current Year 6 pupils, the deadline for Applications for Secondary School is **31 October 2017.**



Application Forms are available on the Gloucestershire County Council website – School Admissions.

School Security – The safety of your children on the school site is extremely important. I want to remind you that if you visit the school during the day, you must only be let onto the site by a member of staff in the school office? They are responsible for monitoring who is requesting entry to the school site at all times.



It is the responsibility of every person to announce themselves to the office team, including visitors not connected to the school. Everyone must use the intercom systems and under no circumstances should anyone 'tailgate' in behind another person. Staff must know who is on the site at all times and everyone should come to the school office to formally sign in.

The school would therefore ask for your support so that in the event you are visiting school or leaving the premises, you do not let other people onto the site and encourage them to use the intercom system to announce themselves. Thank you for your continued support with this matter.

Safeguarding Policy Review and Staff training

– The school has been busy reviewing and updating the school's safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures. Staff have been undertaking additional safeguarding this year so that they are able to recognise the signs of abuse and are well informed about child protection procedures. The latest training that they have completed has been an online course to recognise the signs of Child Sexual Exploitation. (CSE) The course that they did is not just for professionals but parents and carers also. The link to the Parents against CSE (PACE) website is <http://paceuk.info/about-cse/>. If you think that this would be a good way to keep

yourself informed, just follow the links and you will be able to access an online programme that is easy to use and well worth taking the time to visit.

There are other websites that are also very informative in respect of keeping children safe. To help children lead healthier digital lives, the Children's Commissioner of England launched a guide for families to promote a positive relationship with technology. This is the link to the leaflet.



<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2017/08/06/digital-5-a-day/>

The NSPCC have also produced some brilliant leaflet that give valuable advice about when your child is ready to go out along and when they are ready to be left alone.



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/home-alone-guide-keeping-child-safe.pdf>
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/advice-and-info/out-alone-keeping-child-safe.pdf>

The Children's Rights Director has also written a guide for young people explaining how professionals should work together to help keep them safe. The school is sharing this information with our upper KS2 children but is a very good document for parents too.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Working-together-to-safeguard-children.pdf>

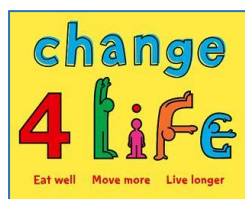
The school has also put this information on the on the school's website for you.

Aberdovey Information Evening – With time marching on it won't be long before this year's Residential Trip will be leaving for Aberdovey. The school will be holding a final information session with parents/carers



and pupils taking part on **Wednesday, 18th October 2018, from 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm** to share details of the trip, accommodation information, coach travel, meal times, and any other questions arising. This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions you might have about the trip and so we do hope that all concerned will be able to attend. Thank you.

National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) – This year's programme measuring height and weight for Reception and Year 6 children will be rolling out shortly. All parents/carers of children involved will be receiving information through in the next few weeks.



Flu Jabs In School – The NHS is rolling out another programme, offering Flu Jabs for primary school up to and including Year 4. Once again, more information will be passed through shortly by the school, The proposed date for this to take place is 30th November 2017.



Parking – A reminder to parents/carers at the beginning of this new academic year to drive carefully and park considerately when dropping off and picking up children from school.

Please remember that the school's Travel Charter requires us to actively encourages all parents to use the Buckshaft Road entrance to the school.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



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