

# St White's Primary School

Challenge Commit Conquer and Celebrate



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## April 2022

Welcome to our March/April edition of the newsletter. It has been a busy half term – and there is one more, busy week until the Easter Holidays. It has been really wonderful to get back to lots of our usual activities and trips. Next half term will be busy with SATS for Year 2 and 6 and we have so much planned for the rest of the school year including Jubilee Celebrations, Aspirations Day, and a Summer Festival on the last day of the summer term. Look out for lots more information about these events.

**Happy birthday** to the children (and staff) who celebrated or will be celebrating birthdays in March & April: Zayan, Ivy, Emily H, Jaxon, Joshua, Spencer, Rueben, Hala, Mabel, Alfie, Nayfeh, Penny, Harriet, Rory, Isabelle, Savannah, Hollie, Charlotte, Tia, Jackson, Tommy, Ruby, Jessica, Millie, Poppy W, Megan, Keith, Ada, Owen, Keely, Luis, Thomas M, Oakley, Dexter S, Nate, Noah, Georgia-Rose, Maiya, Adrian, Angelina, Abi, Oliver C, Alex, Poppy P, Evelyn, Phoebe B, Asha, Finley, Harry, Madison, Mrs Fernandes, Miss Creed, Mr Greening, Miss Lewis, Miss Nicholls, Mrs Self, Miss Simpson and Mrs Kibble.



## Fundraising and Events

We have had a really successful half term with lots of events and we want to say a huge thank you to all our children and parents for their enthusiasm and generosity! **World Book Week 2022** - Did you enjoy coming to school in your pyjamas? Adults get funny looks if they do but all of the children that the charity committee asked about wearing pyjamas said that they were incredibly happy and comfortable when they wore pyjamas on World Book Day. This was part of world book week where children in the school learnt all about Shakespeare; took part in

## Diary Dates

### April 2022

4<sup>th</sup> Class Photographs  
5<sup>th</sup> Dental Checks – some EYFS and Year 1  
7<sup>th</sup> St White's Has Got Talent Final  
8<sup>th</sup> Last day of term  
9<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Easter Holidays  
25<sup>th</sup> School Starts  
May 2022 – Year 2 SATS all month  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday Monday  
9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATS all week  
16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Year 6 Residential all week  
24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> EYFS and Year 6 Nurse checks  
27<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration

the readathon challenge and shared all their favourite books. We spoke to children from different year groups about what they have been doing over the week.

In Reception, they enjoyed coming to school because they were wearing a batman onesie and an army set of pyjamas. One pupil really enjoyed coming in because their pyjamas had a unicorn on it. A lot of the pupils liked books like the Bear Hunt for world book day. Reception have learnt about and written animal files over the week. They also read 5 books every day even when it isn't book week. That's more than us in year 6!

In year 1 and 2, they enjoyed learning about Shakespeare: they were researching one of his many plays called 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Later that afternoon, they would be listening to a book read by the teacher which they looked forward to. Some of the children



even told us their favourite books: A Treasure's Trove; There's a snake in my school; Rabbit Island and one little girl said she enjoyed



reading a book named Charlotte's Web. They even mentioned about how excited they were about the Book Fair, which was happening after school. Generously, they brought in money to buy brand new books for children in hospitals so they don't have germs on at all. They seemed quite overjoyed about the readathon class challenge too!

Year 3 and 4 accepted the challenge to do the readathon and they were bringing in money to buy brand new books for lonely children in hospitals so they don't have germs on and that they don't get even more ill.

They are learning about one of Shakespeare's many plays called Macbeth. They are reading Planet Omar in class. Some of the pupils say they really like the book but their favourites are Tom Gates; Fantastic Mr Fox; Planes, Cars, Ships and Trains and Timmy in trouble.



In year 5 and 6, the children have had a busy week learning about Macbeth and in particular the witches' poem. They have used rhyming couplets to create their own versions and performed these to the



class. As we have been learning about how we can improve our oracy skills, this was a great opportunity to try them out.

On Wednesday, the children were able to watch a webinar by Emma Carroll. Year 6 read her book, Secrets of a Sun King last year and Letters from the Lighthouse is a favourite for some in Peregrine class.

On Thursday, pupils were comfy in their pyjamas and brought in their favourite books to share with the class. Some favourites included Crater Lake Evolution (after we read Crater Lake in school last term); Wizards of Once (after we saw Cressida Crowell at the Literature Festival) and various books from the Harry Potter series!

In class, they will be reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar this term. This is a favourite for some of the teachers and disliked by others. Who will they agree with in the end?

**Book Fair** Thank you to everyone who visited the Book Fair. We hope you are enjoying your books. Thank you to Miss Dromgoole, Miss Sykes, Miss Rawson, Mr Jones, Mr Hayward, Mrs Saddington, Miss Blake, Tom, Lucas, Honey, Poppy, Sammi, Max, Charlie and Soraia for helping to run it.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the reading activities by joining in with the Readathon which raised an amazing £819.50 for Read for Good charity, and in the same week our



collection for the Red Cross Ukraine appeal raised £87.00. The Bake Sale raised a further £329.66 and for Red Nose day we raised £272.97. **Thank you for**

**all your kindness! You are amazing!**

**Dance Festival** – Well done to our Year 5 and 6 pupils who went to perform at the Cheltenham Dance Festival on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and a huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to work with them on their routine – it was really difficult with so much disruption to rehearsals due to covid – they were very courageous to dance in front of such a big audience.



### Sports Competitions

Well done to our team of Year 5 and 6 pupils who participated in the Panathlon Challenge at Hartpury College – they came third and showed



excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. The sports included bocchia, new age kurling and table cricket!

We will report on more recent sports competitions next time!

### Poetry Competition

Way back in early 2021 we were asked to participate in the Mitcheldean Young Poets competition and after a long time they have announced that we have two winners!



Congratulations to Adrian and Skye for winning 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Their poems about looking after our planet really impressed the judges! They each were given a certificate and a book of poems from the competition in previous years – hopefully their poems will be published too!

### Houses of Parliament Trip Year 5

Last Friday our Year 5 children had a fabulous



trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament where they had a tour and workshop. They also had a chance to walk down to Downing Street but unfortunately the Prime Minister was not there!



### Cattle Country Trip – EYFS

Last Thursday Robin and Wren classes went to Cattle Country and had a wonderful time! They met lots of farm animals and had a tractor ride and time to play on the slides and trampolines.



Yesterday Years 3 & 4 went to the Roman museum in Cirencester – report & photos in the next newsletter!

**Aspirations Morning** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022....save the date!

We are very excited to be able to plan for an in-person Aspirations Morning this year as part of our annual Science Week. The plan is for our children to spend the morning meeting different adults who will talk to them about their job/profession in order to inspire the children and raise their own future career aspirations. In order to make the event a success, we need your help! If you, or someone you know, would be willing to come into school for the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> June to talk to groups of children about a job or profession, I would love to hear from you. For more information, please email [skylark@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:skylark@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk)

### Heron Project Group News



**Forest Police @For...** · 1d  
PCSO Janine Diamond was out with the Heron Project group from St. White's School, Cinderford yesterday doing a speed survey along St. White's Road. This will be an ongoing project and one of many speed surveys to come.



### Cinderford Brass Band

Cinderford Brass Band have asked us to let you know about their Academy Band which was set

up for beginners to give anyone of any age or ability a chance to learn a new brass instrument. They also offer free instrument hire. They rehearse at Foxes Bridge Centre on Wednesdays from 6.45 to 7.45. If anyone is interested in joining you can contact their musical director Mr Clive Lewis through their twitter, facebook or Instagram accounts

[www.cinderfordbrassband.co.uk](http://www.cinderfordbrassband.co.uk)

**Forestry England** are currently consulting on their Forest Plan for the local area. They have produced three short videos to explain what a Forest Plan is and how it is used, these can be viewed on their You Tube channel.

[www.youtube.com/c/ForestryEnglandForestofDean](http://www.youtube.com/c/ForestryEnglandForestofDean)

They are asking people to take some time to read the plan and make comments. Please visit [www.forestryengland.uk/oursharedforest](http://www.forestryengland.uk/oursharedforest) where a link will take you to a platform called citizen space, which we use to collate and record comments.

### School Uniform

From time to time we notice standards slip a bit with school uniform, so this is a gentle reminder. There is information about uniform on the school website including the school uniform policy. Here are some examples of children wearing perfect uniform! Remember that leggings are not part of our uniform and skirts should reach the knee.



## St White's Photo Competition

Don't forget we need entries for our photograph competition to create a calendar with local scenes – take the opportunity to get out with your camera



over the Easter Holidays & send us your best pictures. Here is another fabulous one from Mrs McDermott.

## Things to do in the Easter Holidays!

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Gloucestershire Play



Rangers **Free** Activity Day at Ruspidge Recreation Ground 10am-4pm. (Under 7's must be accompanied) No need to pre-book or register – you can just turn up!

Progressive Sports Active Camp here at St White's School – flyer attached with the newsletter

Prostars Easter Holiday activities – craft and/or sports at Dean Academy in Lydney or Dene Magna Schools – flyer attached with the newsletter

**Woodland Trust Award** A huge thank you to Miss Underwood who has been working really hard to gather evidence which means we have qualified for the SILVER award of the Woodland Trust's School Award. The Eco Committee had a meeting earlier this week with an ecologist and will be



working with him again – look out for more updates!

**Assessments in the Summer Term** – For the first time since Covid all the statutory assessments and tests will be running as usual after Easter – The teachers are working hard getting the children ready and we thought it would be helpful to let you know all about what happens.

## Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the week of 6<sup>th</sup> June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when they took it before. This year, the phonics screening check will take place during the first week back after half term (**week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> June**). We would really appreciate it if you make every effort to ensure that your children are in school that week because this is a really important assessment and we use it to direct support where it is needed in the following terms of learning.

The Phonic Screening contains 40 words. Each child will sit with an adult and read each word aloud to them. Don't worry, they have been doing this for a long time in school and are well practised. They probably won't even know it is different from what happens normally in class. It will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. Results of the phonic screening check will be included in end of term reports. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

### How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Resources to help your child with the phonics screening check will be sent home very soon. If you would like some extra resources for your child, please ask your child's class teacher.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child, using both the books sent home from school and books at home.
- Encourage and praise your child when they are reading – get them to have a 'good guess' by using their knowledge of sounds.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Here is a website link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc> which might help you.

## **Year 2 SATS/End of KS1 Assessments**

Year 2 pupils will take SATS tests this year to help their teachers measure pupil performance, progress and attainment to assess any needs they have as they move into Key Stage 2. These tests will be taken during the weeks beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> May. We would really appreciate it if you did everything you possibly can to ensure that your children are in school at this time.

Pupils will complete two reading papers, two maths papers (one arithmetic paper and one reasoning paper), a spelling paper and a grammar and punctuation paper. These tests will be split up so that tests are done on different days. Children will complete these papers in groups and be well supported by adults. Most of them will not even realise that they are doing anything different as assessments are part of their normal school experience at certain times of the term.

### **How Can I Help My Child at Home?**

- Listen to your child read daily. Ask questions and talk about what they have read. Make sure they understand what they are reading.
- Complete all weekly homework with your child.
- Make sure they go to bed at a reasonable time, have a good breakfast and arrive at school on time during the assessment weeks.
- If you want any further ideas to help you support your child, please contact their teacher who will be very happy to signpost you to some resources.

## **Year 6 SATS/End of KS2 Assessments**

In May, Year 6 will take their end of key stage 2 assessments, more commonly known as SATs. These assessments have not taken place for the past two years but still the rumours of it being the 'best week of their lives' lives on! Over the week, Year 6 will take one or two assessments each morning followed by outdoor activities and activities to help them prepare for their residential, which, this year, is happening the following week.

Here is a timetable for the week:

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May – English Reading

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Maths Arithmetic paper 1 and Maths Reasoning paper 2

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Maths Reasoning paper 3

So that they are fuelled up and ready to go, they will be invited into school early for breakfast each morning. All of the year 6s are familiar with what the assessments will look like so that they feel prepared. We want every child to feel relaxed and confident so we will ensure that we make arrangements to support children if they need a small room on their own; a prompter to say, "Keep going," or someone to support them reading the questions. If any parents have any questions about the week, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Miss Cinderey or Mr Jones.

## **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check**

This will be completed by all Year 4 pupils between Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Under the national curriculum, primary school children are expected to know their 12 times tables by the end of Year 4. As a result, we've been preparing the children to know their times tables by the end of Year 4 for quite some time now. It would be most beneficial if you were to practise times tables at home. This skill is pivotal for all areas of mathematics and if pupils are easily able to recall their times tables this can significantly support their progress in their final years of primary school and beyond. If you have any questions regarding the "Multiplication Tables Check" please do email Mr Jones at [heron@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:heron@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Next Newsletter** – Our next newsletter will be published on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. From then on we are going to start publishing them every two weeks as there is so much going on in school! 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](mailto:admin@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk) by Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.



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