



5th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff here at St White's School, a very warm welcome to our new families and a very warm welcome back to our longstanding families. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready for what is set to be a very exciting School year ahead.

Summer Holidays

During the summer holidays, the School was the venue for Progressive Sport's annual holiday sessions for 4 weeks. It was a joy to see so many of our children attending the clubs and participating in the daily sporting activities.

Mr Alan Meredith, was very busy constructing a small, enclosed, outdoor learning area, around the entrance of Sparrow Class, which means that all our infant classes now have the opportunity to extend the learning outside the confines of the classroom. The School is steadily resourcing the areas, which is very exciting indeed as outdoor learning is a high priority in the School's development programme.

School Priorities

Set out below, are some of the initiatives that the School is already putting in place to ensure that the priorities for this year are met. Towards the end of this letter you will find more information about our School Development Plan.

Parent Information Sessions

The School has a regular calendar of parent consultation evenings throughout the year. However, last year the School trialed a series of additional consultation sessions during the day. These have proven to be highly successful and will continue for the coming year.

In addition to the normal consultation evenings, the School ran after School events to give parents the opportunity to find out more about the primary curriculum and how particularly how children learn. One particular event that has proven to be very successful over the past three years is the reading information evening, where the staff across the School demonstrate with groups of children how they learn to read and how the School inspires a love of reading.





This year, the School will run a similar session but in addition, the School will run a maths session so that parents can see how children learn about number and then follow through lines of enquiry as well as solve mathematical problems.

The School believes these types of sessions are invaluable as they provide you with the opportunity to talk to staff about how best you can help your child with additional learning at home. Staff know only too well how challenging it can be to help your children with their homework and so these sessions are designed to give you the opportunity to ask questions so that we can help. Staff will be ensuring that the homework programme is very clear for all year groups. It will be set in accordance with the School's Homework Policy 2017 so that it is age appropriate, takes into account the needs of our children and develops their learning. Staff will also run homework clubs for each Key Stage but will also ensure that resources are available from School so that every pupil can successfully complete tasks. More information about this will be shared with parents at the information sessions.

Visits and Events for Parents to join us in School

The calendar is already filling up with exciting events for you and your children, including: The official signing of the Home School Agreement on Friday 8th September, where you are invited to join your child's class and sign the agreement alongside your child; The Race for Life on 15th September to mark the anniversary of the official opening of the School; The Harvest celebration on Friday 20th October, to name just a few.

One of the most popular events that the School has set up in recent years, is the classroom visits for parents, carers and other family members to celebrate the topic work undertaken. These will continue next year and a timetable of dates for the whole academic year, set for each class.

The School is also introducing a brand new initiative for parents and carers to come along to School and '*learning alongside your child*'. The idea of these sessions is to give all parents and carers the opportunity to see firsthand the knowledge and skills your children are learning in English and Maths and get to know ways to help your child with homework activities. It is a very exciting venture that the School is trialing this year to run concurrently with the after School information sessions for those parents who are unable to come along in the day time. We would welcome any feedback from parents and carers once the sessions have been underway for a period of time.





Enrichment Clubs and Sporting Activities

There will be a host of the regular sporting clubs for infants and juniors throughout the year, as well as some new clubs for children to join. I believe that Yoga is going to be offered this year as well as the gymnastics club that has proven so popular. Progressive Sports and our Enrichment lead will be putting together the programme of activities and this will be sent out to all children. There will also be the introduction of sporting competitions between the 4 Houses in School. This is very exciting and will contribute to the annual House trophy that is presented every year.

Staff will be running homework clubs for infant and junior children, as well as other clubs including computing, chess, sewing and cooking.

As you know, the allotment has been a feature of learning this past year and remains a key focus for the coming year. However, the growing areas need development as the soil is poor and the beds need raising. Carters and Scott Baine from the Rewild Project are going to be working together to make improvements in readiness for the growing season.

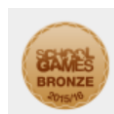
The two new outdoor classrooms are now in full use and the Forest Schools initiative is set to really take off this year. Mrs Kirsty Barrow will be leading Forest Schools sessions across the phases so that lots of children have the opportunity to experience these invaluable learning sessions.

Not only are the School running clubs and activities for our pupils but also our parents. The Adult Learning initiative is starting in September, giving parents the opportunity to develop their English and Maths skills. Again, this is a new venture, one that we hope will become a regular feature of what the School can offer to support our children and families.

Annual Calendar of Events and Activities

The School is always looking for ways to ensure that the School's busy schedule of activities is disseminated to the School community in good time. This year, the School will provide an outline of events and activities for the whole year. This calendar will be available to parents on the School's website and will be backed up on the fortnightly newsletters.

There will of course be additions to the regular events throughout the year and these will be added to the website calendar and reported in the newsletters as soon as the School knows about them. It is also important to note that some event dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances. What the





School will do, is make sure that it uses the extensive communication systems to give parents as much warning as possible regarding any changes that have to be made.

Celebration Assemblies

Celebration assemblies have become a real highlight of each week at School. The children not only get to celebrate the successes within School but also share their love of activities and hobbies that they do outside of School. As you know, the School invites parents along to see their child receive the 'special certificates' awarded by the class teachers. Up until this year, the teachers have made their decisions about certificates for the week of the assembly. Some working parents feel this does not give them sufficient time to make arrangements to attend. What the School plans to do from now on, is make the decisions a week in advance. The teachers will award the certificates in the usual way but they will be given out in the following week, and parents informed 8 days in advance. The School hopes that this will enable more parents to attend, as the children really look forward to receiving them and I know parents enjoy coming along to the celebration.

Concerns and Complaints

St White's Primary School prides itself on the quality of the teaching and pastoral care provided to its pupils and school community as a whole. Parents and carers can expect any concern or complaint to be treated by the School, with the utmost care and consideration, in accordance with its Complaints Policy and Procedures, which can be accessed on the School's website.

All staff will make every effort to resolve your problem informally. Many concerns can be resolved by simple clarification or the provision of information and it is anticipated that most concerns or complaints will be resolved by this informal stage. Of course, this does not mean that in every case they will come round to your point of view but it will help both you and the school to understand all aspects of the concern.

Communicating effectively and efficiently, remains one of our highest priorities. All staff and governors recognise the importance of ensuring that our School Community is fully informed and works hard to ensure that its communication systems are effective. The School, as part of its commitment to raising standards and continually improving, highly values the role parents play in this journey and appreciates the feedback that is received, as it helps us to adapt systems as there is always room for improvement.

It is inevitable that concerns are going to arise so do please come and talk to us at the earliest juncture. Most concerns and complaints can be sorted out quickly by speaking with your child's class teacher. This would normally be done by speaking to them but could also be done by telephone or in writing. But if course, there is an open door policy here. All senior leaders are very happy to talk to parents

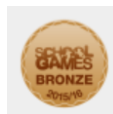
Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3GD

Tel: 01594 822311

chair@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk

<http://www.st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk>

www.facebook.com/stwhitesprimary



"This is a good school."

Ofsted 2015



about any concerns or worries, however small they may seem. Our job is to reassure you and make sure that the experiences for both you and your child, whilst you are a part of our school community, are the very best.

School Development Plan

Just before the School holidays, representative stakeholders met to evaluate the School's needs, strengths and areas to strengthen in the coming academic year. Mr Ken Buxton, now an Educational Consultant, joined the leadership team to advise and support the process. The senior leadership team then met through the holidays to collate the information and draw up the School Development Plan. The School Development Plan contains the long term priorities and ambitions that the School wishes to work towards, and also short term actions which will ensure that the long term priorities are achieved.

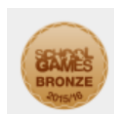
The School Development Plan is a very full document. It is a strategic plan and, more importantly, a working document for all staff involved at St White's Primary School. We believe that it is important for everyone who has an interest in the future of our School to be aware of what we are striving to achieve, and of how we intend to do this. We are reliant upon the interest, advice, work and support of all those who come into the School and, as such, are committed to providing a brief overview of our intentions.

Having defined the main areas to work upon in our School, we have established four main priorities for the coming year. The priorities are:

Priority 1: The leadership further builds capacity so that it consistently improves outcomes for all groups of pupils as it continues on its improvement journey towards outstanding by the next Ofsted inspection.

Therefore:

- All leaders and governors will have a thorough and accurate understanding of the School's effectiveness and deploy staff and resources proactively, including the pupil premium, the primary PE and sports premium, to secure excellent outcomes for all groups of pupils, in particular the disadvantaged pupils, SEND and more able.
- Leaders and governors will focus on consistently improving outcomes for those pupils who are identified as vulnerable particularly those pupils who are persistently absent.
- The School will continue to broaden the School's curriculum, in particular, the arts and languages.
- Further develop learning opportunities for pupils by extending the use of the outdoor areas to inspire all pupils and provide them with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to be successful in life.





Challenge, Commit, Conquer and Celebrate

- Community based initiatives and the continued development of the School's SMSC and PSHE programmes will continue to be the central element of the School's ethos in accordance with the policy of 'Promoting Fundamental British Values as Part of SMSC in Schools' (November 2014).
- Leaders will continue to promote equality of opportunity and diversity for both pupils and staff. The School does not tolerate any forms of prejudice and challenges direct or indirect discriminatory behaviour.

Priority 2: Continually strive to nurture the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, so as to further secure improved pupil outcomes for all groups of pupils.

The School will further improve the core areas of the curriculum so as to raise standards in English and Mathematics. Within these subjects, teachers will:

- Develop the planning of lessons, maximising lesson time, providing sufficient practice opportunities so that pupils are able to embed their knowledge, skills and understanding proficiently and with a high degree of independence.
- Systematically check pupils' understanding and analyse assessment information so as to further plan to address their needs.
- Provide consistent feedback to pupils and parents with clear information on how well they are progressing and what they need to do to make good progress.
- Provide regular homework that is in line with the School's policy that is challenging and appropriate for pupils age and ability.

Priority 3: Continue to develop the School's curriculum so that it provides opportunities to innovate raise standards, create a sense of community and most importantly excite and inspire children and teachers.

Curriculum provision across the School has developed significantly since last year. To further develop the School's provision, it will:

- Further develop the foundation subjects including history, geography, art, music and RE, so that pupils' knowledge and understanding is deepened and their curiosity and interest in the world around them enhanced.
- Create wider range of curriculum opportunities to stretch pupils both mentally and physically so that they learn to love the challenge of learning and are resilient to failure.
- Consistently develop cross curricular planning to develop all areas of the curriculum using English and mathematics as ways to present information and make relevant links.

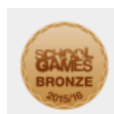
Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3GD

Tel: 01594 822311

chair@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk

<http://www.st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk>

www.facebook.com/stwhitesprimary



"This is a
good school."

Ofsted 2015



- Consistently engage parents in learning opportunities with their children. Use their expertise to develop further learning opportunities for pupils.

Priority 4: Prioritise the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils to enable them to become confident, self-assured learners, with outstanding attitudes to learning.

Pupils are well behaved because the expectations of the School are high. To further develop our pupils' curiosity and interest in learning so that they actively seek out and use new information to develop, consolidate and deepen their knowledge, skills and understanding, the School will:

- Continue to develop the curriculum so that it provides creative opportunities that motivate and challenge.
- Develop an explicit learning curriculum that focused on improving pupils understanding of the learning process and equips them with behaviours and attitudes they need to be successful lifelong learners.
- Plan a calendar of events that will develop experiences for both pupils, staff and parents. Create regular opportunities for parents to engage with their children's learning so that they are learning alongside their children and helping them to develop a love of learning.
- Continue to plan in mental health sessions across each phase using the PiNK curriculum to support.
- Further develop home/School communication so that parents are regularly invited into School to talk about their children's progress. Use the School's embedded termly structured conversations to promote greater parental engagement and interest in their child's progress.
- Promote, as part of its SMSC studies, anti-bullying including online and prejudiced based bullying. Staff and pupils will act proactively to deter all forms of bullying so that everyone feels safe and happy at School.

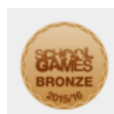
I look forward to catching up with you over the next few days and wish you the very best for the coming academic year.

Good wishes

Teresa Cross

HEADTEACHER

Sneyd Wood Road, Cinderford, Gloucestershire, GL14 3GD
Tel: 01594 822311
chair@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk
<http://www.st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk>
www.facebook.com/stwhitesprimary



"This is a
good school."
Ofsted 2015