



Christmas at Whiteshill!



We are curious, we are unique, we are together, we are Whiteshill!

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29/11/19

There is so much going on over the next few weeks in school - I thought I would let you all know, especially those parents new to the school, how everything will be taking place over this period. We hope you will be able to join us for some or all of the events.

Brass Performance

Tues 3rd Dec – 9am

Maple class have been enjoying whole class brass tuition with a specialist teacher from Gloucestershire Music this term. They will be doing a short performance for parents to show you what they have learnt in their 10 sessions this term. All maple class parents are welcome to come up to the hall once you have dropped the children off.

Christmas Open the Book

Tues 3rd Dec – 1.30pm

This one is just for the children in school. The Open the Book team will be returning to do a special one-off Christmas story for the children during assembly.

Festive Fayre

Thurs 5th Dec – 3.30 – 5.30pm

Our Festive Fayre is an important event in our fundraising calendar. Across 2019/20 we are hoping to raise funds for a further set of iPads for the school and the festive fayre will play a big part in that.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to help at the event, your help is much appreciated. If you are able to come during the day on Thursday to help set up or stay to clear up afterwards please do feel free to just come along and we will find a job for you to do!

There is a box for raffle donations in the school office for anything that would be at home in a Christmas hamper e.g. alcohol, non-perishable foods, bathroom smellies. FOWS will make up hampers using these items which will then be raffled off. **You can buy raffle tickets at the book fair this week, from the office at any time or on the night of the Festive Fayre.** The raffle winners will now be picked out on Tuesday 17th December so there is plenty of time to get your ticket and be in with a chance of winning. This is a really important fundraiser for the school so please do bring in any donations you are able to and ask your friends and family to buy tickets!

We will be holding the ever popular teddy tombola on the night too so please bring in any soft toys you have at home up to the office at any point – a clear out before Christmas is always a good idea and the children love this stall!

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Last year was our first ever Festive Fayre and we obviously learnt a lot from doing it once! This year we have made a few changes. The whole event will be taking place in the hall this year and there will be lots of games and activities, crafts and fun to keep the children busy whilst you have a chat and enjoy the refreshments. There will be a larger range of refreshments this year – mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate to really get you in the Christmas mood but this year we are also asking you to donate cakes or treats on the day to be sold. Please bring or send them in to school on Thursday morning. Please make sure these home-made cakes do not have any type of nut or peanut in their ingredients to ensure everyone can enjoy the festive fayre together. Anything you can offer is much appreciated.

Finally, we will be having Santa's Grotto again at this year's Festive Fayre. You will know from last year that FOWS put a huge amount of effort in to creating this grotto and it was a very special experience. This year the grotto will be in my office!! I am very excited to see it transformed from an office to a Christmas spectacular! This will mean that the queue will be inside in the warm and that there will be a separate entrance and exit to ensure people can move through freely. We have decided this year as well to sell tickets to Santa for £1 on the night, instead of sending them home with the children, so that you can decide if and when during the evening you will visit.

We hope these slight changes mean we are able to raise even more funds for the school, whilst also having a fantastic evening together as a school community. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Christmas Disco

Friday 13th Dec – Infants and Juniors

The infants disco (Willow and Elm class) will take place straight after school and will finish at 5pm. The children will need to bring their disco clothes in to school in a bag and the teachers will get them changed before the end of the school day ready for the disco. You do not need to come in to school at 3.15 – we will take them straight to the disco in the hall unless they are unable to attend, in which case you can pick them up at normal at 3.15pm. The children are more likely to settle in to the disco, especially Willow class who have not experienced it before, if they have not just seen their parents and had to say goodbye, which they often find hard at this age. Please come to pick your children up at 5pm. We will keep them all safe in the hall until we have seen you. This does mean that it takes a little while, but as you can imagine, we need to ensure all the children leave safely – especially as it will be dark by this time, so please do bear with us if we ask you to wait.

The junior disco (Maple and Oak class) will begin at 5.15pm and end at 6.45pm. Please bring the children to school in their disco clothes and pick them up again at the end.

The children will be given hot dogs during both discos and we will adhere to the dietary needs you have identified with us in school. If these have changed for your child since September, please let us know as soon as possible.

Please note – it is important that you let us know if someone else is picking your child up from the disco who is not on your 'going home' list already. We will not let children go home with anyone other than those who have permission, as we wouldn't at the end of a school day. You can do this on the day via email, phone or in person but please bear in mind there will not be anyone in the office from approx 3.45pm. Messages can be checked after this time but it may take a minute for us to get to them so may involve a slight wait.

Nativity Play

Tues 17th Dec 6pm

Weds 18th Dec 2pm

Our nativity play at Whiteshill is acted by the Willow and Elm class children. This year's nativity is 'Everyone Loves a Baby!'. All of the children in Maple and Oak class support them by singing the songs throughout. It is a very special evening where all the children come together to perform for you.

The nativity takes place at St Pauls church in Whiteshill. You do not need a ticket to attend and everyone is welcome. The afternoon performance is a good chance for pre-school siblings and grandparents etc. to come along if they are able. The church does get full so you may have to stand at the back but we usually manage to squeeze everyone in! Please be sensitive to people who may need to sit for any reason.

In line with school policy, you are unfortunately not able to take videos and photographs at this event. However, we take a huge amount of all the children and will make sure they are put on the website gallery as soon as we are able. I know that this is frustrating for some parents and is difficult to understand but please be reassured this is not just a school level decision, it is made following advice from the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children board, in line with government guidance on safeguarding children, allowing us to keep all the children in the school safe. Thank you for your understanding and support with this and do rest assured that we will make a real effort to make sure every child is photographed in action!

Christmas Lunch

Thurs 19th Dec

Children order this lunch in the usual way at morning registration and the cost is the same as a normal school lunch. Children in Willow and Elm Classes are free as usual. On this day, the children can wear a Christmas jumper or decorate themselves with tinsel to get in the festive spirit and in the afternoon, the children will watch a Christmas movie together.



Christmas Forest School

Fri 20th Dec

Finally... on the morning of the last day of term the whole school will be walking up to Ruscombe Woods to enjoy mince pies and mulled wine by the fire. The children will sing some Christmas songs for you and the KS2 choir will be performing a Christmas song that they have learnt this term. You are all welcome for this event, parents, siblings, grandparents and extended family – the more the merrier! It is a lovely way to end the Christmas period in school. If you would like to come along, just come to school at the start of the day and we will leave as soon as we are able to get the children ready to go. You can wait in the warmth of the hall until we leave if you wish.



We are holding our annual Book Fair from today, Friday 29th November to Wednesday 4th December. If we sell over £300 worth of books, the school can then choose £300 worth of books free of charge! For every £1 over the £300 spent by yourselves during the fair, the school can then choose more books. This is a really great way to get your Christmas presents started as you are able to browse without the children before the end of the school day. Remember to bring a bag to carry your books home, especially if you want to keep books as a surprise!

The Book Fair will be open:

Friday 29th November	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Monday 2nd December	2:30pm to 3:30pm
Tuesday 3rd December	3pm to 3:30pm
Wednesday 4th December	3pm to 3:30pm

Payment can be made by cash, cheques made payable to Whiteshill Primary School and card payments via your phone.

I'm very pleased to share with you that Mrs Sarah Clarke will be working alongside Mrs Cripps in Willow class from January once Mrs Woods goes on maternity leave. Mrs Clarke is a fantastic EYFS teacher with lots of experience with this age group. She will be teaching the children on Thursday and Friday each week, with Mrs Cripps teaching Monday to Wednesday. We are really excited to have her as part of the team at Whiteshill and we know she will be a great addition for our children. Both Mrs Cripps and Mrs Clarke will be coming in to school before the end of December to meet all the children in advance of starting in January.

Today was the final session of forest school this term for Willow class, due to staff training next week. Oak class will have their final session next week, Fri 6th December. After Christmas, Maple class will be going to forest school each Friday, start date to follow.

Sign of the Week! - more



Flat hand, palm down, covers top of other fist

Willow class are in the Stroud News and Journal this week – Wed 27th edition.

Don't forget – Elm class are holding their Geography sharing assembly on Wed 11th Dec at 2.30pm. Maple and Oak class will be sharing what they have learnt this term on Thurs 12th December in the afternoon. See last week's newsletter for more detail. Elm class have also written a fantastic invitation for parents at the end of the newsletter!

Willow class are going to be opening the classroom again on Tues 10th from 3pm. Parents can come in and see the children's books and hear about their learning from the children themselves just before the end of the school day.

Carol Singing

led by Eleanor Holliday & Robert Kempner



Sunday 15 December 2019, 4pm – 5pm
The Museum in the Park, Stroud
Free, donations welcome

Come and enjoy a good old-fashioned sing-song at the Museum. We'll be singing some familiar favourites and traditional carols. Part of the Museum's festive winter programme – everyone welcome, do come and join in! Refreshments during the interval.

Museum closed from 23 December, re-opening on 25 January. Special openings on 1 January (New Year's Day) & 11 January (Stroud Wassail).



Museum in the Park
Stroud District (Cowie) Museum Service

The Museum in the Park
Stratford Park, Stroud GL5 4AF
www.museuminthepark.org.uk



Festive Winter Crafts at The Museum in the Park
Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 December 2019

Family Drop in Workshops

7 & 8 December: 11am – 4pm (drop in), £1 or £2 per item
Make tree decorations, gift baskets, lanterns or old-fashioned lavender bags.
& FREE Secret Garden Star Trail & Museum Robin 'I Spy' Hunt

Beeswax Crafts with Stroud Buzz Club

Sat 7 December: 11am – 4pm (drop in), prices from £1
Learn about the work of Buzz Club in Stroud & Ghana and try your hand at candle dipping, lip balm making or beeswax wrap designs.
PLUS Miss Daisy's Pop Up Cafe – delicious soup and cakes!

Family Wreath Making Workshop

Sun 8 December, 2pm – 3.30pm, £10
Make a traditional festive wreath for your door or table.
Limited places so please book in advance - call 01453 763394

Dear Parents of Em class

Please come to
our exciting and
special assembly about
Kenya. We would like
to share our learning
with you - 2pm



Time: 2:30pm

Date: wednesday 11th october

Venue: whiteside Primary School

From: the children

of Em class