

1st October 2020

October Newsletter



Fellowship, Courage and Creativity

Dear parents/carers,

It seems that autumn has suddenly come upon us with a bump! The lovely warm and dry days of summer seem to be in the distant past.

The children are settling very well into their learning and it has been a real joy to get to know our new Reception children. We received a call from the Health and Safety Executive last week to check on our procedures and processes for COVID. I am very pleased to report that everything was in place and operating as it should be. They said, 'no further action is required, we are doing a wonderful job'. Great news for the school.

Remote Learning

The school website allowed us to upload home learning for all our families during lockdown. This worked very successfully with teachers supplementing some learning for children without reliable wi-fi or access to IT. However, we have been researching other remote learning platforms to enhance our provision for Home Learning. We have selected a remote learning platform called Seesaw. This will enable teachers to upload learning to **whole classes** or **individual children** should we be in a position of a local lockdown or children self-isolating. The platform works in a similar way to the website class pages with places for accessing activities and learning. It also enables children to share their work with their teacher and the teacher is able to respond. We have set up all the classes and individual children on the platform and we are currently running a trial to check on the signing in part of the process. Please watch this space - we will send you more detailed information very shortly.



COVID Update

The school is operating very successfully under our new COVID requirements. However, as we have seen on the news over the past week, the number of cases of COVID are increasing once again. This area of Hampshire has, so far, a relatively small increase in cases with no local lockdowns but we do need to stay alert to the national picture.

The school risk assessment outlines all the measures we are operating in school as well as those for visitors and parents/carers. In order for you to come on site, we have to comply with very clear guidance from Public Health England and the government. Hence, we are using the numbered spots and one-way system. This has been working very successfully and has allowed us to continue this procedure. However, it is very important that everyone follows the procedures once they step through the green gates and onto the school site. We would like to highlight the following steps to ensure that this system continues to work effectively:

- Once you step through the **first** green gate and fence, you need to follow the one-way system and leave by the small wooden gate at the bottom of the field. Please do not drop your child and then go back out through the green gates.
- Arrive at school as close as you can to your child's allocated staggered drop-off and collection times. This avoids clustering of different bubbles.
- Remember that if you have more than one child at school, you need to use the oldest child's times for all your children.
- Keep to social distancing rules. Leave space between you and other families, especially when your child's class bubble is called through the second green gate.
- Please stay outside school until the previous class bubble has entered the playground. There has been occasions when different bubbles are standing together outside the front of the school.

Thank you for keeping to these measures, we know that the situation is not easy but if we all play our part to help, processes and procedures in school become easier to manage and our school community remains as safe as possible.

Prepared for School

As the Autumn weather starts closing in, please help us to support your child for **all types of learning in school**. It is imperative that your child has the right equipment and clothing. Therefore, we ask that you use the checklist below when preparing for school.

- **Coat:** even if it is not raining at drop-off, it does not mean that it will not rain during the day! The children have time outside at break, lunchtime and during learning such as PE. Unless it is absolutely pouring with rain, the children will go outside.
- **Appropriate clothing:** please ensure that your child has the right school uniform for the weather, e.g. an extra vest layer for colder days and sturdy, appropriate footwear for wetter weather. Remember that we have increased the ventilation in classrooms, so windows are open.
- **PE clothing:** at the moment, all the PE lessons are taking place outside. It is really important that your child is warm and comfortable. Therefore, extra layers and track suits are a must as the weather gets colder. When we get to the particularly cold winter days, you may also wish to send your child in with a woolly hat and gloves (appropriate for exercising!). Check that your child's trainers fit and are robust for outdoor activity.
- **Water bottle:** The children cannot share drinking vessels and we cannot provide cups on an individual basis due to the current COVID restrictions, so it is important for your child to bring a water bottle every day.

Thank you for all your efforts so far this year in preparing your child for school.

Curriculum

Reminder: all the class topic webs can be found on the class pages of the school website. These will give you information about the topics your child is covering this term. If you would like to know further detail, please speak to your child's class teacher. They will be very happy to share

information about your child's learning and are best placed to tell you how the curriculum operates for your child's year group.

School Improvement

The school continues to adapt and strive for improvement in all aspects of it's work so that your children have the best possible experience and learning during their primary education. Despite the challenges of COVID, we are committed to maintaining this drive for improvement.

We had made strong positive steps forward on our plans for development last academic year* before it ended very differently, with the national lockdown and Home Learning. This term all the teachers and support staff at Whitewater will be working hard to pick up the momentum from where we left off in March.

We are really pleased that the behaviour, learning attitudes, safety and wellbeing, which are recognised as strong components of the school, remain robust.

If you feel there are ways in which we can improve the home to school information and communication, we are always open to suggestions. Unfortunately, we cannot take on every idea given to us but we do consider every one carefully.

**Our objectives can be found on the 'Our school' section of the website.*

Harvest

Our Harvest service cannot take place in the Church this year but we will still be marking the event in school through Collective Worship. We are very aware that the COVID pandemic has left many families in difficult circumstances and so we would like to help our local community through the Food Bank. Therefore, we would welcome donations, **during the week of 12th October**, of canned or packaged goods. No fresh fruit and vegetables this year please. There will be a table outside the school building during this week so that you can place your donation. Thank you.

Rev Shona and Rev Marion are holding a Harvest event between 3-4 p.m. on Sunday 11th October in the church grounds with various points for reflection/activities to do in socially distanced groups of up to 6. They are calling it Wellies, Hounds and Harvest and suggest people wear their wellies and brings dogs if they have them. It will be a come and go event for people to dip into as they wish. Please see the Parentmail poster for further information.

Parents Evenings

These are times when you can discuss your child's learning and progress with the classteacher. This term we will be running the Parents Evenings differently as we are unable to have all our parents on site due to the COVID measures. We are currently exploring the option of continuing with the meetings virtually. We will send out further information once this has been finalised.

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|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Tuesday 10 th November | 3.40 – 6.30 pm | Tuesday 2 nd March | 3.40 – 6.30 pm |
| Thursday 12 th November | 5.30 – 8.30 pm | Thursday 4 th March | 5.30 – 8.30 pm |

Individual Photographs

The photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 20th October** to take individual and sibling (in school) photographs. We are working with the photographer to ensure that this process is COVID safe.

Flu Immunisation

This will be undertaken by a nursing team in school, on Thursday 12th November. Full details will be sent to you through Parentmail.

House and Sports Captains

Congratulations to the following children who have gained these areas of responsibility:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Sapphire House Captains | Esme and Kitty |
| Diamond House Captains | Isabella and Helena |
| Ruby House Captains | Zachary and James |
| Emerald House Captains | Mia and Phoebe |
| Sports Captains | Jake and Mabel |

These children will receive their badges in our Friday Celebration Assembly and they are looking forward to supporting the children in the school.

PTA News

The PTA will be sending a separate PTA newsletter next week.

Celebrations!

Gold Book

Congratulations to the following children who have been in the Gold Book in September:

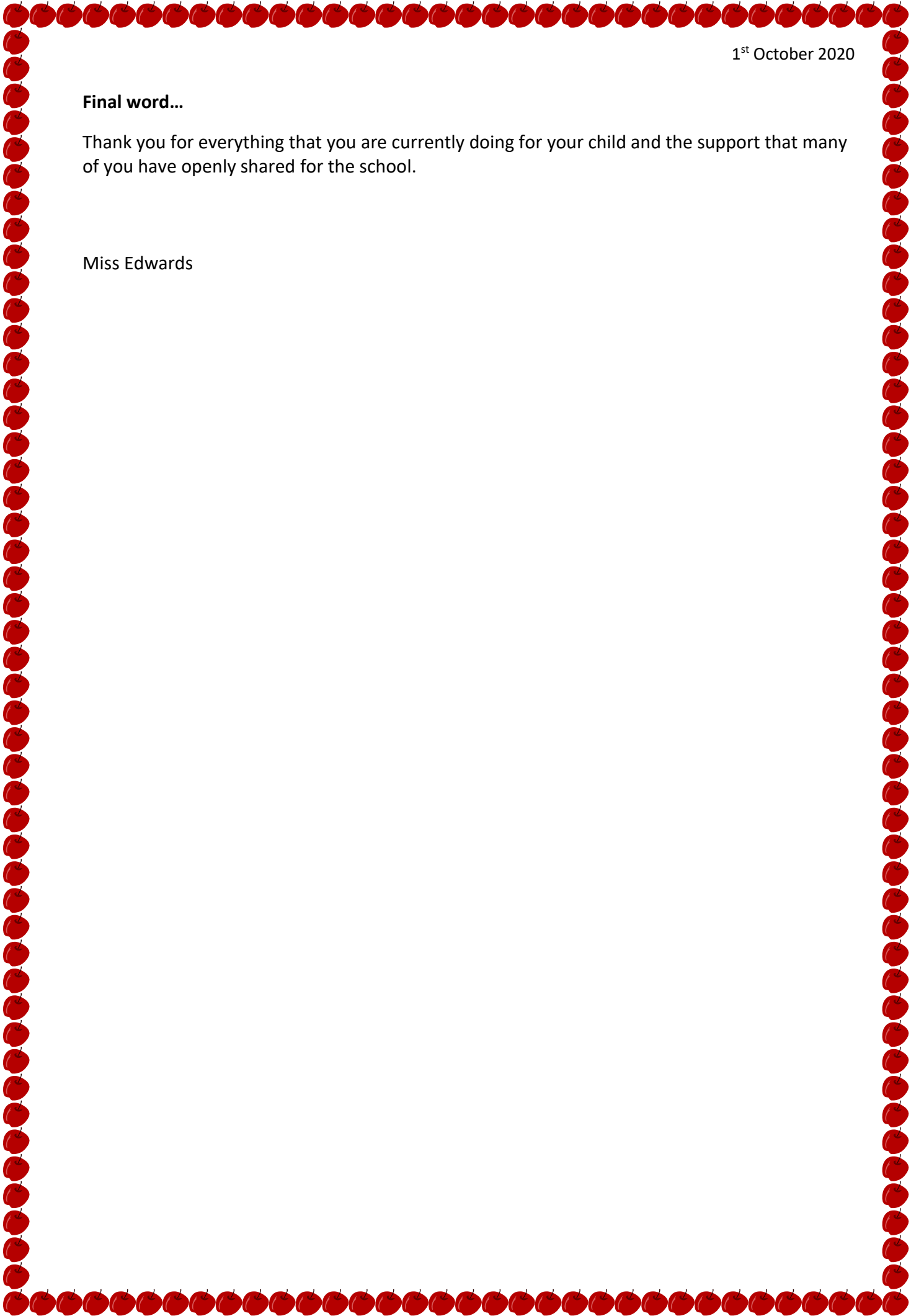
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|-----------------|---|
| Rabbit Class: | Izzy, Ciel and Charlie |
| Otter Class: | Indigo, Lex, Harry, Anouk, Charlie and Isobel |
| Hedgehog Class: | Jack, Isla, Grace, Harry, Freya and Bertie |
| Fox Class: | Matthew, Esme, Evan, Daisy, Elliott and William |
| Red Kite Class: | Harry, Bella and Aston |

Clubs and Outside School

Well done to the following children who have achieved sporting and academic success outside school and in clubs:

Tilly (Hedgehog Class) for two 1st place rosettes in show jumping (45cm and 50cm) during the Wellington Summer Show and a variety of rosettes for other shows in which she competed over the summer.

Isabella (Red Kite Class) for recently working on a Netflix project where she has voiced one of the characters for a brand new animated children's programme. On Tuesday last week, it was released on Netflix for all to see.



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Final word...

Thank you for everything that you are currently doing for your child and the support that many of you have openly shared for the school.

Miss Edwards