

1st December 2020

December Newsletter



Dear Parents/carers,

Despite the unusual circumstances, Whitewater CE Primary School are full of Christmas spirit! Perhaps the joy and promise of Christmas is even more important this year. Preparations are well underway around the school with decorations going up in the classrooms. We have adapted and found alternative ways to mark significant Christmas events up to the end of term. You can find these in the red box on page 2 of this newsletter.

Christmas tree

Our school Christmas tree will go on display in the front entrance today, bringing the Christmas spirit ever closer.

Children in Need

We are pleased to announce that the children raised £122.14 for Children in Need. Thank you.

Last day finishing

Usually, on the last day of term, children finish school earlier at 2:00pm. Under the current arrangements, this will still take place but we will need to retain the staggered pick-up for each of the class bubbles. Therefore, on Friday 18th December the pick-up times will be:

Rabbit:	2:10pm
Otter:	2:15pm
Hedgehog:	2:20pm
Fox:	2:25pm
Red Kite:	2:30pm

Christmas Events

Nativity

We are organising an 'Alternative Nativity' experience for the children in Rabbit and Otter Class this year due to COVID restrictions. They are learning the Nativity story within their bubbles, rehearsing and performing together, including some outdoor scenes! Please understand that our usual Nativity performances for outside audiences cannot take place as usual. However, we are currently exploring whether it is possible to find options and ways to share this experience with parents/carers whilst adhering to the challenging COVID restrictions and keeping your children and other children in the classes safe.

Christingle Service

Marion will be leading a virtual Christingle Service for the children in school on Wednesday 16th December. The church will be very kindly gifting all the elements needed for the service so that every child goes home with their own completed orange.



Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch is on Friday 18th December. This should have been preordered.

Christmas Parties

This year, Christmas Parties will take place in class bubbles rather than for each Key Stage. The teacher will organise the date for your child's class party. The PTA will be providing individually packed party food, craft activities and a virtual pantomime - thank you PTA!

Christmas Cards

The school Christmas Post box will be available for posting cards from tomorrow, **Wednesday 2nd December** until **Monday 14th December**. We will be adapting the delivery service to every third day to adhere to COVID restrictions and the sorting of the cards will be completed wearing gloves. This means that cards will be safe to distribute and open when they get to class. **Please could you make sure that every envelope has the receiving child's name and at least the initial for their surname, as well as their class so that it can be delivered efficiently.**

Christmas Jumper Day: Save the Children

Children can wear a Christmas jumper to school on **Friday 11th December** for a donation. This is to support Save the Children, helping to bring essential food, healthcare and education to children around the world: <https://christmasjumperday.org/>.

PTA News December 2020

As you know we have had limited fundraising activities this term but your contributions to Bag2School raised an amazing £243. We are also delighted to have sold over 220 Christmas Tea Towels which will, after a quarantine period, be given to your child to bring home this week if you have ordered some.

'He's Behind You!!!!'

As you all know the Christmas Fair is a big event in the children's calendar and it brings so much excitement and fun to Whitewater! However, this year as we are unable to hold the Fair and also as a way of treating the children after a very unusual year, the PTA have arranged an alternative way for the children to celebrate the festivities on the run up the Christmas! **The panto is coming to Whitewater!**

During their Christmas parties all class bubbles will be able to stream an online production of Jack and the Beanstalk! The production is being supplied by a professional company so the children will be able to experience all classic panto antics filled with boos, cheers, 'he's behind you' and 'oh no he isn't!' There will also be themed activities, Christmas crafts, yummy party snack boxes and a little gift from Father Christmas himself. So, the children should come home well and truly in the Christmas party spirit!

Your School Lottery



Win a Nintendo Switch MEGA BUNDLE

WITH Nintendo Switch Console Neon Mario Kart Home Circuit DOUBLE PACK (Mario + Luigi) 2 Games: Lego Marvel Heroes 2 and Minecraft Nintendo Switch case and accessory pack Mario and Luigi hats

- Help raise essential school funds
- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- Win up to £25,000
- Cash prize every week

To start supporting your school, go to:
YourSchoolLottery.co.uk
and search for: Whitewater C of E Primary School

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Offer ends 19th December 2020. T&Cs apply, see website for details.

Just a few days left to sign up to our new **Your School Lottery** for this month's draw on Saturday 5th December. This, and the previously run 100 Club, raise money for the school to purchase library books. You also have a weekly cash prize, a jackpot and additional prizes. You can sign up at any time for monthly draws but if you sign up before 19th December you could win a Nintendo Switch Bundle. Registration and payments are all done online! Just go to yourschoollottery.co.uk and sign up!

We would also like to thank Kelly Pearce for all her hard work in co-ordinating the 100 club for the past few years.

Outdoor Learning Area and Woodland Walk

This project, of which a lot of the fundraising in the past two years was designated for, just as we had started to make strides, had to be put on hold due to the onset of the pandemic. We are however now pleased to advise that the Governing Body will be now be pursuing this on behalf of the school with Hampshire County Council and moving it forward. We will also be calling on those Handy Dads again to complete the amazing work on the pond they did in the Spring so watch this space as we try to enhance the outdoor space for the children.

Don't forget to support the Village Magpies. A recycling bin for specified waste items is now in the playground. For more information, search for Village Magpies on Facebook.

Whitewater School PTA Annual General Meeting and PTA Committee Vacancies

We would like to invite you all to the AGM of the Whitewater School PTA on **Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm for approximately 45 minutes**. The meeting this year will be hosted online on Zoom. If you wish to attend, ***please email whitewaterpta@gmail.com to confirm your attendance and we can then supply the relevant Zoom invitation and joining instructions. We have only had one parent sign up so far, so please do come if you can. We cannot run the meeting unless we have at least 5 non committee members present.***

The PTA plays a vital part in the school community and with allocated funding reduced for schools across the county, helps support our school with items and activities for the children that may not be available otherwise. All parents/carers, as members of the PTA, are invited to support the AGM. This is your chance to hear and see how the funds you have helped to raise have been used for the benefit of the children/students at our school. The AGM will briefly cover the previous year and also set out how we plan to move forward.

The AGM is also an opportunity for you to elect the PTA Committee Members, who represent the association throughout the forthcoming year. As our PTA is a registered charity, governed by our own Constitution and also the rules stipulated by the Charities Commission we do have to make sure that all required member/officer positions are filled in order for the charity to continue with its status. We currently have two vacancies – **Chair and Secretary**. Without these roles being filled, the charity cannot continue which would be hugely detrimental to the school and the children. Your commitment can be as much as you can give so if you would like to help, please contact Heather Trill (whitewaterpta@gmail.com or 07841345147) prior to the AGM on the 9th.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Second Hand Uniform

We are now in a position to start accepting second hand uniform again. If you have any you would like to donate, please get in touch with whitewaterpta@gmail.com and we can arrange to collect it from you at school. Please ensure it has been washed and placed in a tied plastic bag for at least three days before giving it to us.

Celebrations!

Gold Book

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

Rabbit Class:	Felix, Maggie, Kallan, Ava, Edith, Rupert, George and Phoebe
Otter Class:	William Ca, Tabitha, William Cu, Lola, Effie, Cohen, Frankie and Ray
Hedgehog Class:	Beau, Lilly, Sylvi, Toby, Scarlett, Alex, Evan and Harry
Fox Class:	Henry, Eddie, Ivy, Ash, Ela, Zeppe, Leo and Evan
Red Kite Class:	Mabel, Jacob, Zac and Afanen

Final word...

School breaks up for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 18th December**, starting at **2.10 p.m.** (please read your child's staggered finish time at the beginning of the newsletter). The children return to school on **Tuesday 5th January**.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas.

Miss Edwards

DATES LIST

Friday 11 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 16 th December	Christingle Service
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch
	End of Term (2:10pm onwards staggered Finish)
Monday 21 st December 2020)	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 4 th January 2021)	
Tuesday 5 th January 2021	Children return to school