

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

# February Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are well. Since the last newsletter, we have all received the news that schools will not reopen fully until at least 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest. I understand that this may have been difficult news to hear but I want to reiterate my ParentMail message that, all the Whitewater teachers and support staff are here to support in any way that we can.

On a more positive point, I have really enjoyed reading, watching and listening to your child's uploads on Seesaw. There is a fantastic array of learning and experiences that are a joy to see - complete with the unplanned addition of pets on occasion! Well done to all the children at home, and parents, thank you for all that you are doing, half term is in sight!

We have a new flag outside school!

A huge thank you to Mr Miles, (our school grounds maintenance contractor) for buying this and thinking of all the staff in school, as well as other key workers, who have worked continuously throughout the pandemic.



## World Book Day

World Book Day traditionally falls on the first Thursday in March, which this year would be **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. However, with lockdown, World Book Day will not be quite the same. Instead, there are an exciting host of virtual resources that are being made available to schools and families throughout March and across the year. The £1 book vouchers can still be used to purchase books and buy the World Book Day featured books. More details will be sent out to you.

## Parents Evenings

As we find ourselves approaching Parents Evenings in lockdown, meetings will be conducted virtually once again, using SchoolCloud. There has been one improvement to the system, which enables each parent to attend the same meeting but from different locations – we know this may be helpful to key worker parents who may be working shifts. Further details of how to use this facility and reminders of how to book your appointment will come from the school office in the coming weeks.

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	4:00 – 6:30 pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	5:30 – 8:30 pm

### **The Governor's Corner**

From this month, the School's Governing Body will be writing a section in the monthly School Newsletter and updating you on what's happening behind the scenes by the dedicated group of parents and volunteers who form the body.

#### **Who's Who?**

The Governing Body consists of school representatives including Miss Edwards, Mrs Fox and Mr Grinham. The parent governors are Daniel Trill (as Chair), Johanna Hunt (as Vice-Chair), Robyn Jones, Laura Neaves, and Mark Berridge. In addition, there are Co-opted Governors, Associate Governors including Helen Komrower and Foundation Governors including Marion and Shona from the local churches.

#### **What we Do?**

The Governing Body focuses on ensuring the clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school. We are 100% committed to supporting the school in their journey to improve. We do this by meeting regularly (currently virtually) as well as running remote monitoring visits with the school to ensure they are working towards agreed targets and in line with Ofsted recommendations. The School has made a significant amount of change to the areas identified by the last Ofsted inspection including the focus around Special Educational Needs, Writing and Early Years Provision.

The Governors also focus on the financial status of the school by monitoring spend and income and working with the school to improve this. The past two years the school finances have been under increasing pressure with the reduction of pupil numbers and in turn the level of financial support available from the local education authority. All small schools are under the same level of pressure not just Whitewater and the staff have showed amazing commitment and dedication in working within these constant restraints.

#### **Why do we do it?**

The Governing Body in conjunction with the School is proud of the uniqueness of our school. As a small school in a rural location, we feel we offer a family and community feel as well as a high level of pastoral care. Particularly in the last year, this has been fundamental to the wellbeing of both the children and staff. The strong values of fellowship, courage and creativity and positive behaviour the children display is evident in their work and their outlook on life. Both the staff and the governing body are committed to ensuring this caring and supportive environment continues amidst challenging times. Every member of staff and governor has the highest of aspirations for every child at Whitewater and want to ensure they have every opportunity to progress their learning.

#### **Communication**

For any operational matters or items related to the education of your child, you should continue to discuss this with your child's teacher or Miss Edwards if appropriate. However, if you would like to discuss anything related to the strategic vision, ethos or values of the school please do contact one of the Parent Governors as above either via the school office or in person if current government guidelines allow.

## PTA News February 2021

Welcome to our first PTA News of 2021 and we hope it finds all of you well. We also hope that you are all coping with yet another lockdown and the challenges that that brings!

As we are sure you are all aware, PTA fundraising and events are currently on hold however we are delighted to announce that the Christmas Tea Towel fundraiser last year raised over £500 which is amazing so **THANK YOU** to all of you who supported this fundraiser and we hope you all liked the tea towels as much as we did!

Despite fundraising events being on hold there are still a couple of ways that you can support your PTA and help to raise vital funds for our school.

### Your School Lottery



The graphic features the 'Your School Lottery' logo at the top right. Below it, a banner reads 'Sweep The Floors With This Prize!'. In the center, a cartoon robot stands between a 'Landscape Robotic Lawnmower' and an 'Eufy BoostIQ RoboVac Cleaner'. The word 'WIN' is prominently displayed above the products. A list of benefits is provided: 'Support your school this term', 'Weekly cash prizes up to £25,000', 'Ticket cost just £1 a week', and 'Help boost school funds when we need it most'. At the bottom, it says 'To start supporting your school, go to: **YourSchoolLottery.co.uk** and search for: Whitewater C of E Primary School'. Small text at the very bottom states: 'Supporters must be 18 years of age or older. Offer ends 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. Terms and conditions apply (see website for details)'.

Our School Lottery raises money for the school to purchase much needed library books and it has now been running for two months. With thanks to all those who have signed up already we are already on course to make **£790** for school this year! Not only that though ...in only two months a total of over £130 has been received in weekly cash prizes!

Sign up and registration is very simple, and even better still is that all payments are managed online!

If you would like to support the lottery and be in with a chance of winning a weekly cash prize along with a jackpot and other additional prizes then you can sign up at any time by going to:

[yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk)

and search for **Whitewater C of E Primary School**.

### Shopping Online

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online you could be raising a **free donation** for Whitewater PTA? Both **EasyFundraising** and **Amazon Smile** will donate to your chosen charitable cause a percentage of your purchases, with no extra cost to you!

#### EasyFundraising

Simply download the EasyFundraising app and select **whitewaterprimaryschoolpta** as your chosen cause or follow the link below;

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whitewaterprimaryschoolpta/>

#### Amazon Smile

Shop by either visiting [www.smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.smile.amazon.co.uk) or on your own Amazon account/Amazon App go to 'Your AmazonSmile' in *Account Settings* and choose **Whitewater Parent Teacher Association** as your charity

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## ***Happy Shopping!***

### **\*\*\*\*\*Half Term Art Competition\*\*\*\*\***

A little something different courtesy of the PTA, next week we will be sending out details of an art competition that the children may wish to take part in over half-term. It will be based on collecting items and using these items to make an art piece and there will be several winning categories. More details will be sent via ParentMail.

### **Whitewater PTA Committee**

Despite life being quite quiet currently within the PTA we still very much need your support going forward this year and we welcome, at any time, any help or new ideas.

Please feel free to message us to chat about any ideas you might have or if you would be interested in any upcoming Committee Member vacancies this year.

[whitewaterpta@gmail.com](mailto:whitewaterpta@gmail.com)

**Finally, we hope that everyone's children are happy and healthy, whether they be at school or at home school! And we really hope and looking forward to seeing you all back at school very soon!**

**Best wishes,  
Whitewater PTA**

### **Final word...**

I have started to notice the glimmer and hope of Spring with evenings getting lighter – let us also hope for a return to school for all children very soon.

Miss Edwards

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**DATES LIST**

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February to	)	HALF TERM
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	)	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February		INSET DAY
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February		Children return to Remote Learning or school
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March		Virtual Parents' Evening (4:00 pm to 6:30 pm)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day
		Virtual Parents' Evening (5:30 pm to 8:30 pm)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April		End of Term
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April to	)	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	)	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April		Start of Summer Term