

10th September 2021

Start of the Year Newsletter



Fellowship, Courage and Creativity

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to the start of the school year. I hope you all had a wonderful break over the summer and were able to spend quality time with friends and family. A special welcome to our new children and parents, we all wish you a happy and enjoyable start at Whitewater C of E Primary School.

The children have started the school year with great enthusiasm, enjoying the return to, 'normal' and are settling quickly into their new classes. It has been particularly wonderful to get back to whole school Collective Worship in the hall, something the Year 1 children have never experienced!

Coffee morning

I would like to invite you to a coffee morning next week on Tuesday 14th September. This will be an opportunity to meet up with other parents, meet members of the PTA and speak to me. If you are a Year 1 parent, I am very aware that you have only ever seen the school from a distance, so the coffee morning will also give you an opportunity to see the school in more detail. In addition, Year 6 and Year 5 parents will have the opportunity to see the new classroom arrangement for their children with the larger classroom. The PTA and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Collective Worship

This year we will be focusing on the Church of England values of Hope, Wisdom, Community, Dignity, Joy and Peace, under the umbrella of our three school values. This term we are looking at, 'The words of Jesus' as our theme, with each day's Collective Worship picking up on one of the Church of England values. For example, this week we have looked at, 'The words of Jesus' through the value of Joy.

We will be sending out a Home to School value sheet today, for you to share at home. This time I have chosen, 'Joy' to fit with our value this week and as the first Church of England value from the list of six.

Our Collective Worship provision is wide-ranging but broadly Christian in nature, and each worship is led by a different person: myself, teachers, Revd. Canon Marion de Quidt, Revd. Shona Hoad or the Open the Book team. We are delighted to have visitors back into school and are very lucky to be so well supported by our church community. Marion has already been in this week and we are looking forward to our first visit from Shona and the Open the Book team later this half term.

School Improvement

At Whitewater all the staff are constantly striving to make improvements so that your child has the very best possible experience during primary school and is equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for their future. With this in mind, we focus on maintaining and building on high standards and expectations we have at Whitewater. This looks to enhance the teaching and learning in school but also includes high expectations for learning behaviours.

The week, teachers and classes have really focused on expectations, establishing good groundworks for future learning and developing the ethos or 'feel' and culture of the school. With this in mind, the children have been engaged in a range of activities connected to our School Values (Fellowship, Courage and Creativity), Growth Mindset and Heartsmart. All classes have been talking about this in a positive way this week. You can support us in this drive to, 'get even better', through your involvement in your child's learning and behaviour. Thank you.

Our focus and objectives in school improvement this year are:

Leadership and Management

- To establish a new staffing structure which includes the three new members of staff, including changes to subject responsibilities
- To establish robust subject leadership, in core and foundation subjects, with quality monitoring
- To support all teachers in their subject leadership roles through quality LA support and CPD

Behaviour and Attitudes

- To ensure that Safeguarding procedures are in place, including a new DDSL, and children and staff know how to access support
- To ensure that the well-being of the whole school community continues to be a priority during COVID
- To ensure that learning attitudes are good across the school

Quality of Education

- To ensure that teaching and learning is consistently good across the school
- To ensure that there is clear differentiation in every lesson, enabling all children to access their learning
- To continue to develop robust, relevant and impactful provision for SEND children across the school
- To embed the new curriculum across the school

Personal Development

- To ensure that classroom practice supports all children in their learning, including specific children with identified needs, either learning or emotional needs.

COVID

This information was sent to you last week in the, 'Back to School' information but is included here as a useful reminder:

Whilst the national COVID picture remains fluid, schools will be operating to as near to normal as possible, without the need for bubbles. However, we are still operating with a healthy regard of the pandemic situation under direct guidance from the government and Public Health England. Robust hygiene, cleaning and ventilation measures will remain in place with some activities, such as clubs, only gradually reinstated as and when guidelines, outside providers and procedures for reducing COVID risk are in place. Please be aware that although regular school practice is starting to return, we may have to respond to any direct instruction from Public Health England to adjust and step up our procedures and practice.

The need to reduce COVID risk in school remains in place so no child or adult should come onto the school site if they are experiencing any COVID symptoms. In this situation, please inform the school and immediately book a PCR test. As you are probably aware, the guidelines for self-isolation have changed during the summer holidays. The information below has been taken directly from the school's government document:

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal.

If you have any questions regarding COVID procedures or processes, please speak to Mrs Fox in the office.

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Clubs

We are starting to speak to our club providers and discussing how and when they will be returning for your children. We are delighted that Dance Club (Friday before school) will be the first club to start. Information on how to join this club will be sent out as soon as we have received it. Other clubs will be returning gradually over the term, please look out for further information over the coming weeks.

Class and Curriculum Information

Your child will be bringing home three useful documents today, which will give you information about your child's class and their learning. There will be a 'Welcome Letter' from your child's class teacher, outlining information relating to the class, such as when your child has PE; a topic web, which provides you with a curriculum summary of the learning for this term; and a 'Meet the teacher' information sheet.

We have produced an updated 'Who's Who' list of the staff at Whitewater. This has proved to be very useful for parents in the past. It can be found on the next page of this newsletter.

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Who's Who at Whitewater C of E Primary School

Miss Edwards Headteacher

Teachers

Mrs Jolliffe and Miss Hairsine	Rabbit Class
Ms Lambie	Otter Class
Mr Ralph	Hedgehog Class
Mr Reynolds and Mrs Basham	Fox Class

SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator covering Mrs Burningham while she is on maternity leave)

Mrs Derry

Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) – Teach classes during Teachers PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment)

Mrs Miles

Mrs Sharp

Support Staff – supporting classes, taking intervention groups and supporting children on an individual basis

Mrs Baronne

Mrs Miles

Mrs Sharp

Mrs Owen

Mrs Nicholls

ELSA (Emotional Learning Support Assistant)

Mrs Miles

School Office

Mrs Fox

Many of the teachers and support staff have multiple roles and therefore appear in more than once section.

Photographs of all these people will be displayed in the corridor next to the school office in due course. There is also a board with the names and photographs of our school governors in the same place.

PTA News

Welcome back to a new school year and a huge welcome to all the parents and carers of our new Reception children! We hope you all had a brilliant summer and got to enjoy the holidays with a little more normality than what we have been used to over the last 18 months!

Last year was again a very different and difficult year for the PTA but you all still amazingly helped us raise a total of **£4500** so **THANK YOU!** The ice lolly sale on the last day of term raised a fantastic **£225.60** and the summer nature trail (which we hope many of you enjoyed) raised a brilliant **£125!** Both of these fundraisers combined will go towards our current target to raise **£1000** for new visualisers for all the classrooms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Fun Day – Sunday 12th September, 2-4pm, Rotherwick Park

We are hosting a little get together at Rotherwick Park this Sunday afternoon to welcome the whole of Whitewater back to school this year in what we hope will be a much more fun year! It is going to be a very casual afternoon so come along if you are free to meet up with friends and meet new people. We will have refreshments available (tea/coffee/soft drinks/cakes).

If anyone is able to volunteer to bake a cake to donate to the fun day it would be greatly appreciated! Please contact a member of the PTA.

Welcome Coffee Morning – Tuesday 14th September, 8.40-9.40am, School

Miss Edwards has invited you all to come and join us next week for a welcome coffee morning to give you a chance to look around the school, ask any questions and of course meet your PTA! All are welcome and we hope to see many of you there.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Now that we are hopefully back on track with our usual PTA events calendar we are looking forward to the Autumn/Winter terms and planning has begun for the Autumn Disco and also the Christmas Fair! We are looking for a few volunteers to coordinate the discos going forward (usually 1 per term) and we are also looking for a small sub-committee of volunteers to plan the Christmas Fair for this year. If you are interested and can help please contact a member of the PTA or email whitewaterpta@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Family Fun Day	Sunday 12 th September, 2-4pm (Rotherwick Park)
Welcome Coffee Morning with Miss Edwards	Tuesday 14 th September, 8.40-9.30am (School)
PTA AGM & Planning Meeting for 2021/22	Thursday 30 th September at 7pm (School Hall)
PTA Meeting	Date for early October TBC
Bags 2 School	Thursday 11 th November
Autumn Disco	Thursday 18 th November
Christmas Fair	Thursday 2 nd December –TBC

PTA AGM & PLANNING MEETING

Thursday 30th September, 7pm, School Hall

Our annual AGM is a short meeting that gives you an opportunity to hear and see how the funds you have helped raise have been used for the benefit of all the children at Whitewater and it is also when you elect the PTA Committee Members who will represent the association throughout the forthcoming year.

We will also this year be putting forward ideas for events during the upcoming year and agreeing dates so this is a great opportunity for you to share your ideas with us.

This year we have two committee member vacancies that need filling due to resignations. These vacancies are for the Chair and Secretary roles.

Chair

This rewarding role would suit one or two people (in co-chair roles). The chair(s) is responsible for planning and arranging most PTA events. Other tasks include liaising with the Secretary in preparing and leading meetings, liaising with the Treasurer regarding the Charity's finances, communicating with the school on a regular basis, supporting members of the committee and also ensuring that the Charity is fulfilling its role governed by the Charities Commission.

The role(s) is ideal for an organised person who is confident in building a strong relationship with our school families and the school itself.

Secretary

This role involves taking minutes at PTA meetings, producing the PTA News section of the monthly school newsletter, managing the PTA section of the website along with other administrative tasks and being involved as much as you are able in arranging PTA events.

Additional Support Roles – These potential volunteer support roles (all of which are suitable for separate individuals or as shared roles) we have created to help relieve the Chair and Secretary of some of their current tasks but also to support the running of the PTA to help it become much more efficient and financially beneficial to the school;

- Class representatives – this will help us divide the events per class and spread the workload more evenly amongst the school
- Sub-committee leaders for larger annual events (e.g. Christmas/Summer fair)
- Grant funding research and administration
- Risk assessments and GDPR checking
- Social media and online communications
- Monthly newsletter
- Second hand uniform coordinator

None of the above roles need to take up much time and as the old saying goes...more hands make light work! So please can we ask that you consider how you may be able to play a part in supporting your PTA and school. It could be that you are able to commit to a committee officer role, or take on a small role in the support/running on the PTA or be able to offer a small number of hours to support an event. Every offer of support is very gratefully received and in a small school like ours small gestures really do make a big difference.

If you would like any further information or if you are able to help please do not hesitate to contact us at whitewaterpta@gmail.com or alternatively feel free to contact Heather Trill on 07841 345147.

Thank you in advance.

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR PTA

Whilst we are finding our feet again with our usual events there are still many ways that you are able to support your PTA and in turn support our school. Here are just some of the ways;

Your School Lottery

Our School Lottery raises money for the school to purchase much needed library books and with thanks to all those who have signed up we will have made **£645** for the school in one year!

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

Shopping Online

EasyFundraising & Amazon Smile

EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile both turn your everyday online shopping into % donations to your chosen charity and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

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

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

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

Happy Shopping!

Corporate Match Funding Schemes

Did you know that the company you work for might give Whitewater PTA funds in return for you giving the PTA some of your time?

We have been lucky enough to benefit hugely at past events from match funding and therefore if you think your company may be able to support us please contact us at whitewaterpta@gmail.com and we will provide you with the relevant paperwork required to access the scheme.

Finally, we hope that everyone's children have had a great first week back at school and have settled in well and we look forward to seeing everyone again very soon!

Whitewater PTA

10th September 2021

Final word...

We are pleased that many of our, 'normal' school events can begin once again, such as class assemblies. With this in mind, we are currently compiling our List of Dates and this will be sent out shortly.

I hope that you settled into the school routine and busy mornings once again! Remember that if you have any concerns or questions about your child's new class or school activities, please speak to your child's class teacher. They are best placed for up-to-date and detailed information about your child.

Miss Edwards