



Whitewater Newsletter – 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a busy start to the term! The children and staff have been throwing themselves into their learning. School really is a hive of activity. The focus of this newsletter is to share lots of information about a wide range of facets of school life from extra-curricular clubs to a UFO. The fortnightly learning focussed newsletter (like last year) will begin from next week.

Extra Curricular Clubs...

I'm delighted to share that we have, once again, been able to secure a range of extra-curricular clubs happening after school or at lunchtime. Please see the list below:

Football Club – Mr Ralph and Mr Chapman will be running the Football Club for Years 3-6. This will be free of charge and take place on Wednesdays from 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm. They will use this club to select children to represent the school football team to compete in future fixtures. If you would like your child to participate in this club, please see the attached letter and complete the slip.

Netball Club – Mrs Brett is looking to set up a Netball Club for Years 4-6. This will be free of charge and take place on Wednesdays during lunchtimes. We will use this club to select children to represent the school netball team to compete in future fixtures. There is no need to sign a letter as it is during the school day and the children can drop in as they choose. The children don't need to get changed out of their uniform for this however they must wear trainers.

Gardening Club – Throughout the summer term, the allotment area was alive with colour and crops. I'm delighted to share that Mrs Syckelmoore and Mrs Hunt have once again volunteered their services and expertise. Throughout the autumn term, they will be running 'drop in' sessions from next week during selective Thursday lunchtimes (29/09/22, 13/10/22, 03/11/22, 17/11/22 & 01/12/22). This will include sorting the garden, planting bulbs and preparing the garden for winter.

Tennis Club - *Tennis & Children* are running an after school club on Thursdays 3.40 pm - 4.40 pm. The cost is £80 for 11 weeks and will run outdoors at the school and in the hall for bad weather. It's a terrific way to start playing tennis.

Visit tennisandchildren.com for information about the coach etc. To book please contact Gary Stanford on (07779) 430179.

Multi-Sports Club – SuperSportz are running a multi-sport afterschool club on Fridays from 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm. Each week the coaches will focus on a different sport. This starts on 30th September and runs for 8 weeks. The cost is £48. Please note, there is an inset day on Friday 21st October, therefore the final date will be on 2nd December opposed to the 25th November like originally advertised.

Children will be able to develop skills such as throwing, catching and dodging! The group will be split into two - Years 1-2 & Years 3-6.

Dance Club – Coach Kayleigh has a small number of spaces on her Friday morning dance club. If you are interested, please book via her website edcdance.co.uk on the 'Join Us' page. The club costs £4.50 per session and starts at 8.00 am.

We are exploring additional opportunities for extra curricular clubs for the children and will share more information as we confirm plans.

Breakfast Club and After School Club...

As a school, we have the commitment of being able to offer wrap around care for all our pupils who require it. This week we have introduced After School Club to our extended provision following the introduction of Breakfast Club in the spring term. We want both clubs to be as flexible as possible to support all our families and the many commitments you have. Therefore, you can book sessions as a little as a week in advance with no cancellation fee. You have the freedom to make long term regular bookings or short term ad hoc bookings. The cost of the clubs are £7.50 a session for Breakfast Club and £12.50 a session for After School Club

If you are interested in using this service please contact the office for an information pack.

PE Kit...

Following the recent change meaning children are wearing PE kit to school on their PE days, we are making a phased change regarding the PE kit. Recent feedback has shared the difficulty in maintaining the whiteness in the white shorts. Being a parent of a particularly messy eating five year old myself, I share your pain! We are introducing the option of wearing navy shorts instead of white. We will gradually phase out the white shorts over the course of the year but we appreciate that many of you would have purchased new white shorts recently.

For the colder months, you child can wear plain tracksuit/jogging bottoms. These can be grey, navy or black. On top, the options are the usual school sweatshirt or the red school fleece.

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Curriculum evenings...

Thank you to everyone who attended the class curriculum meetings. I hope these gave you a valuable insight in what your child will be learning and what is expected of them throughout this year. It's also the first opportunity to start developing the relationships between teacher and parent. We recognise that you all play a vital role in supporting learning at home and we very much value our partnership. In addition to sharing information with you, the meetings highlighted a couple of areas of school life that need further clarification: reading and how we teach mixed year groups. As a result, we have sent out further communication about reading which we hope has provided greater clarity. In order to share our philosophy of teaching and learning, which we call "The Whitewater Way", we will be hosting an information evening about this on the **5th October at 6pm.**

Open Mornings...

Do you know a child turning 4 before the 1st September 2023? If so, now is the time their parents will be exploring different schools by attending open sessions. Here at, Whitewater C of E Primary School we are hosting our open sessions on the following dates:

Monday 3rd October at 9.10am

Tuesday 11th October at 1.30pm

Monday 7th November at 9.10am

These sessions will last approximately 1 hour and provide a great opportunity for parents to see the school in action, pick up a prospectus and ask questions. Please spread the word!

Autumn Term Parent's Evenings...

Parent's Evenings are an important part of an effective home-school partnership. We have made the decision to bring the Autumn Term Parent's Evenings forward to the 11th and 13th of October. The reason for the move is to address any issues regarding settling in to the new year, identify ways in which learning can be supported at home and provide an opportunity to share information earlier. Further information will go out closer to the time.

UFO...

There was great excitement during Wednesday breaktime when the children spotted an unidentified flying object hovering above Whitewater! Luckily, it wasn't a Martian invasion, but a drone. I invited a drone pilot to school to capture some photographs of our school grounds. Once edited, the footage will be on our school website showcasing the beautiful school grounds and surrounding area.

Lastly, as shared with you yesterday, we are reviewing our values and would love to hear your views. If you get a spare 2 minutes, please click on the link below and tell us your top 3:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SVL4qoriXEOprLga00qENI7yEDZNsFEiKAMwz25cCdUMktTTkVSVzhHRkw1QU02SUoyMVk1WENZWC4u>

It has been a whirlwind start to the school year and the team have been working incredibly hard to continue our upward trajectory. Your children have hit the ground running and fill the classes with enthusiasm and hard work every day. As always, thank you all for your continued support and I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

Key Dates for Autumn Term 2022	
26.9.22	Individual Photos FGB Meeting (incl. Safeguarding training) (6pm)
29.9.22	PTA AGM (6pm)
3.10.22	New Entrants Open morning (9.00)
5.10.22	Parents Information Evening – Teaching the Whitewater Way (6pm)
6.10.22	Census Day
11.10.22	New Entrants Open morning (1.30) Parents Evening (3.30 – 6)
13.10.22	Harvest Worship Parents Evening (3.30 – 6)
21.10.22	Inset Day
HALF TERM - 24/10/22 – 28/10/22	