



Newsletter 8

2021/2022 Whitchurch Primary School
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MRS GILLAM - It is with sadness we announce Mrs Gillam will be leaving us at the end of this week. Mrs Gillam joined us during lockdown and has been a welcoming face for our school, assisting and helping parents and carers in the office. She has also been a kind face to the children, managing first aid for them amongst other things! If there is a problem, Mrs Gillam will solve it! Mrs Gillam is moving to another admin job which offers all round employment, as school admin jobs are term time only. Goodbye Mrs Gillam, we wish you all the very best from Whitchurch Primary School!

SCOOTERS - You may be aware from text messages that a second scooter has gone missing from the school. Although they may have been taken by accident, or taken over the half term holiday (in the case of the second scooter) we cannot ignore the fact the scooters may have been taken deliberately. Newsletter 6 advised parents and carers to write their child's name on their scooter, or mark it in some way to ensure it cannot be muddled up. Thank you to those who have done this.

I have also been asked, through a petition of 33 names, to install CCTV and/or a lockable scooter cage/storage unit on school grounds, and to check what children are taking what scooters.

Unfortunately all of these systems have implications where scooters could still be taken. With a hood up it is difficult to identify people on CCTV, especially when everyone is wearing the same uniform! It also takes a very long time to go through footage in detail. A lockable scooter cage may not be effective, as the scooters are locked behind our large gate during the day, whilst a system of checking who has what scooter would be difficult, as it is a challenge to remember who brought what scooter to school in the morning (unless names are written clearly on all scooters).

A solution would be to ask children not to bring scooters to school at all, and would not be in line with our underlying values either. Therefore, as a compromise, please could parents/carers allow their child to scoot to school, and then take the scooter home/ away from the school site. Some parent/carers do this already. I realise it may not be practical in the case of two scooters, which will be difficult to carry, or in the case of parent/carers going elsewhere after dropping off children.

Concerning the naming of scooters, I will be asking our Community Police Officers to visit the school and present an assembly, before marking any scooters onsite with specialist pens.

This system will be in place from Monday of next week, and we will review it after two to three weeks depending on it's success.

POPPIES – This week and next week, Year 6 will be selling poppies and other items for Remembrance Day. Minimum contribution for a poppy is 20p, this year we also have snap on wrist bands, bracelets, flexi rulers, bugs, hair clips, pencils, and erasers – ranging from 50p to £1.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS - Your children will bring home their Christmas pictures which may be transferred on to Christmas card, mugs etc for gifts. All items and prices are on Parentpay.

Please ensure that all orders for Christmas items including your child's Christmas cards, are paid for on Parentpay by next Friday 12th November. Late orders will incur a postage charge as we are using an outside company. If there is a spelling mistake and you have not been text, please let us know via text. Thank you.

CINEMA TRIP – Our annual whole school cinema trip is returning again on Friday 19th November. Children will be watching **Dogtanian and the Three Muskehounds at Vue Cribbs Causeway**. Letters have been emailed out to you. Please pay on Parentpay and complete the online consent. Thank you.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – Years 1-6 – Clubs will start next week – 3.15pm – 4.15pm. Unfortunately, due to low numbers, there will be no dance, yoga or alternative sports (Friday) this term.

FLU NASAL VACCINE – Where the School Aged Immunisation Team would normally aim to complete the flu vaccine offer in schools by the end of December, this year there has been significant additional work to deliver to support the Covid 12 -15 vaccines and all year group flu vaccines programme. In view of this, the flu delivery schedule has been extended to February, although the school nurses will aim to complete all sessions by the end January where at all possible.

Our date has been put back to 5th January 2022.

To give consent please follow this link by **Monday 8th November:**

<https://schoolimms.virginicare.co.uk/flu/2021/banes>

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS – To celebrate maths week, TT Rockstars are holding a maths competition from next Monday 8th November to Thursday 11th November where children can win prizes. Please see poster attached for details or use this link: <https://www.ttrockstars.com/page/englandrocks2021>

PARENT SURVEY - Thank you to the 11 parent/carers who completed our school survey last term. We will use this information to make our school even better!

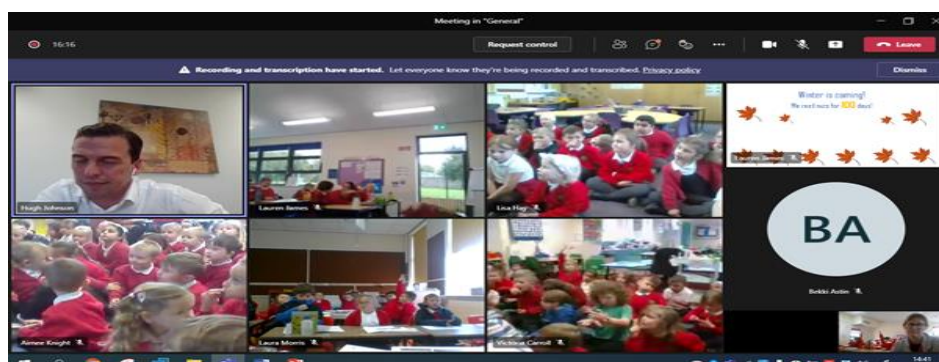
YEAR 2 HATS -

This week, Puffins, Penguins and Parrots have been exploring a range of different hats through their knowledge of questions. They have been writing questions all about the different hats we had in our classrooms. "Who might wear my hat?" - Roman (Puffins)



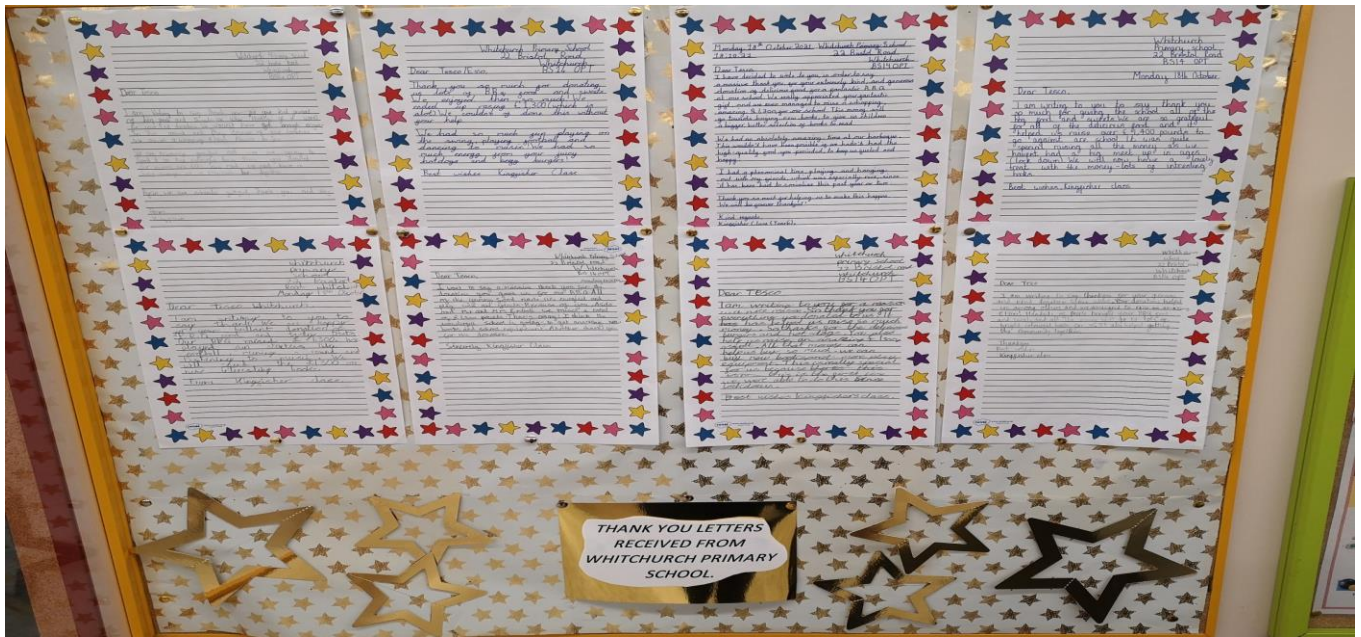
PE DAYS - I have been asked by various stakeholders why PE days occasionally change. Like all occupations following the height of the Covid pandemic, at times staff are not able to come to school for a number of reasons. As a result we redeploy staff within the school to ensure the children are taught by a person that they know and are familiar with, rather than immediately replacing staff with supply teachers (which we do also do when necessary). Please be aware that whilst we attempt to keep short notice changes to a minimum, they are at time unavoidable.

HUGH JOHNSON - A huge Thank you to Mr Johnson who presented a fantastic assembly yesterday about the job of being a financial advisor. Ask the children about the squirrels who were sensible with saving enough nuts for winter! If you would like to share information about your job and how it helps people, please let us know so you can do a special assembly!



PTA NEWS – Children in Year 6 wrote the thank you letters below to Tesco Brislington who posted this on their Facebook page –

‘We were delighted to receive these amazing letters from pupils at Whitchurch Primary school thanking us for a donation we made towards their school BBQ. It was also great to hear that they raised over £1,300 and all had a fabulous time. Stop by and have a read of them on our community board next time you are in store’
Well done Year 6!



Bingo night is planned for Thursday 11th November. Doors open 6.30pm with bingo starting 7.00pm. Tickets are £5 including a book of 10 games and a soft or alcoholic drink. Tickets are on sale after school from today. Additional book (max 1 extra per person) can also be purchased. There is also a licensed bar, snacks and dabbers available to buy. Great prizes including chocolates, wine and vouchers! Tickets are limited so get a group together and buy your tickets!

We would like to thank MG Estate Agent, Hunters Estate Agent, Stephen Maggs Estate Agent, The Yeoman, Caffe Rosa and The Music Box for donating prizes.

OPEN DAYS FOR RECEPTION 2022 – Our open days for the new Reception intake next year are:

9th November 2021 – 2pm

3rd December 2021 – 9.30am

*We have added a new later appointment for those that work full time – 2nd December at 5.30pm

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – As in previous years we would like to take part in Operation Christmas Child. This involves filling and wrapping a shoebox to send as a Christmas present to needy children in other countries. It may be the only Christmas present the children will receive, some may be very ill or live in war torn countries.

We are able to provide pre-printed labels and boxes this year which are 40p each and available from the school office.

Please help us to achieve a target of 60 shoe boxes.



Boxes will need to be in school by **Monday 8th November**. For details of what to include etc please go to the charity website: <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox/>

DUE TO CUSTOMS REGULATIONS TOOTHPASTE, SWEETS, LOTIONS AND LIQUIDS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED.

PRAISE AND SHOWCASE!

Each week the school rewards children from each class with special certificates!

One will be awarded for excellent behaviour, the other for superb work. Photos may be viewed on the website shortly!

Last week's children are:

ROBINS – Ruby has been praised – Luca has received the showcase award

PUFFINS: Jacob S has been praised – Emily has received the showcase award

PARROTS: Jacob G has been praised – Rosie has received the showcase award

PENGUINS: Meyra has been praised – Leo has received the showcase award

SWANS: Olly R has been praised – Ryan has received the showcase award

SWALLOWS: Harry B has been praised – Bonnie has received the showcase award

KESTRELS: Jayden has been praised – Tallulah has received the showcase award

KINGFISHERS: Joseph has been praised – Caolan has received the showcase award