

White Court School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018



Issue 2

Friday 19th October

Goodbye and Good Luck!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Talbot all the best with her pregnancy and for the future as she leaves White Court. Thank you for all of your hard work over the years!

Autumn Weather

As a school, we believe it is very important for children to go out at playtime and lunchtime, in order to get some much needed fresh air! As the weather is turning cooler, and can often be quite unpredictable, it is very important that your child comes into school prepared. Quite often children arriving by car do not have a coat. However, if the weather is drizzly we will still take the children outside, so a coat with a hood or waterproof coat is essential every day.

Tesco Bags of Help!

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant of £2,000 to improve our Foundation Stage outside area from the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. Thank you to all of our school community for helping us to collect lots of tokens!

Year 5's Viking Day

On Wednesday 10th October the Year 5 children enjoyed Viking Day – a fantastic day of hands-on learning! The children all enjoyed a range of new activities, including playing Viking dice games and the very strategic 'Hnefatafl'. We also investigated unknown artefacts, wore Viking clothing, jewellery and even tried on Viking armour! One of the highlights of the day was re-enacting famous Viking events (and sacrificing Mrs Greely) and training to be a Viking warrior in a shield wall. The children all looked amazing in their costumes and enjoyed every minute of the day. So much valuable learning took place and the day has inspired the children to want to learn even more about the Vikings next half-term. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supplied costumes and also helped on the day.
The Year 5 Team

Harvest Festival Service

On Wednesday 3rd October, we attended a Harvest festival celebration at Great Notley Church led by Reverend Iain. He was joined by 3 local farmers who answered our questions about the UK's harvest season and process. We learned lots of interesting facts before listening to an interactive version of the Parable of the Sower.

All the teachers commended the children for their excellent behaviour walking to and from the church and during the celebration. On behalf of the church, we would like to thank everyone who contributed products for the collection, we are grateful for your generosity and support on this wonderful occasion.

Miss Smithson and Miss Ly – R.E. Co-ordinators



We need your help!

We are currently gathering a large amount of items each day which are not named. This includes jumpers, coats, lunchboxes, snack boxes and balls. In a large school it is nearly impossible to reunite the items with their owner if they are not named. Any items which are left at the end of a week will be shown in assembly on Monday. If the items are not claimed they will be disposed of. **PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING!**

Late Arrival at School

We all know that a good start to the day impacts on the learning and engagement of children for the rest of that day. We are noticing that some children are not arriving at school in time to start the day with the rest of their class at **8:55 a.m.** This causes disruption all round, not just for that child, but for the teacher and the other children in the class. The walk from the pedestrian gate is a little longer than the other entrances and with the slower pace of some children, they are not arriving in their classrooms in time for registration. Please could you ensure that your child arrives in good time to start the day. We want to make sure that we make use of every moment to maximise learning. Thank you to those parents who are always on time.

Cycle Racks

It is lovely to see so many children using the bike racks while the weather is still nice. In order for Year 5 and Year 6 children to cycle independently, they need to have returned their cycle permit. When the children get to Year 6 they are all offered the chance to take part in the Bikeability training which develops their cycling skills, decision making on the roads and safety awareness. We have just finished this year's course and had 54 of our pupils take part.

Children can also scoot to school and their scooters should be placed on the grass area in between the pedestrian gates and the bike racks.

Any children using these facilities should use the Pedestrian Gate to enter school and must dismount as soon as they turn into the path that leads towards the gate. Likewise, at the end of the day, the children MUST walk their bikes and scooters until they are outside of the school grounds.

Early Years Foundation Stage - September 2019

We have arranged visit dates for parents and carers of the children who are due to start school in September 2019. Arrangements are slightly different from previous years with staggered tours taking place over a number of days:

- Monday 5th November at 1.45 p.m., 2.00 p.m.
- Friday 16th November at 11:15 a.m.
- Wednesday 28th November at 9:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m.
- Thursday 10th January 2019 at 9:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m.

If you would like to attend any of these sessions please contact the school office to make a booking. We would also ask you to pass on this invitation to any friends, relatives or neighbours who may have children starting school next year.

The closing date for applications for Primary School Admissions is 15th January 2019. The online application service will open on 12th November 2018 at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Secondary School Applications for September 2019 – Reminder for Year 6 Parents

As you are aware, the closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children (for a secondary school place in Year 7 from September 2019) is 31st October 2018.

Applications can be made via the admissions website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

If you need any further information please speak to Mr Pryke or Mrs Deans.

Volunteering in school

Do you have regular free time and would like to volunteer in school?

or

Would you like to help with some of our one off creative activities?

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mrs Brewster (Deputy Headteacher) via the office to complete a form.

Mrs Brewster



Macmillan Coffee Morning and Cake Sale

Once again we had the most amazing response to our request for cakes to support this really important charity. Thank you to all of those who baked or helped to eat all of the wonderful cakes. In total, we raised a tremendous £388.02. Thank you to Mrs Haynes for another of her amazing cakes that was raffled and the FOWCS who organised the event for us.



Flu Immunisation

The flu immunisation will take place on **Wednesday 12th December** in the New Hall for those children in Foundation Stage to Year 6 whose parents request the vaccine. Parents are not required to attend as school staff will be in the hall to support them. More information to follow.



Individual Photographs

A photographer from Van Cols will be in school on Tuesday 6th November. Toddler, group and family photographs will be taken first, starting at 8.00 a.m. Please arrive with your toddlers and other family members by 9.00 a.m., as no pre-school photographs will be taken after that time. Children in our Early Years classes will have their photographs taken with their siblings during the day. Brothers and sisters will have their photographs taken together, as well as individually.



Park and Stride - Tesco Partnership

We would like to remind you that Tesco allow us to use their car park as part of a Park and Stride Partnership! Park & Stride is ideal for families living too far away from school to be able to walk. It is a simple solution and means that children at least walk some of the way to and from school - only 4 minutes from the back Tesco car park when using either of the school entrances. It is also good for parents who have to drive on to work. This system will also help us to keep the roads around the school much clearer and therefore a lot safer for the children when walking to and from school each day. As an added bonus, Tesco have offered to stock up their free fruit at the front of the store, especially for those children using Park and Stride, as a healthy snack for the remainder of their journey.



School dinners

The new winter menu will commence on Monday 5th November and can be viewed on the school website. However, this is not yet live on ParentPay.

We are very keen for children to try new food and will encourage them to take a little bit of something if they have not had it before, this includes vegetables, rice dishes and noodle dishes served alongside the salad bar. Please join us by asking your child if they have tried anything new today and giving them lots of praise if they have.



British Legion Poppy Appeal

We are once again supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and these will go on sale after the half term holiday. Please send your child with a small donation if they wish to purchase a poppy.

Children in Need – Friday 16th November

This year, for Children in Need, we will be holding a Non-uniform Day on Friday 16th November. We will be asking children to give a small donation to the charity and for this they will be allowed to not wear school uniform for the day. The theme for this day is 'The Big Spotacular', but they may wear any clothes they are comfortable in and that are suitable for a day at school, including outdoor play.



Footballs

We would like to clarify that when the children are able to use the field at breaktimes and lunchtimes they may bring in named footballs and balls. However, once we stop using the field due to the weather, they will have timetabled slots on the football pitch and access to school balls only. From this point, please do not allow your children to bring balls into school, in order to reduce balls becoming lost.

FoWCS News

Santa Letter Direct

Thinking about sending your little ones a personalised letter from Santa? FoWCS have teamed up with Santa Letter Direct, who create personalised letters and postcards from Santa. In order for Friends of White Court School to benefit please use this link and we get a percentage from any purchases. <https://www.santaletterdirect.co.uk/MySchool/?TID=SD0105>
Even Santa is helping us raise money for our school!

Smile Amazon

FoWCS have signed up for AmazonSmile, which is a simple and automatic way for you to support FoWCS every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you! When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to FoWCS. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select Friends of White Court School to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation. You will need to shop at smile.amazon.co.uk each time, not Amazon.co.uk! FoWCS will not see any personal details about your account or your purchases.

What a brilliant, simple way to support the school!

IMPORTANT DATES

Term dates for this year: **2018 – 2019**

Autumn Term:	Tuesday 4 th September 2018 – Wednesday 19 th December 2018 <i>Half Term 22nd October – 26th October</i>	72 days
Spring Term:	Thursday 3 rd January 2019 – Friday 5 th April 2019 <i>Half Term 18th – 22nd February</i>	62 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 23 rd April 2019 – Wednesday 24 th July 2019 <i>Half Term 27th May – 31st May, and May Bank Holiday 6th May</i> Non-pupil days: Tuesday 4th September 2018 Monday 29th October 2018 Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th January 2019 Tuesday 23rd April 2019	<u>61 days</u> 195 days

Residential Trips 2018/2019

Flatford (Year 5): Week beginning 29th April 2019

Kingswood (Year 6): Week beginning 10th June 2019

Letters Sent Home to Parents Recently

19 th /20 th September	Year 6 Kingswood Medical From and itinerary
25 th September	Year's 1 – 6 Love of Theatre 'Aladdin' letter
27 th September	Year 1 'Animal Experience Day' letter
27 th September	Year 5 Flatford Mill letter
28 th September	Year 6 WW2 Day Information
28 th September	Year 6 Colchester High School Admissions letter
28 th September	Parents' Consultation Evening Forms
3 rd October	FoWCS Scavenger Hunt letter
9 th October	Year 5 Flatford Mill Equipment/Itinerary/Medication Form
9 th October	Foundation Stage MiBootcamp lunchtime club letter
9 th October	Autumn Tern Curriculum Newsletter
9 th October	FoWCS Bags2School letter
12 th October	Bucket Filling Booklet
18 th October	Year 5 Secondary School Admissions letter
18 th October	Foundation Stage MiBootcamp second letter
19 th October	Nursery Class Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

October

(Half Term 22nd October – 26th October)

Monday 29th **Inservice Day – school closed for children**

Tuesday 30th Year 1 'Animal Experience' Day

November

Thursday 1st FoWCS **Bags2School** Collection - drop off before 9.30 a.m. Main Entrance

Tuesday 6th Van Cols Individual Photographs

Wednesday 6th Nursery Class Family Craft Afternoon 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 13th Year 6 WW2 Day

Wednesday 21st Love of Theatre – 'Aladdin' for Year's 1 - 6

Wednesday 21st Last KS2 Extra-Curricular Activities

Thursday 22nd Year 6 Parent Event – further information to follow

Friday 23rd Year 1 Witch & Wizard Day – further information to follow

Thursday 29th Year 5 Fair Trade Coffee Morning – further information to follow

Friday 30th Last swimming session for Year 3

Friday 30th FoWCS Christmas Fair – further information to follow

December

Wednesday 12th Flu Immunisation Day – further information to follow

Communicate with us by e-mail on:

- admin@whitecourt.essex.sch.uk for the main school.
- EYadmin@whitecourt.essex.sch.uk for our Early Years Nursery

Please see below correspondence from Essex Police.



Dear Parent/Carer,

Sexual and criminal exploitation of children – will you spot the signs?

The exploitation of children is, sadly, a growing problem and has a devastating impact on those directly affected and their families. It happens, and it happens here, in Essex. This is not just involving older children, even primary age children are being drawn into exploitation. It is never too soon for our children to learn how to keep themselves safe.

Essex Police is working hard to tackle these awful crimes but we cannot do it alone. As a parent or carer with responsibility for a child I am asking for your help. Please be aware of the warning signs together with the help and advice available to you.

Exploitation - what is it?

Sexual exploitation involves a child being manipulated, forced or deceived into sexual activity often for financial gain or to build status or control.

Criminal exploitation involves a child being coerced to commit criminal activity. This is often associated with gangs and the selling of illegal drugs.

The warning signs

- Is your child regularly going missing, coming home late or persistently absent from school?
- Do they have new or older friends different to their normal social group?
- Do they have money, expensive-looking clothes or a new phone you didn't buy for them?
- Are they being secretive when using their phone or the internet or perhaps making / receiving lots of calls and texts?
- Has their mood changed or have they become withdrawn or aggressive?
- Are they harming themselves or displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour?

These are indicators. They do not always mean a child is being exploited, but, please see them as a potential 'warning sign'.

A new hotline number – 01245 452058

If you are worried, please call us. You will not be wasting our time. A team of Essex Police officers and staff are on standby to listen, help and offer advice. The line is open Monday to Friday 08:00-16:00 with a voicemail facility outside of these hours.

As a parent of school age children myself I would encourage you to talk to your child / children about these potential dangers. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Prophet
Assistant Chief Constable

You can more information and advice about child exploitation on the Essex Police website
<https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/child-sexual-exploitation>