

White Court School Newsletter

Spring Term 2019



Issue 1

Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Happy New Year

As this is the first newsletter of 2019 we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

As always, illness is an issue at this time of year. We would ask that you try and encourage your children to come into school, if they are well enough and not contagious, but also understand that they will recover more quickly if they are resting at home. Our website has some useful information in the Parent Zone area, from Public Health England, on Infection Control in School. May we remind you that after sickness and stomach upsets children and staff should not return to school within 48 hours to avoid the virus spreading.

KEEP CLEAR

**NO WAITING!
NO PARKING!
NO EXCUSE!**

**DON'T PUT OUR CHILDRENS LIVES AT RISK
YELLOW LINES ARE THERE FOR A REASON
PLEASE PARK IN A SAFE AND LEGAL MANNER**

 **ESSEX
POLICE**
Protecting and serving Essex

 **SAFER ESSEX**
roads partnership

 **no excuse**

Parking and Driving around School

As a school we are very aware and continuously concerned about the traffic at drop off and pick up time. Following on from our Parking Forum in the Autumn Term, we have raised the profile of road safety amongst our children, in a bid that they will help to educate their parents and carers to make sensible driving choices.

However, there are still daily instances of dangerous driving, verbal abuse, inconsiderate parking and cars mounting the kerb. Recently, and very alarmingly, there has even been an instance of a child being brushed by a car. On this occasion, the child was luckily only shaken, but it could have been far worse. An injured child or adult is unacceptable, I hope you will agree and help us to protect everyone.

Double parking outside the school is illegal and dangerous, parking close to road junctions impairs vision and is dangerous to other road users. Please be aware that we have been asked by the Police to collect the registration plates of cars that regularly park in a dangerous or inconsiderate manner.

We urge you to do the same.

If you drive to school, please consider taking advantage of our 'Park and Stride' scheme with Tesco, who are happy for you to park there and enter school via our pedestrian gate. This is a 4 minute walk.

Friendship Cup

In memory of Miss Cordwell, we present The Friendship Cup each term to a KS1 and KS2 child who has demonstrated exceptional kindness. In the Autumn term the Friendship Cup was awarded to:



Maxwell



Oliver

Well done, you are both excellent role models to the rest of the school.

Booking School Meals on ParentPay

Just a reminder that the cut-off for booking school meals on ParentPay is every Wednesday at 23.59. We will only be able to book lunches for those that have missed that deadline under exceptional circumstances. If a school lunch is not booked, a packed lunch will need to be provided for your child/children on those days.

Where your child qualifies for Universal Infant Free School Meals (Foundation Stage, Years 1 and 2) or Free School Meals, the school meal must still be booked through ParentPay by this time, to ensure that a meal is available for them. **ALL** school meals need to be booked through ParentPay.

If you have any problems booking the school meals on ParentPay, please pop into the School Office prior to the cut-off time and we will be more than happy to go through the process with you.

Thank you for your assistance with this as it helps us to cater for the correct number of children requiring a school meal.

Tag Rugby Competition

On Tuesday the 15th January, the Year Six rugby team participated in a tag-rugby tournament against local schools at Braintree rugby club. The team worked together fantastically and won each of their three group games before winning the semi-final. Having beaten them during the group stage, White Court narrowly missed out to Lyons Hall in the final 3-2. The top two teams from the tournament progress to the next round; the Year Sixes are now looking forward to competing again at Witham Rugby Club in February. Well done everyone!

Mr Pruce



Year 5's Mexicolore Day

On Tuesday 15th January the Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic hands-on Mexicolore Day. There were so many fantastic activities including: cooking and eating Mexican food, playing pok-a-tok (Maya football), wearing Maya clothing and headdresses, playing Maya instruments and painting our faces like traditional Mayans would when celebrating a festival! When wearing their headdresses with their painted faces, the children all looked amazing - definitely a force to be reckoned with!! It was wonderful to witness a sense of awe and wonder when the children entered the New Hall, which was set up with a vast number of artefacts and visual aids brought along by the amazing Mexicolore company. So much valuable learning took place and the day has inspired the children to want to learn even more about the Maya Civilisation.

Year 5 Team



Extra-curricular activities

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 were given the chance to sign up for a club last week. Most clubs take place on Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., starting this week. Please ensure permission slips are completed and returned to school.

To go alongside these clubs there will also be the School Football and Netball Team, where children from Year 5 and 6 are selected to represent White Court School in a local league.

All of our clubs are validated for the Children's University so please remind your children to bring their passports along to be signed.

We are very lucky that every teacher has volunteered to run one of these clubs and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their hard work and commitment.

Early Years Nursery

We will be holding an open morning on Thursday 7th February at 9:45 a.m. for parents of children wishing to attend from September 2019. Please tell friends and family. To book a place contact the office or email EYadmin@whitecourt.essex.sch.uk

Snack and Water Bottles

We would like to remind parents and carers that only fresh fruit and vegetables or dried fruit can be brought into school for snack at playtime. Please do not send cereal bars, fruit winders etc.

It is also important that you only fill water bottles with water, not squash.

Please make sure any snack tubs or water bottles are clearly named to avoid loss.

Wrapping Up Warm!

We are always keen to go outside at break time and lunch time, as the children need fresh air and to release some energy! Please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and a scarf so they are not cold on these occasions. We often notice some children who arrive at school by car do not have a coat. Please name all of these items as they are easily misplaced and look very similar!

Safer Internet Day - 5th February 2019 - Together for a better internet

The aim of Safer Internet Day is to **inspire a national conversation** about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

A key focus this year is to ensure children are aware of what consent is. In school, we will explore how they ask, give and receive consent online. We will be sharing and discussing the attached SMART targets with the children and looking at examples relevant to each year group. For example, are they wearing their school jumper in a profile picture? Do they realise fake information is on the Internet? If they share a photo do they have the permission of everyone in it for it to appear online? If playing online games, is there a 'safe chat' option or can anyone speak to them? Most importantly, do they know what to do, and who to tell, if they have an online safety problem?

For more information visit: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

The internet is a brilliant place to learn and explore,
just remember to always be **SMART!**



IS FOR SAFE

Never give out personal information to strangers on the internet. Personal information includes things like your home address and your birthday.



IS FOR MEET

Never ever meet up with a stranger you have met online unless a parent or guardian has said it is ok and is present. Never, never, never, never, never.



IS FOR ACCEPTING

Don't open emails from people you don't know, they could contain viruses. If you get a strange email from a friend and you think they might have a virus make sure you let them know!



IS FOR RELIABLE

Don't believe everything you read online, check your facts! Did you read it on a reliable website like the BBC? Are other websites saying the same thing? Does it tell you where they got the information from?



IS FOR TELL

If you have an online safety problem, make sure you tell someone. Tell a parent, guardian, or teacher as soon you can.

purple
mash

Wallpaper and Craft Items

We use lots of craft items and paper in Breakfast Club and After School Club. If you have any resources you no longer need, including wallpaper, please donate via the school office, we can make good use of them!

Severe Weather

In the event of bad weather we aim to inform you as quickly as possible if the school is not able to open. This is not an easy decision to make and requires a risk assessment of who can safely travel to school and arrive on time. Once completed, there are a number of ways that we will post our decision to alert you as efficiently as we can:

- A notification on the emergency school closures page on the council's website:
<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>
This feed will continue to update as notifications of school closures are received. The page will refresh at 6pm each evening and closure lists for the next day will then go live.
- Our school website www.whitecourt.essex.sch.uk.
- ParentPay - If you have signed up to **ParentPay** you will receive an email to inform you of any closure. This is a good way of keeping up to date with all the latest information from us so contact the school office if you have not yet signed up.

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

Term dates for next year: **2019 – 2020**

Autumn Term:	Tuesday 3 rd September 2019 – Thursday 19 th December 2019 <i>Half Term 28th October – 1st November</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Monday 6 th January 2020 – Friday 3 rd April 2020 <i>Half Term 17th – 21st February</i>	60 days
Summer Term:	Monday 20 th April 2020 – Wednesday 22 nd July 2020 <i>Half Term 25th May – 29th May, and May Bank Holiday 4th May</i> Non-pupil days: Tuesday 3rd September 2019 Monday 4th November 2019 Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd July 2020	<u>62 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

8th January Year 4 The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe letter
8th January KS1 Tennis Club letter via ParentPay
11th January Year 2 Tesco Visit letter
15th January Year 4 Anglo-Saxon Sewing Morning letter

15 th January	KS2 Braintree Town Girls Football letter via ParentPay
17 th January	FoWCS Valentine's Disco letter
17 th January	Year 5 KEGS Spring Term Tours letter
18 th January	Year 1 Space Topic letter
21 st January	Headlice letter
23 rd January	Year 3 Parent Event details

Dates for your Diary

January

Thursday	24 th	Class 2G – Tesco Visit
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February

Wednesday	6 th	Year 4 Anglo Saxon Parent Event – 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
Thursday	7 th	EY Nursery Open Morning 9.45 a.m.
Friday	8 th	FoWCS Valentine's Disco – Book your tickets via ParentPay by 6th February 3.15 p.m.
Tuesday	12 th	Year 1 Design Technology Morning 9.10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. 1 adult per child
Wednesday	13 th	Year 3 Parent Event 9.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.
Thursday	14 th	Foundation Stage Parent Event 9.15 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.

Half Term 18th – 22nd February

March

Tuesday	5 th	Year 2 Parent Event – further information to follow
Wednesday	6 th	Parents' Consultation Evening – No Extra Curricular Activities
Thursday	7 th	World Book Day – further information to follow
Thursday	7 th	Parents' Consultation Evening – No Football Club (Premier Sport)
Wednesday	27 th	Year 3 Fire Safety – further information to follow
Wednesday	27 th	FoWCS Mother's Day Secret Shopper Event – further details to follow
Wednesday	27 th	Last KS2 Extra Curricular Activities
Thursday	28 th	Foundation Stage Parent Event 9.15 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.

April

Tuesday	2 nd	FoWCS Easter Egg Hunt – further details to follow
Friday	5 th	Last day of Spring Term

Easter Break 8th April – 22nd April

Tuesday	23rd	Non-pupil day – No school for children
Monday	29 th	Year 5 Flatford Residential

May

Monday	6th	Bank Holiday
Monday	13 th	KS2 SATs

June

Tuesday	4 th	Year 2 Visit to Jimmy's Farm – further information to follow
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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