

White Court School Newsletter

Spring Term 2019

Issue 2

14th February 2019

Fostering a love of reading!

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th March we would like the children to come to school dressed up as their favourite character from a book. During the week, the children will take part in a range of book related activities, including a story telling session with another teacher as part of a 'story swap'. We are hoping that the exciting activities each class has planned will help the children to foster a love of reading. It would be wonderful if you could also share some of your childhood favourites at home to inspire the children to read as much as possible.

On Friday 1st March 'The Book People' Book Fair will arrive at school. They offer a wide range of exciting and engaging books for children of all ages. The Book Fair will be held outside Mrs Pickering's classroom in the Year One playground. For every book sold, the school receives a percentage of the price, which is used to buy and update the books the children love to read in class. The Book Fair will run from Friday 1st March up to and including Thursday 7th March.

HOUSE CUP WINNERS - SPRING 1

The winners of this half term's House Cup are **Blyton & Dickens** (joint), and will both be rewarded with a non-uniform day on Friday 15th February 2019 for children in Years 1 to 6. Well done Blyton and Dickens!!



FoWCS Fundraising

We would like to thank FoWCS for all of their hard work in the Autumn term. The totals raised from the events are as follows:

Plant Sale	£35.04
Halloween Scavenger Hunt	£57.00
Christmas Fair	£2,747.69
Christmas Discos	£1,093.76
Tea Towels	£534.20

Thank you to everyone who supported these events! We are lucky to have such a generous community!

There are still some tea towels available for Foundation Stage, Year 1, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase some at £5 each.

Bags2School

FoWCS have organised the next Bags2School clothing and textile collections. The next two collections will be Wednesday 6th March and Thursday 25th April. Previous collections have made lots of money for school, so please start saving up any unwanted clothing, bedding, towels and shoes!

Parent Governor

Following the recent call for Parent Governor Nominations, we are happy to extend Mr Blagrove's term, as he stood unopposed. Thank you for your continued role as Parent Governor.

Attendance

At White Court School, good attendance is an important part of school life. The Government's expectation is that all children achieve 'Good' attendance above 96%, with any attendance below 90% classed as 'Persistent Absence'. If your child falls into this category, we want to work with you to improve their attendance. Missing school has a huge impact on children, both academically and socially. The table below shows how much lost learning occurs when children are absent from school.

Descriptor	Attendance	Days absent	Learning hours lost
Cause for concern	95%	9.5	47.5
Unsatisfactory	90%	19	95
Serious cause for concern	86%	27	135
Critical	80%	38	190

Clean Air Heroes

As part of our work in school to reduce air pollution and encourage active travel, we are one of the pilot schools taking part in Clean Air Heroes. As well as doing our bit to help the environment and reduce congestion outside of school, the scheme will pledge money to Colchester Zoo, to help save the rhinos.

Currently, 72% of children walk, scoot or cycle to school which is fantastic! The remaining 28% travel by car. For those of you who Park and Stride, your data is included in the walk category.

Our aim for the next Clean Air Heroes round is to reduce the number of children who travel by car even further! The greater the reduction, the more money pledged to help the rhinos! If we can get our walk, scoot and cycle percentage to 75% we will achieve **Bronze**, 80% will achieve **Silver** and **85%** will achieve **Gold**! Fingers crossed we can help save the environment and rhinos!



After School Club

With the increasing popularity of After School Club we would like to remind you how important it is to book in advance. Many days of the week are full, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Forms are available online and from the school office.

Upon receipt of these forms we will confirm your place at After School Club and an invoice will follow. Please be aware that refunds will not be given for non-attendance once a booking has been made unless a minimum of 2 weeks' notice is given. For full terms and conditions please see the website.

After School Club runs from 3:15 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. when the school building is locked and the site team leave. Please be aware that collections after this point are subject to fines of £10 per child, per fifteen minutes, in order to pay the staff to stay and care for these children.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the school office.

School Lunches

When booking your child's school lunch, please talk to them about the choice made for each day. We are noticing a growing number of children who have an option which they do not like. For example, children who have the jacket potato option but do not like jacket potato.

We are also noticing that some packed lunch boxes do not follow our Healthy School ethos. Please see the school website, under the 'Menu' tab for links to informative websites. Also, following advice

from Essex County Council, please ensure that if you send in grapes or cherry tomatoes with your KS1 child, they are cut into halves (lengthways), to avoid choking.

Food Safety Reminder

Please remember, we are a **nut free school**. We have several children in our school with severe food allergies to peanuts or nuts. It is important that there is strict avoidance to these foods in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. We are asking for your help to provide the children with a safe school environment.

Any exposure to peanuts or nuts may cause a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are ask that you do not send any peanut or nut containing products to school with your child. If your child has eaten peanuts or nuts before coming to school, please be sure your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school.



RED NOSE DAY

Comic Relief's red nose day will be on Friday 15th March 2019. Children are welcome to wear non-uniform on this day, preferably with something RED. Please can the children bring in a donation, all proceeds go to Comic Relief.

Expert Child Health advice at your fingertips

Parents and carers across mid Essex can now find NHS advice at their fingertips to help look after their children's health.

The free Mid Essex Child Health app is designed to help parents and carers of children aged from birth to 11 years recognise when their child is unwell; offering handy advice on some of the most common childhood illnesses and where to seek further treatment, including information signposting to the relevant local services.

Conditions covered within the app include:

- *Coughs, colds and flu*
- *Diarrhoea and vomiting*
- *Chicken pox and measles*
- *Earache and tonsillitis*
- *Wheezing and breathing difficulties including bronchiolitis and asthma*
- *Headlice, threadworms*
- *Bumps, bruises and accidents*

Information on mental health and wellbeing, healthy lifestyles and advice on some more serious conditions like meningitis and sepsis are also covered. There's also a handy section about when you should keep your child home from school.

The app is available for download on smartphones and tablets from the [Google Play](#) Store and the [Apple app](#) store by searching 'Mid Essex Child Health'.

For more information visit <https://midsexccg.nhs.uk/livewell/startwell/childhood-illnesses>.

NHS
Mid Essex
Clinical Commissioning Group

Get expert advice for childhood illnesses at your fingertips.

Search Mid Essex Child Health

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

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

28th January Year 1 Design Technology Morning letter
30th January FoWCS Quiz Night letter/form
1st February Nursery Class Super Heroes Day letter
5th February Year 5 Guided Reading letter
7th February Parents' Consultation Evening letter
11th February Spring Curriculum Newsletters
12th February Year 1 Boydells Farm Trip letter
13th February Early Years' Nursery Class Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

February

Thursday 14th Foundation Stage Parent Event 9.15 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.
Friday 15th **HOUSE TROPHY - NON UNIFORM DAY: Blyton and Dickens**

Half Term 18th – 22nd February

March

Friday 1st Book Fair – Year 1 Playground 3.15 p.m.
Saturday 2nd FoWCS Quiz Night (Adults only) 7p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start – School Main Hall
Tuesday 5th Year 2 Parent Event – 1.45 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.
Wednesday 6th FoWCS **Bags2School** Collection - drop off before 9.30 a.m. Main Entrance
Wednesday 6th Parents' Consultation Evening – **No Extra Curricular Activities**
Thursday 7th World Book Day – further information to follow
Thursday 7th Last Book Fair
Thursday 7th Parents' Consultation Evening – **No Football Club (Premier Sport)**
Friday 15th **Red Nose Day Non-Uniform Day** – wear something red
Tuesday 19th Year 1 'Space' Parents Event 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. – Main Hall
Thursday 21st Nursery Class Spring Craft Event 9.20 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday 26th Year 1 'Phonics Screening Meeting/Phonics Workshop – 9.15 a.m. Main Hall
Wednesday 27th Year 3 Fire Safety – further information to follow
Wednesday 27th FoWCS Mother's Day Secret Shopper Event – further details to follow
Wednesday 27th Last KS2 Extra Curricular Activities
Thursday 28th Foundation Stage Parent Event 9.15 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.

April

Tuesday	2 nd	Year 1 Boydells Farm Visit
Tuesday	2 nd	FoWCS Easter Egg Hunt – further details to follow
Wednesday	3 rd	Year 1 Boydells Farm Visit
Friday	5 th	Last day of Spring Term

Easter Break 8th April – 22nd April

Tuesday	23rd	Non-pupil day – No school for children
Thursday	25 th	FoWCS Bags2School Collection - drop off before 9.30 a.m. Main Entrance
Monday	29 th	Year 5 Flatford Residential

May

Monday	6th	Bank Holiday
Monday	13 th	KS2 SATs
Friday	17 th	FoWCS Inflatables Day/Non Uniform Day – further information to follow
Tuesday	21 st	Class/Team Photographs

June

Tuesday	4 th	Year 2 Visit to Jimmy’s Farm – further information to follow
Monday	10 th	Kingswood Residential

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