

SEPTEMBER 2024

27.9.24



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

# Newsletter

## RE Gold Day Celebrations

Our school was a sea of golden bunting, balloons and outfits last Wednesday as we celebrated being awarded the prestigious Gold Mark in Religious Education. To mark this significant achievement, we had a fun-filled day with a range of activities that highlighted our strong Christian values and ethos. After a morning of workshops, everyone gathered in the hall for a delicious buffet lunch which was served by the staff. The children eagerly enjoyed an array of treats in the festive atmosphere, bringing the whole school together.



The day ended with a special Collective Worship which offered the chance to share the day's learning and celebrate the values that underpin life here at school. The children's pride in their achievements was clear to see and we all enjoyed a special picture slideshow set to music (*Gold* by Spandau Ballet of course!) to end the celebration! Thank you for those who were able to join us for this very special occasion.

## Opening of The Grove (our new-build)



What a very special morning we had yesterday as we joined together to open and dedicate The Grove! During the service we thought about how, just like our building has been built on strong foundations, Jesus taught us to build our lives on God's love. We were joined by Bishop Sam Corley who officially opened our building. It was a joy to share this occasion with many special guests who had been instrumental in bringing a dream, that I had seven years ago, to life.

The service provided the opportunity to thank everyone who had been involved, including you - our parents/carers - whose support of FOWS are helping to raise the percentage that we have to pay towards the build.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

This morning we have raised an incredible £517.03 for Macmillan Cancer Support. What a great achievement! Not only have we raised a huge amount, the event brought the whole school community together and it was also wonderful to welcome some of the villagers too. Thank you for all of your support in both the donation of cakes and money. Thank you to our wonderful Y6s for hosting the event - you did a great job!

## Head Boy and Head Girl

I know that some of you are wondering why there are two children who are wearing a different colour school jumper to the others. Do not worry, we are not changing our uniform! This year I decided to add the role of Head Boy and Head Girl into our school structure and, so that we all know who they are, they have been given teal jumpers. Eleven of our Y6s applied for this role and I found it harder to select than when I'm carrying out staff recruitment! Their applications and interviews were spectacular. After a rigorous process, we are delighted to introduce you to our Head Boy, Arlo and our Head Girl, Sofia.



## Family Breakfast

We are very much looking forward to our family breakfast next Tuesday, the 1st October. Please join us in the hall where we will be serving food from 8:15am. This must be pre-booked and is charged at just £2.50 per breakfast. Please use ParentMail to do this. Once breakfast is finished, the children will go out onto the playground or into class, depending on the time. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Head Lice

We have had reports of head lice in school. We need to tackle this together, so please can you take the time to check your child/ren's hair over the weekend and treat if necessary. Thank you.

## French Day

Next Friday we will be holding a French day. This will take a similar format to our Golden RE day where the children will be in mixed-age groups and will be taking part in six different activities throughout the day. The day will start with a French breakfast, so do not worry about giving your children something to eat at home. Miss Byrne will also be serving a French themed lunch. The children are invited to wear red, white and blue (again no football strips please); this time, we would appreciate a donation of £1 for the privilege of not having to wear their uniform! This will go towards the cost of the breakfast.

## Curriculum Evenings

Thank you to all of those who have attended the Curriculum Evenings over the past two weeks. Our final evening is for those who have children in Oak; this is being held on Monday evening, starting at 5:30pm in their classroom. The slides for each of the evenings can be found on the class pages on our school website. As usual, the turnout for these meetings have been very low and so at the moment we are discussing whether we will be repeating these next year.

## The Trust Appeal Fund

At the Curriculum Evenings, I have said that I would share exact figures about the Trust Appeal Fund. At the beginning of this academic year, there was £8,397.86 in this account. We have used £1,500 to pay towards new reading books that match our phonics scheme; this was price-matched from the English Hub. We have also used £2,000 to pay for new furniture, mainly in The Grove. As already communicated throughout the year last year, all fundraising from FOWS is going towards the £41,409.96 that we have to pay for The Grove. This will ease some pressure on the school budget. Can I encourage you to make a regular contribution to the Trust Appeal (especially as we have lost a number of contributors as their children have now moved onto high school)? I will send information out about this separately. Many thanks.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

The following clubs are running this term:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
At The Ark: Obstacle	At The Ark: Cooking and craft	At The Ark: Lego and Construction	At The Ark: Forest School Activities	At The Ark: Movie Night
Starting on 11th November, football club with Mini Stars Football Club for Children in KS1 and KS2.	Sports with Mr Parrish for KS1		Sports with Mr Parrish for KS2	
	Craft Club with Mrs Finney for KS1			
	Art Club with Mrs Savage and Miss Davies for KS2			

## Dates for October

Monday 30th September	5:30pm	Oak's Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 1st October	8:15am	Family breakfast
Friday 4th October	All day	French Day
Monday 7th October	10am	Harvest Service in church
Wednesday 9th October	All day	Oak's visit to Cadbury World
Monday 14th October	8:30am onwards	Individual and sibling photographs
Wednesday 16th October	1:30pm— 4pm	Autumn Fair hosted by Y6
Friday 25th October	3:15pm	Finish for half-term
Friday 25th October	5pm— 6:30pm	School Disco

*I wish you all a lovely weekend full of fun and laughter!*

*Every blessing,*

*C Mackenzie*