



# Newsletter



No. 15

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7th January 2022

[www.whitnashprimaryschool.com](http://www.whitnashprimaryschool.com)

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Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. We thank all parents who sent gifts to staff for Christmas, it is never expected but we are always so appreciate of your kindness.

We know that some of our families Christmas' were spoilt somewhat by Covid, and we wish anyone isolating a speedy recovery.

This week we have written to parents to notify you all of a change that school are endeavouring to make with best intention. As you'll be aware, we are experiencing ongoing school pupil absence due to COVID. As the Omicron variant increases nationally, this is bound to impact Whitnash for the foreseeable weeks.

As you know, we have always provided work via the school website for those children in isolation who are either, awaiting a result, or are well enough to undertake their schoolwork due to their recovery.

In order to improve our provision for our pupils where education in school is disrupted, we wanted to improve communication with families in these situations. Therefore, on the **second day** of any possible COVID absence a generic email will be sent. This email will just signpost families and children to the work on the website, if their circumstance allows e.g. for if your child is well and able to complete school work.

This is a generic worded email, but only intended for those recovered or for those well but awaiting a result. On the **third day** of an absence, teachers will endeavour to make contact with families to check on a child's well-being and support with questions relating to their remote learning during isolation.

We are fully aware that families will have been liaising with the school office about the nature of the absence and ask that families continue to do this. Whilst we want to express our thanks to the majority of parents who have been incredibly proactive and supportive in all matters relating to Covid and pupil attendance, in some cases parents have not notified school for any reason for absence. This has unfortunately meant that time is being spent calling parents for reasons. As you can appreciate, it is vitally important that we keep on top of pupil absence and any possible Covid outbreaks to protect everyone's health, to fulfil our safeguarding duty as a school, and to protect our staffing levels and ability to remain open.

We thank parents again for their quick and supportive adaption to the new school guidance and arrangements relating to Covid. Again, in the majority of situations parents have been simply wonderful, supportive and understanding. However, there are situations where children have been sent to school when there are positive cases within a household without parents testing their children or informing school. School have been swiftly proactive in identifying these situations and supporting families to immediately resolve the matter and to understand the reasons for the school's decision making/policy/risk assessment. Whilst we fully understand that we are all terribly fed-up with Covid and the disruption to our lives, we are trying to protect for the greater good e.g. to keep education running, without interruption, for as many pupils as possible. We also make it clear that we cannot provide high quality education and maintain our standards in health, safety and safeguarding if we face a staffing crisis or mass pupil absence. Like the national measures are intending to avoid an NHS crisis, we are also continually trying to avoid a crisis situation on a daily basis in school. We ask everyone for their full cooperation to keep infection out of our school as much as possible. The most important way you can help is to test your children if they are unwell with any illness, not matter how mild and if in any doubt test them and inform us about Covid in your household.

I have met with representatives from Public Health and the Local Authority today and have fully agreed with the school's ongoing, cautious approach to Covid.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

Mrs Ellison, Headteacher

### Sad Goodbyes

Today we say goodbye, good luck and a huge thank you to Miss Hartnett. She has worked with our school over the last few years supporting our children in the capacity of a higher level teaching assistant.

She has done some sterling work for our school and we can't thank her enough for her contributions she has made to Whitnash. I know that many children will be equally sad to see her go.

Goodbye and good luck.



We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and are feeling fresh and ready for the start of a brand new year!

Sometimes the start of a new year can be a bit a daunting, and there might be a lot that we need to do, there may be some things that we aren't looking forward to, but there will also be so many things to be excited for and so many opportunities to be had.

So lets focus on the positives and think about what we are thankful for. It's a time to reflect on the year of 2021 and set goals for 2022.

Try one, or all, of the below activities throughout this week:

1. Write down your top 3 highlights from the last year (2021)
2. Write down 3 goals you want to set yourself for this next year (2022).
3. Write down ways in which you can support yourself over this next year if there might be difficult times.

Useful link: <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

## Word Count

Class	TOTAL	Words read
Pine	238,225	56,424
Cedar	200,682	21,964
Maple	282,088	2,364
Sycamore	359,542	16,684
Juniper	95,663	0
Ash	2,870,633	33,595
Elm	4,946,685	495,003
Oak	6,479,930	9,814
TOTAL	15,473,448	635,848

So, word count winners this week are ...

### ELM

What a total !!

Well done to Gurvi and Amélie who have both achieved their Millionaire status, and to Joel for achieving his 2 million status.

A super end to last year.

Keep up the amazing reading in 2022.



Keep reading! Mrs Norris

## Well Done Hazel & Maple





### Whitnash Art Exhibition

East Lodge, Jephson Gardens, Willes Road,  
Leamington Spa CV32 4ER

We have arranged a special viewing of the Whitnash  
Exhibition at Jephson Gardens on Saturday 15th  
January at 11am—1pm.

It will also be opening to the public on  
Wednesday 12th January 2022 until  
Sunday 6th February 2022,  
10.30am—3.30pm.

The gallery is shut on Mondays and  
Tuesdays.

All visitors would be expected to  
follow national Covid guidance for  
public spaces.



## Maple Make Exploding Volcanoes!



This week in Geography we created  
our own exploding volcanoes as an  
introduction into our topic 'Extreme  
Earth'.



We also  
took part  
in hot seating  
pretending to be the  
characters Tranio and  
Livia from our new book  
Escape from Pompeii.



Class	Allocated PE day
Holly / Ivy	Thursday
Hazel / Hawthorn	Wednesday
Pine / Cedar	Tuesday & Wednesday
Maple / Sycamore	Maple - Monday & Friday Sycamore - Friday
Juniper	Monday
Ash / Elm	Thursday
Oak	Friday

### Friday Achievements



Friday achievements are posted on our website each week.

Please go to:

[www.whitnashprimaryschool.com](http://www.whitnashprimaryschool.com)



Thank you to everyone who has activated their Parent Pay account.

**Parent Pay is not only a system for paying in money, it is also our main source for communication with parents and carers and we would not want you to miss important information**

If you have not already done so can you please activate your Parent Pay account. You won't need to register a payment card and no bank details are requested. This is only asked for when you make a payment. However, you can pay cash at any store showing the PayPoint Logo.

For your nearest PayPoint store go to:  
<https://consumer.paypoint.com/>

Thank you for your co-operation.



### Don't let your child miss out on school milk after their 5th birthday

When your child turns 5, your child's supply of free milk finishes. However, if you would like to pay for your child to receive milk we have made arrangements with Cool Milk to supply milk at a subsidised cost.

#### What you need to do:



Visit [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) as soon as possible and select "Register your child for milk here", then follow the on-screen instructions to register and pay.

If your child is registered for Free School Meals (i.e. NOT the Universal Free School Meals) the school can continue to supply your child with free milk. Please let the office know if you wish this to continue.

Should you have any queries regarding your child's registration or milk supply in general, please do not hesitate to contact Cool Milk directly at [customerservices@coolmilk.com](mailto:customerservices@coolmilk.com).

### Holidays 2021/22

25.10.21 - 29.10.21	Half Term
20.12.21 - 01.01.22	Christmas Holiday
21.02.22 - 25.02.22	Half Term
11.04.22 - 22.04.22	Easter Holiday
02.05.22	May Day
30.05.22 - 03.06.22	Half Term
21.07.22	Summer Holidays

### INSET DAYS

Thursday 2nd September 2021  
Friday 3rd September 2021  
Tuesday 4th January 2022  
Monday 28th February 2022  
Thursday 21st July 2022

What's on ...		Please note that these dates are subject to change	
<b>January 2022</b>			
4	Tuesday	DAY	INSET DAY— closed to pupils
5	Wednesday	DAY	Pupils back to school
18	Tuesday	3.30pm	KS1 SATS Parent Meeting
24	Monday	DAY	School Photographer
<b>February 2022</b>			
7-11	Week	Week	Internet Safety Week
8	Tuesday	DAY	Internet Safety Day
16	Wednesday	3.30-5.30pm	Parents Evening
17	Thursday	3.30-6.00pm	Parents Evening
18	Friday	3.15pm	Break up for Half-Term
21-25	Week	Week	Half-Term
28	Monday	DAY	INSET day - School Closed to pupils
<b>March 2022</b>			
3	Thursday	DAY	World Book Day

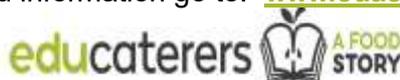
### Claim your free school meal today

- ✓ Get your child a tasty nutritious meal every day.
- ✓ Save over £400 a year and hours of time on making packed lunches.
- ✓ Our school gets over £1,300 for every registered pupil.

To find out if you are eligible go to:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals)

For menu information go to: [www.educaterers.co.uk](http://www.educaterers.co.uk)



## Lunch Menu - 10 January 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday
Organic Pork Meatballs	Sausage & Bacon Omelette	Roast Beef	Chicken Pie	Breaded Fish Fillet & Chips
(v) Vegetable Sausages	(v) Quorn Korma (very mild)	(v) Veggie Bolognese & Noodles	(v) Veggie Fingers	(v) Quorn Nuggets
(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese	(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese	(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese	(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese	(v) Jacket Potato with Cheese
Flapjack	Homemade Sponge	Homemade Fruit Crumble Ice Cream	Up Beet Chocolate Cake	Dinky Doughnuts

Any vegetarian dishes are display with a (v)