

White Spire Newsletter

December 2017

Through Learning to Independence



It's the most wonderful time of the year...

We have lots of exciting events happening this month.
Here's some dates for your diary.

Tuesday 5th December
Monday 11th December
Thursday 14th December
Monday 18th December
Tuesday 19th December
Tuesday 19th December

Drayton Manor Trip
Primary Nativity Performance
Christmas Dinner
Primary Disco
Secondary Disco
School Closes for Christmas Holidays

Miss Brown & Miss Popham joined our team in October.

They have both settled in well and we are delighted to welcome them to our school community.



30p per day



Breakfast Club

8.20am - 8.35am in the school dining room.

30p per day



Cereal, Toast, Fruit and Fruit Juice

New Curriculum for September 2018

White Spire is in the process of developing an exciting new curriculum across the whole school. Pupils from KS1 through to KS5 will be assessed on three strands: Academic, Social and Emotional, Independent Life and Work Skills.

The key focus will still be English, Maths and core subjects with a link between subjects through topic in lower school and projects in upper school. This will ensure the curriculum is relevant to our pupils and they will begin to make connections rather than gather knowledge in isolation.

Upper school will be able to select projects and gain accreditations in a meaningful way which will enable our pupils to flourish across all strands. An example in KS5 could be Event Planning whereby the pupils would choose an event such as a craft fair and go about planning, organising and delivering it. If you would like to offer your ideas for projects please contact the school via email and we will pass them on to the teaching staff and pupils.

The criteria for a project:

- Written
- Communication
- Listening
- Mathematical
- Problem Solving
- Planning
- Organisation
- Initiative
- Linking Ideas
- Team Working
- Independence
- Strategic Thinking

E-Safety - Keeping Children Safe

You may have seen news reports about inappropriate children's videos on YouTube.

These are videos that, at first, appear to be for children, as they include cartoon characters such as Peppa Pig, or characters from Disney films such as Frozen. However, later on the videos become violent or disturbing.

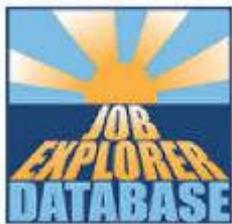
The videos can appear in YouTube search results when children look for genuine children's videos.

YouTube says that such videos will be age-restricted if they are reported by users, so they cannot be viewed by anyone under 18.

The YouTube Kids app **automatically filters out inappropriate content**. However, YouTube explains that "no algorithm is perfect" and "your child might find content you don't want him or her to watch".

To help protect your child in YouTube Kids, you can set parental controls and change settings: tap the 'Lock' icon in the bottom corner of any page, enter your custom passcode and click 'Settings'.





First JED (Job Explorer Database) is a great resource we use in school to get students thinking about the world of work.

You can access quizzes which help young people to think about what is important to them when they start thinking about work. They can access a subject search which helps them to link job ideas to their favourite subjects and look at how different job roles link together - e.g. healthcare related jobs for example.

We are pleased to let you know that we have made arrangements for you to use this at home with your children, using the details below. Please be aware this is a product we pay for in school, and is only for White Spire students and their families. Please do not post this access code anywhere that is publicly available.

Use Jed at Home

If you want to use Jed from home, then you need your establishment's **Access Code**. This code is made up of eight letters and numbers and is unique to your establishment. Your Access code is:

You use your Access Code like this:

Visit the Careerssoft home page by searching for Careerssoft with any search engine, or by typing www.careerssoft.co.uk **hzmzk75b** into your browser address bar.

On the Careerssoft home page, look for the 'sign in' link and click on it.

On the sign-in page, enter your Access Code, and follow the instructions.

Important note

Your Access Code is for use only by the people entitled to use the product on your licence. Usually that means the staff and students of the site named on the licence.

Please ensure that your Access Code is only available to people who are allowed to use the product on your licence. You must not put your Access Code on any publicly-accessible web pages. If the server detects that your Access Code is publicly available or is being misused, it will deactivate that Access Code.



News from the PE Department



We are very happy and lucky to have a new member of staff to the PE team, Sophie Brown. Sophie was a Professional Great British Badminton player. She started competing competitively at the age of 15 and by the age of 17 was given a place on the World Class Programme. She represented England in such tournaments as; Youth Commonwealth Games, World University Games and World Senior Championships which were held in Indonesia. In 2014 she won the Welsh International Challenge mixed doubles title, as well as winning the Dutch International Women's Doubles title in 2015.

Sophie will be taking on all of the Primary fixtures for the rest of the school year and we all wish her the very best of luck.



This year's Tag Rugby Tour is taking place in Dublin on the 7th & 8th June 2018. A number of students have been helping to fund raise for the school tour. Students were helping with bag packing at Sainsbury's in Bletchley on Friday the 6th of October 2017. They worked hard and raised over £300.00 on the day. We would like to thank Sainsbury's, Bletchley and Debbie Dixon for all their help and we will be returning next year for more fundraising.

This academic year the school have entered into a Primary Football League and have been playing their hearts out, showing great effort and amazing enthusiasm. They have played exceptionally well and shown to have the skills to make a really great team. Thank you to all the Parents and Guardians that have come to the games and supported the team. Your support is greatly appreciated by all.

Key stages 3, 4 and 5 have made a strong start to the football season with Reed Education. They have played many games against a number of schools. They have all shown good team work and have represented the school well. They have won almost all of their games. Well done!



Spring / Summer Term Dates 2018

Tuesday 2nd January	Inset Day - School Closed
Wednesday 3rd January	School Opens for Pupils
Friday 9th February	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 19th February	School Opens for Pupils
Friday 23 March	School Closes for Easter Holidays
Monday 9th April	School Opens for Pupils
Monday 7th May	School Closed for Bank Holiday
Friday 25th May	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 4th June	Inset Day - School Closed
Tuesday 5th June	School Opens for Pupils
Friday 20th July	School Closes for Summer



White Spire School Karate Club starting in the New Year

Juniors Tuesdays age 7-11
Seniors Thursdays age 12+
Initial 5 week course starts Tuesday 9th January 2018



Limited spaces.
£4.00 per session



Thank you all for your wonderful support at our recent coffee morning. We raised an outstanding £230.40 For Children In Need

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...

We are getting to that time of year when snow may well prevent the school from being open.

The 'Emergency School Closure' system for schools to use, to alert the public if the school needs to close at short notice, has been updated.

The new system can be accessed at www.mkschoolclosures.org

