



Welcome Back

What a wonderful start to the long awaited term! We are delighted to welcome back children, parents and staff! We are also excited to welcome new families in our school community, and we are looking forward to leading children through wonderful new experiences. The year is going to be busy as usual and quite different from the norm! It is fantastic to see how well the children have adapted to the new routines and systems including staggered playtimes, lunchtimes and hygiene measures. The children and staff have been organised into their own little class pods. We are looking forward to working together in order to achieve the best outcomes for all of our pupils. As always, we are very grateful for your support. We want to make sure that the transition is a smooth and happy one for all. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns or worries about your child.

Our Curriculum Themes for 2020/21 Academic Year

Autumn Term: Love and War

Spring Term: Hot and Spicy

Summer Term: Fact or Fantasy



Curriculum Areas

All pupils have been following a recovery curriculum consisting of English, Maths, PSHCE and Life Skills. This curriculum has been designed to get all students back to pre-lockdown levels of attainment and to deal with the isolating effects of the lock-down.

English

Through adapted Read, Write Inc Phonics Programme, the pupils will revisit and develop their reading and writing skills. The extended writing programmes will be theme based with focus on a variety of text genres and their structures including: stories, biographies, diaries, explanation and discussion. There will be direct emphasis on developing spelling, grammar, punctuation, adventurous vocabulary and improving handwriting.

Maths

The principal focus of mathematics teaching and learning in Year 8/9 will be to ensure that pupils develop confidence and mental fluency with whole numbers, counting, and place value. This will involve working with numerals, words, and the other four operations including practical and concrete concepts. There will be emphasis on comparing quantities such as length, mass, capacity/volume, time and money. The pupils will work with statistics and geometry to solve real life problems.

PSHCE

The PSHCE Curriculum will develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self esteem, risk management, team working and critical thinking in the context of three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world.

RE

In line with The Milton Keynes Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, we will learn through enquiry led approach about various religions, and consider key questions including believing, belonging, behaving and reflecting.

Humanities

Through our termly curriculum themes, the pupils will explore Britain's past and that of the wider world. They will examine complexity of people's lives and the process of chronological change. The areas covered will include: World War II, the development of 'British Empire' in India and a study of 'Mayan Civilisation'.

In Geography, the pupils will learn about diverse places, people and resources, and natural and human environments as well as processes. The pupils will also recognise interaction between physical and human processes such as sustainable development, effects of urbanisation and climate.

Science

Through enquiry and investigation, the pupils will learn about human evolution, the structure of Earth, materials and chemicals.

Computing

The pupils will use Information Technology to create programs, systems and a range of content related to their curriculum themes. As well as research and e-safety, the pupils will learn about copyrights and editing of materials.

ART and DT

The pupils will develop their skills in drawing, graphic design, craft and tapestry. In DT, pupils will design, make and evaluate the models of shelters, masks and Mayan artefacts.

Performing Arts

In performing arts, the focus will be on creating socially distanced drama pieces and percussion instruments.

PE

The pupils will take part in a variety of socially distanced sports activities with various protective measures in place.

Free School Meals Online Application



If you think your child may be entitled for free school meals, you can register and find out if your child is eligible by visiting a quick and easy system:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims/>

Our school menu and order form can be downloaded from the website:

https://www.whitespireschool.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/Lunch_Order_Form.pdf

Uniform

Please ensure your child wears correct school uniform and each item is labelled with your child's name.



Equipment



Please note: the children will not need to bring in their own pencil cases or resources. Please help us by not sending in any toys or games.

Daily Home and School Communication



Please ensure the school diary is sent into school every day and check it for regular updates.



Our School Website is updated regularly for key updates, term dates, events and other useful information. Follow the link below:

<https://whitespireschool.org.uk/school-calendar>