



# White Spire School

## Autumn Term

Welcome back, we hope you have all had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy some good weather. We look forward to a busy term with lots of fun activities.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or queries!

**Classes 11,  
12, 13 and 14  
Newsletter  
Autumn Term  
2024**

## Curriculum

During the Autumn Term we will be covering the following areas -

### English

- Our topic is '**Music**' with a range of texts being covered including Les Misérables, The Pied Piper, Peter and the Wolf or the Nutcracker. We will be focusing on speaking and listening skills and developing reading skills. This will include reading with expression and answering questions on a text. We will also continue working on developing handwriting skills and spelling patterns.

### Maths

- Our focus will be on data handling. We will look at how data is collected and presented. We will then look at extracting information from different data. Later we will collect our own data and then present it through methods such as a bar graph or a line graph. We will continue to work on mental maths skills including rapid recall of number facts and times tables.

### Science

- We will be looking at plants. This will include looking at and naming the different parts of plants. We will also look at how plants reproduce.

### Options

- As part of our options we will be working on a range of different activities depending on the option chosen. In art children will be looking at portraits. In D of E they will be developing physical skills.

### Computing

- We will be looking at being productive with a range of IT equipment to develop our digital skills.

### RE

- Over the term we will be looking at Judaism and Christianity. We will be looking at symbols and daily practises.

### PSHCE and Life Skills

- In PSHCE we will be looking at mental health and how we can look after our mental health. Later we will be looking at relationships. In life skills we will look at using a range of transport safely.

## Diaries

Please continue to check diaries daily for notes/points/ letters etc.



## Interventions and Clubs

Our lunchtime/breaktime clubs will continue this term and will focus on a variety of social skills and activities.



## PE

PE will continue to be twice weekly. Please make sure children come in wearing appropriate clothing to take part in activities.

## Trips

We will let you know about any trips that are going ahead via diaries.

## **Forthcoming Events/Dates:**

- 25<sup>th</sup> October – break up for half-term
- 4<sup>th</sup> November – back to school after half-term
- 21<sup>st</sup> November - Parents Evening
- 25<sup>th</sup> November – Careers week
- 20<sup>th</sup> December – break up for Christmas holidays



*Please check your child's diary for the latest updates and information on the dates.*

## Careers

Years 10 and 11 are important years for considering next steps. Children will take part in a careers week this term. Our theme this term will be **'Our Community at Work'**. During the week we will take part in a range of activities to promote awareness of careers as well as choices they have to make and when they will make them.

It is **vital** you continue to support children in this area.

### Year 10 Ways to Support

- \* Continue to support with the development of independence skills e.g. tying laces, money awareness and transport awareness.
- \* Look at MK College Website, Christian Foundation or MK Snap.
- \* Talk to your child about what they like doing and suitable jobs for the future. It is important to be realistic about the types of jobs available.
- \* Be prepared to discuss future ambitions and independence skills during EHCP meetings.

### Year 11 Ways to Support

- \* Be aware your child has the option to leave at the end of Year 11. This decision needs to be made by the end of **December**.
- \* Consider attending the MK College open day, if your child is thinking of leaving.
- \* Talk to your child about interests and choices.
- \* Make sure you attend the EHCP meeting, when asked.
- \* Make sure your child has a working/monitored email address for applications etc.
- \* Continue to work on developing independence skills at home e.g. awareness of money encourage/support using public transport.



## Attendance

We regularly monitor progress, targets and acquisition of new skills. The continual barrier to progress is attendance and that is why it is important you try to ensure regular attendance and punctuality in school. We continue to monitor individual attendance and class attendance. This is done weekly and a percentage is given.

### Poor attendance –

- \* Any absence affects the pattern of a child's schooling and regular absence will seriously affect their learning.
- \* Any pupil's absence disrupts teaching routines. It also impacts social groupings and activities.
- \* Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility.

### Good attendance -

- \* Promotes good working habits.
- \* Helps prepare students for future work roles and responsibilities.
- \* Helps to develop good social skills.
- \* Supports academic progress.



## 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](https://www.whitespireschool.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf/Lunch_Order_Form.pdf)

## Clever Never Goes

We continue to teach children about awareness of personal safety when out and about. Please support us by discussing this with your child. There are several websites that offer support in this area –

<https://clevernevergoes.org/>

[https://safety4kids.com.au/safety-zone\\_stranger-danger](https://safety4kids.com.au/safety-zone_stranger-danger)