



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 15,
16 and 17
Newsletter
Autumn Term
2024**

Curriculum

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

English

- Our main text is '**Treasure Island**'. We will be working on developing our reading skills including looking at how we can infer information. We will also be looking at linked non-fiction texts about Blackbeard, Pirates and Underwater Treasure. We will continue to work on learning basic spellings, presentation and speaking and listening skills.

Maths

- Our focus will be on knowledge of '**Money, Time and Temperature.**' We will continue to develop times tables knowledge and mental maths skills. We will be working on adding and subtracting amounts of money in real-life situations. Later on we will use a range of practical equipment to explore temperature and time. We will continue to work on mental maths skills including rapid recall of number facts and times tables.

Vocational Studies

- As part of our vocational work we will be looking at independent travel and try and make some local trips. We will also continue to work on cooking skills preparing simple meals and thinking about a budget.

RE

- This term we will be looking at Judaism and Christianity. We will look at the 10 commandments and how these impact daily life for these religions.

PSHCE

- We will be learning about mental health and factors that can impact our mental health such as drugs and alcohol. We will also continue to work on relationships.

Options for classes 15 and 16

- Sixth formers have selected an option from history, art or music appreciation this term. In history they will look at different eras and key events, in art we will work on producing a range of pieces. Music appreciation will focus on listening to and discussing pieces from different genres.

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.

Forthcoming Events/Dates:

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



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

Trips

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



Careers

Years 12 and 13 are important years for considering next steps. Year 14 need to have a clear idea of what they want to do and start applying for their next steps. We will take part in a careers week this term. Our theme this year 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 12 Ways to Support

- * Continue to support with the development of independence skills e.g. tying laces, money awareness, transport awareness, knowing their own address and birthday.
- * Look at and discuss MK College Website, Christian Foundation or MK Snap.
- * Talk to your child about what they like doing and suitable jobs for the future. Think about what they want to do at the end of Year 13. Be realistic when talking about jobs and possible college courses.

Year 13 Ways to Support

- * Be aware your child has the option to leave at the end of Year 13. This decision needs to be made by the end of **December**. We can support with applications, if needed.
- * Consider attending MK College open day, if your child is thinking of leaving.
- * Talk to your child about interests and choices.
- * Your child will have a meeting with Mrs White, our careers advisor, at some point during the year. Make sure you have discussed options with them.
- * Make sure you attend the EHCP meeting, when asked.
- * Continue to work on developing independence skills as home.

Year 14 Ways to Support

- * Your child will be leaving at the end of Year 14 which is **Friday 27th June 2025**. It is important you know and have applied for the next steps as soon as possible. This will enable us to support them with transition.
- * Attend MK College open day, if you are still unsure of courses available
- * Talk to your child about interests and choices. This will help them in their interview.
- * Your child will have a meeting with Mrs White, our careers advisor. Make sure you have discussed options with them.
- * Make sure you attend the EHCP meeting, when asked. Support them in attending interviews etc.
- * Continue to work on developing independence skills as home.

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 and class attendance on a weekly basis. Attendance is graded by colour green for no problems, yellow for concerns and we will monitor and red means a cause for concern. We have to share attendance data with the college or next step provider.

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 so may affect the learning of others in the same class.
- * Ensuring your child's regular attendance at school is your legal responsibility.

Good attendance -

- * Promotes good working habits helping prepare students for future work roles and responsibilities.
- * Helps to develop good social skills
- * Support 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



Personal Safety

As your child gets older they may want to go out more on their own. Please support them in being aware of safety measures e.g. trusted adults, stranger danger etc

Please make them aware of keeping phones and money safely upon them.

Also remind them about online safety, sharing of inappropriate messages and pictures.