

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021



# March Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope that everyone had a lovely weekend. What a wonderful Saturday with wall-to-wall sunshine! I am sure that, like me, it gave you a much-needed emotional well-being boost.

This is a short newsletter this month as it is accompanied by a, 'Return to School' document. This parent leaflet gives you all the information that you will need in preparation for the children returning to school next Monday. It is divided into two parts; part one focuses on organisation and procedures and part two focuses on teaching and learning, including our plans to support your child. Please take the time to read this through before 8<sup>th</sup> March so that the transition from lockdown to school is as smooth as possible. Thank you.

## World Book Day

World Book Day is on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March** and we are looking forward to seeing all the children's thematic learning in school or on Seesaw.



## Comic Relief: Red Nose Day



Comic Relief is on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**. We are currently discussing what we will be doing as a school to help raise money and bring a little cheer. Watch this space; further information will follow!

## Value in Focus

Our value in focus for this half term is **Justice**. Please share the Home/School value sheet as a family.

## Bikeability: Years 5 and 6

We are very fortunate that Bikeability can go ahead as planned this term, with COVID restrictions outside being far easier to manage. A Parentmail has been sent this afternoon with details of the scheme. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or you have not received the information.

## Easter Service

Unfortunately, our usual Easter Service in Rotherwick Church cannot take place this year. However, Marion has kindly put together collective worship resources to support the children in class.

### **The Governors Corner**

The Governing Body recognise and appreciate the admirable job all staff at Whitewater continue to do under these very challenging circumstances for us all. We wanted to thank them for the flexibility and resilience they continue to show to support all our pupils and parents/carers. This is, with no doubt, the toughest time in education in recent years, added to which we have the additional pressure of being a small school with finite resources and our continued, shared ambition to continuously improve. The school has been prioritising on providing a safe and stimulating physical environment for pupils in school as well as translating this into an engaging virtual environment for those learning remotely. We also recognise the significant strain that the last few weeks has had on the wider school community and the adjustments we have all had to make - pupils, parents/carers - to manage in this recent lockdown.

Our priority as a Governing Body so far this calendar year has been to support the school in its response to the current COVID-19 pandemic and to adjust our monitoring accordingly. Governors and staff continue share the highest aspirations for the school for each and every pupil at Whitewater. Unfortunately, we are not immune to the increasing financial pressure that many small schools are facing - the level of funding available has dropped significantly per pupil and this has been further exacerbated by the reduction in pupil numbers over the last 4 years. Governors continue to work in partnership with the school to address the school finances and ensure that the school stays financially solvent. As part of the School Leadership team, we are currently working through what changes might be necessary for the School to ensure that it can retain its vision, values and drive for school improvement whilst continuing to operate within the budget allocated by County.

Looking to the future and following the amazing fundraising efforts of parents, the school, the PTA, and Governors, in a renewed effort to drive it forward, has met with contractors over half term to enable them to quote for the new Woodland Walk and refurbishments to the Outdoor Learning Area. Provided the quotes meet our expectations in terms of quality and cost we will be looking to appoint a contractor in the coming weeks with the aim of having this project in place in the very near future. Thus providing an enriched space for the children to enjoy.

### **Final word...**

Do not forget it is Parent's Evening on Tuesday and Thursday this week!

Miss Edwards

**DATES LIST**

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March		Virtual Parents' Evening (4.00 pm to 6.30 pm)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day
		Virtual Parents' Evening (5.30 pm to 8.30 pm)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March		Children return to school
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March		Comic Relief: Red Nose Day
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	)	Bikeability (Years 5 and 6)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	)	
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April		End of Term (staggered 2 pm Finish)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April to	)	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	)	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April		Children return to school