



Fellowship, Courage and Creativity

No: 2 – October 2021

Dear Parents,

We have come to the end of our first half term –the change in weather and darker evenings really make it feel like autumn has now arrived!

This term the children in Fox Class have made a virtual trip to the Amazon Rain Forest. They have studied the geography of this area and found out what it is that makes it so special, not only for the local people, but also for people across the world. As well as work directed by their teachers, it has been great to see them take responsibility for some independent research during this topic

Hedgehog Class have enjoyed finding out about what it would be like to live in the Stone Age with no television, computers etc. Despite these terrible thoughts, they have produced some lovely written work and artwork during this topic. Finishing off the topic by building their own model of Stonehenge.

As part of their learning, Otter Class have been trying to convince the dastardly Evil Pea to return their bouncy balls. I understand that they have been concentrating so hard on their writing that they have now managed this and I am pleased to report that all the balls have now been returned to the reward jars.

The new children in Rabbit Class have settled in well to life at school. This term they have been demonstrating the skills of Superheroes both in their indoor and outdoor learning. They have really benefitted from the unusually summery weather we have had for most of this term and enjoyed the new layouts their teachers have put in place to support their learning.

Thank you once again for making me feel so welcome.

Have a great half-term holiday and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on **Tuesday November 2nd**.

Clocks go Back

Don't forget that the clocks go back during the night between the 30th and 31st October. Please remember to reset your clocks otherwise you will turn up for your appointments during the INSET day an hour early!

As parents you may want to talk about road safety, due to the shorter days and darker evenings, with your children over the holidays. Below are some links you may find useful:

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rosopa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-road-safety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Food Bank

Thank you once again for all of your generous donations to the Hart Foodbank. We had an amazing amount of food which will be given to our local community. Thank you to Rev Marion and her helpers for delivering the donations for us.

Y6 Secondary School Application Deadline

Don't forget the deadline for submitting your child's secondary school online application is **31st October**. Please inform the office if your child is moving on to private school or is going to be home educated.

Governors Corner

Since the start of the school year, Governors have been a regular presence in school, supporting staff, attending meetings and to drive forward our plans for the school.

Following the enforced COVID break, our regular monitoring visits are also commencing in person again, which will enable us to feel more connected and involved with school.

PTA

Here we are at the end of the first half term and I am sure that you will agree that the time has gone by very quickly. It has been brilliant to see all the children enjoying a more "normal" school environment and we have really enjoyed hosting PTA events and seeing our Whitewater community again!

Here's a quick reminder of what we have coming up after the half term break...

Bags2School – Thursday 11th November @ 9am

Half term is the perfect time to clear out your wardrobes and cupboards ready for our Bags2School collection! Bags will be coming out in book bags before half term but donations can also be made in standard bin bags. Please take a look at the Bags2School website for information on the type of items that can be collected; <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

Autumn Disco – Thursday 18th November

The discos are back! We are sure many of the children have missed their school discos and we are very excited to be holding our first one in 2 years in November! Further information and booking forms will be coming out on Parentmail after half term.

Christmas!

Plans are in the making for several festive activities and events for this year...so watch this space for more information about a wreath making workshop, carol service and more!

Finally, we wish you all a wonderful half term break and thank you as always for all of your support. Whitewater PTA.

Online Safety

With half term upon us I thought it relevant to share some handy tips for parents when it comes to children watching videos online. From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game-tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy. But the amount and availability of content online means that children may see something inappropriate. To understand what type of content might not be suitable and advice on how to help your child watch safely, watch this short [video guide](#).

The internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults. Find out what to do if [you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or what to do [if they already have](#).

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Catherine Cosgrove – Computing Lead

Parenting Smart (Place2Be)

The children's mental health charity, Place2Be, has launched a new website aimed at helping parents with typical situations they can find themselves in with their children.

Advice can be found on over forty topics including:

- Understanding sibling rivalry
- My child is lying, what does it mean, what should I do?
- My child has trouble going to sleep
- My child says 'I hate you!'
- Cultural identity: who am I?

The Parenting Smart website can be found here: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Safeguarding updates

As part of our annual review of our safeguarding procedures we have updated our Child Protection Policy and safeguarding Procedures. Follow the link below to find both of these documents on the policies page of our website.

[Whitewater CE Primary School - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies](#)

Attendance

At the end of this half term, the school's overall attendance stood at 90.71% Please remember to fill in a leave of absence form, available from the office, if you need to take your child out of school for any reason. If the absence is unauthorised then, as set down by the department of Education, a Penalty Notice can be issued. In Hampshire, Penalty Notices are issued when a pupil has had 10 or more half-day sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence, in the last 10 school week period.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings will be held virtually this term due to the rising COVID numbers. These will be set up on School Cloud and appointments will be able to be made from Tuesday 2nd November 2021. Details of how to access this system will be sent out on Monday 1st November via ParentMail. Our Parents Evening dates are Tuesday 9th November (3.40 pm to 6.30 pm) and Thursday 11th November (5.30 pm to 8.30 pm).

Open Morning for New Parents

If you have a child due to start school in September 2022, or know someone else who does, please come along to one of our Open Mornings on Wednesday 9th November or Wednesday 1st December. Applications for places open on the 1st November.

Children In Need: Friday 19th November 2021

We will be celebrating Children in Need 2021 this year – watch this space for our fundraising activities! We will be consulting with the children about their ideas and we will let you know our plans after half term.

Dinner Money

A reminder that dinner money should be paid in advance. For those who pay in advance for the next half term, the amount is £85.00. Any outstanding dinner money owed to the school must be paid as a matter of urgency. Schools are not obliged to provide a meal if there is an outstanding debt.

Options for the first day back (Tuesday 2nd November) are as follows:

- Vegetable Goujons
- Creamy Chicken Pasta and vegetables of the day

Extra Bank Holiday

I am sure that you are aware that in May there will be an additional Bank Holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this falls in the May half term holiday, it has been agreed that all Hampshire maintained schools will finish the end of the year a day early to ensure that both staff and children benefit from this extra holiday. Therefore the summer term will end on Thursday 21st July.

INSET DAYS 2021/2022

1st November 2021

4th January 2022

6th June 2022

Dates for your Diary

Mon 1 st November	INSET Day
Wed 3 rd November	Children's Flu Immunisation
Tues 9 th November	Open Morning for Prospective Parents Parents' Evening (3.40 pm – 6.30 pm)
Thurs 11 th November	Parents' Evening (5.30 pm – 8.30pm)
Mon 15 th November	School Photos (Individual)
Thurs 18 th November	School Disco (5.30 pm – 7 pm)
Fri 19 th November	BBC Children in Need
Wed 1 st December	Open Morning for Prospective Parents
Fri 17 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and School Christmas Dinner END OF TERM
Tues 4 th Jan 2022	INSET Day
Wed 5 th January	Children return to school

For more news and information please refer to:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/117488176319395

Our Website: www.whitewater.hants.sch.uk

Caroline Welch
Headteacher