



Whitewater C of E Primary School

## **Whitewater News: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

It has been an incredibly positive start to 2022. The children have been on fine form and the adults have been working tirelessly to ensure that learning is engaging and ambitious. We have been thrilled to see clear elements of the Whitewater Way take shape in the classrooms. Children have been successfully negotiating their way out of the 'Learning Pit', their contribution to lessons has been high and there are plenty of smiles on faces. All in all, we've all earned our weekend break!

Please accept my apologies for bombarding you with information this week. There is a lot happening at the moment which we want to keep you informed of such as the development of The Whitewater Way and our Class termly learning letters. Please rest assured that there won't be this amount every week! That being said, I will be writing a newsletter every two weeks. Information within the letter will include a paragraph from each class to share what the children have been learning, areas of school improvement, upcoming events, key dates and quick reminders. We hope that this will keep you regularly informed of what's happening in school.

### **In school...**

In every Whitewater Newsletter, we will hear from each teacher to find out about what has been happening in their class:

#### ***Mrs Joliffe says...***

This week Rabbits have been super excited about solving the mystery of the hat that appeared in our school! We now know how it got to Rotherwick as we have started reading a story by Steve Antony: The Queen's Hat.

We have been comparing numbers this week which involves knowing which numbers are worth more or less than each other. This depends both on understanding cardinal values of numbers and also knowing that the later counting numbers are worth more (because the next number is always one more).

Children were fascinated by the way their art work displayed outside turning into a science lesson in the rain. We then created an observation station and put strips of paper with black ink on it into cups of water (based on the principle of chromatography)! They enjoyed exploring ice in the mornings so much that we wanted to capture their excitement.



#### ***Mrs Rolph says...***

Otter Class have had a fun first two weeks settling back in and getting to know Mrs Rolph. They have all enjoyed talking about Christmas and sharing stories about pets. They have met the new class pets - stick insects! They have begun to find out about the adventures of The Queen's Hat and have sorted materials depending on whether they are hard, soft, natural or manmade. Mrs Rolph has been so impressed with the children's friendly manner and positive attitude to learning.

#### ***Mr Ralph says...***

Hedgehog Class have made a fantastic start to the New Year and have hit the ground running. The children have created a new Class Charter with the main promises to be resilient and to always try their best which has been evident by how they are approaching their learning. They have returned to a new Roman themed area in the classroom and have been enjoying the class book "Escape From Pompeii". This has led to the children creating rich and varied word banks. They have learned about the Roman invasion of Britain, different watercolour techniques along with some fantastic French and PE. I can't wait to see what the rest of the term has in store.



### ***Mr Greenley says...***

Fox Class has had a great start to the New Year. We have really worked on developing our resilience and embracing challenge. We have thrown ourselves into the Learning Pit and managed to navigate our way out through hard work, collaboration or support. We have focussed on the presentation of our work, already read a range of Greek myths, imagined what it would be like for gargoyles to come to life, found out about Charles Darwin's life and work, explored which of the ten plagues of Egypt was the worst and even fitted in two PE lesson. All in the space of a week!

### **Exciting School Visitor...**

Mr Greenley has been busy behind the scenes looking at ways to inspire and engage children in poetry. As a result, we are very excited to inform you that we have secured a visit from a poet, James Carter. James is a hugely engaging children's poet with a vast experience of working with children in schools. He will be visiting Whitewater on Tuesday 25th January. During his visit, he will start the day with some performances for EYFS and KS1 then a KS2 performance before running workshops across Fox, Hedgehog and Otter Classes. At the end of the day, those classes will meet back together to share and celebrate the work they have done.

After school, James will be selling and signing his books in the school hall. Zim Zam Zoom is his KS1 book and Weird, Wild and Wonderful for KS2. Each book will be at the cost of £8. Unfortunately James is unable to take card payments, so please bring cash for these purchases.

### **The Learning Pit...**

During the recent inset day, we spent time looking at the Learning Pit which was devised by an educationist called James Nottingham. The purpose of the Learning pit is to promote challenge and resilience in the classroom and help children understand that learning at its best is difficult and that the best learning happens when we struggle and are required to think hard. We recognise that it is an uncomfortable feeling when we find something difficult, but it is a necessary part of learning and we want to create growth mindsets where this is embraced and celebrated.

So, if your children say that there were in the pit today, please don't think it is a new behaviour strategy! Instead talk positively about it and share your own experience of finding something challenging and how you overcame it to be successful.

### **Isolation Learning Packs...**

We have been creating Isolation Learning Packs for each year group which can be found in the 'Class Learning' section of the 'Our Learning' page on our website. These packs are a list of suggested activities that can be completed if your child is unable to attend school but well enough to learn at home. There is an English, Maths and Topic activity for each day. These are from the Oak National Academy and each have a small video clip with a teacher giving instructions and explaining a task for the children to do during the video. Don't forget to continue reading at home regularly, both reading to an adult and enjoying books together.

Remember, we are here to help. Please contact us if you need any support accessing the learning.

### **Collective Worship...**

As part of our Collective Worship programme this half term, we are looking at the value of Peace. Key questions which we'll explore include: What is Peace? How can we find peace, even when it is difficult? Can peace exist without fellowship? In addition to this, we will look at key figures throughout history such as Martin Luther King. It would be great if you could find time explore these questions and share your thoughts at home with your children.

### **Yr R Applications September 2022**

This is a final reminder that the deadline date for Yr R Applications for September 2022 is January 15<sup>th</sup>. I am very pleased to share that our current predicted numbers for September are looking very positive. If you have not yet applied for a place for a younger sibling, you can do so by completing the online form that can be found following this link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

### **Results from Parent Questionnaire**

Many thanks to all those parents who took the time to complete the Parent Survey before the Christmas Holidays. The information that was shared has really helped us to shape the improvement priorities for the school moving forward.

Clearly, from the results shared below there is lots of work to be done but we are confident that by working together we will bring about the rapid progress needed.

Question	% of parents who agree or strongly agree
My child is happy in school	92%
My child feels safe in school	94%
My child makes good progress	66%
My child is taught well	70%
The school ensures that the pupils are well behaved	82%
The school deals effectively with bullying	57%
The school is well led and managed	43%
The School responds well to any concerns I raise	71%
The standard of communication is good	41%
I would recommend this school to another parent	76%
I know who the Governing Body are	88%
I know what the Governing Body do	84%

\* 49 responses received

All of the results and comments entered on the questionnaire will be shared in detail with the Governing Body. Later this half term we will share with you a summary of our school improvement plan outlining how we aim to address the various issues identified in the questionnaire. We intend to send out the survey again at the end of the summer term in order for us to evaluate the impact of our actions over the next two terms.

Thank you all for your support to ensure a smooth start to 2022. I have been thrilled to have such a successful first couple of weeks.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore  
Executive Head of School