



Whitewater C of E Primary School

Whitewater News: 28th January 2022

I'm not sure what's happened but 2022 seems to be flying by! As we approach the final weekend in January, I reflect on a month where the children and staff at Whitewater have achieved so much. Mr Golding and I speak daily to share what's been happening and it fills us with a warm, fuzzy feeling! The children have been focussed and engaged in their learning and have been showing our values through their behaviours. They have been a credit to you all. The staff have shown flexibility, positivity and a dedication to ensure that every lesson counts for every child. January can be a month which is cold, dark and a come down from Christmas...but I've loved it!

In school...

Time to find out about what has been happening in classrooms:

Mrs Joliffe says...

YR in maths spent a lot of time outdoors engaging in exploring 6,7 and 8. The aim of the week was understanding that one number can be made up from two or more smaller numbers. Their spiders with 8 legs are now hanging down from the ceiling above our maths area! We also went down to the woodland walk area with our clipboards using our RSPB birdwatch numicon record sheets to observe the birds visiting our birdfeeders. You can access these resources on their website.

In English we have been talking about the Queen's emotions when she lost her hat in the story. Rabbit Class came up with some amazing adjectives and recorded them. We all enjoyed joining in with James Carter during his fun filled poetry morning!



Mrs Rolph says...

Otter Class have had an enjoyable couple of weeks. We found out that the Queen's hat had travelled all around London. We wrote diary entries as if we were the Queen, describing our favourite parts of the journey. Many of us chose to write about the last part, when the hat landed on a baby's head. Next week, we shall find out about the Queen's knickers!

In maths, we have explored the pattern between numbers and created number sentences. We have been adding and subtracting using number lines too. We have enjoyed exploring different materials like plastic and metal, especially as we also had fun stretching, bending and twisting play dough!

As part of Collective Worship, we have spent time talking about Martin Luther King. We have been impressed with Otter's compassion and their desire that everyone should be treated equally.

Our time with the poet James, was amazing! We all enjoyed the day. We wrote a class poem together called Cranky Creatures, which we performed to the school, and wrote our own Happy poems too. These will soon be displayed around school and in our classroom on our Otterly brilliant work display!

Mr Ralph says...

Over the past two weeks Hedgehog Class have been working hard and I am very proud of all of them. The children have produced some fantastic writing describing the city of Pompeii before and after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Their description included sentences like Mount Vesuvius roared like thunder and molten, ruby red lava exploded towards the heavens sending a shockwave through the world and changing it forever. The children have done some great work with their fractions unit in maths. They have begun learning about the Roman Empire, the invasion of Britain and designing and creating their own mosaics. Following the success of the poetry day, the children have dedicated the rest of the week on creating poems about impossible gifts.



Mr Greenley says...

Fox Class have spent the last week climbing out of the learning pit using protractors to measure angle accurately in maths. It's been a bumpy ride but great resilience has been shown by all. Science, looking at evolution and inheritance, has led us to imagining what the children of Little Misses and Mr Men would look like with some very interesting results...make sure you ask your child! We have also completed our first long write of 2022 imagining what the Gargoyles would get up to if they were in Rotherwick. It has shown the very interesting view of what the children think their teachers get up to in school once all the pupils go home!

The visit of James Carter...

We were delighted to be able to welcome James Carter to Whitewater on Tuesday this week. The children were enthralled by him and his poetry (even if his poetry reading did get interrupted by "Dustbin Beaver" and "Cappuccino Grande" ringing him on his banana phone!) James ran workshops for all of the classes, sharing his experience of writing, and helping children develop their ideas further. The day ended with an opportunity for everyone to share part or all of their writing with the rest of the school and with James, along with a rendition of the banana song for Mr Golding. James was thrilled by the interest from children during the day who he described as responsive and creative. It was great to see the interest from the children in buying James' books after school.



Collective Worship...

The children showed great enthusiasm and compassion as we looked at the inspiration that was Martin Luther King last week as we further delve into the concept of peace. Rev. Marion supports our collective worship programme by delivering the assembly every Thursday morning. Together, we have decided to hold next Thursday's worship in the church instead of the school hall. This is something which we plan to do every three to four weeks. Having such a wonderful church on our doorstep seems like an opportunity that we should be making more of!

EYFS for September 2022

We're delighted to share that the number of first and second choice applications we received for children starting school in September was the highest in recent years. Driving up pupil numbers is an important part of whole school improvement as it brings in greater finances which we can put back into the school and generate positive momentum. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who supported the marketing process and the school by promoting our Open Mornings through social media and a significant leaflet drop. Your support is very much appreciated.

Stickers

Since Christmas, we have been thrilled with the effort and application the children have been showing in their learning. Children have been embracing challenge and showing great resilience when they find themselves in the learning pit. In addition, the general behaviour in and around school has been of a high standard. Earlier this week, we introduced gold, silver and bronze stickers which the children can earn through effort and quality in their work and by demonstrating our school values. These stickers lead to House Points which children collect throughout the week. We want the children to recognise that we value their efforts and contribution to school life and appreciate their efforts.

2.2.22

Our PTA would love us to mark a very unique date by celebrating the number '2'. On Wednesday 2nd February (2.2.22), we are inviting the children to change two items of their school uniform for the day. In return we would appreciate a donation of any amount of money as long as it has a '2' on it.

Solar Panels

Many of you would have noticed the scaffolding around the school and the portaloo in the car park. As part of the Governments drive for obtaining cleaner energy, the Local Authority has been arranging for solar panels to be fitted to schools. We agreed to this project as it would have financial benefits as well as provide first-hand experience of sustainable energy sources for the children to learn about.

In initial talks with the contractors, we pointed out that they would need to undertake all relevant checks to see if they are allowed as we are in a conservation. After they conducted their checks, it was given the green light...until yesterday! It turns out that further findings now mean that we can no longer have the solar panels fitted. Although we won't be able to show the solar panels first hand to the children, we have been able to teach them about portalooos.

Safe Parking

I would like to thank parents for driving and parking so considerately at pick up and drop off times. Please remember that parking is available at the Village Hall and that parking/stopping in the layby at the front of the school is prohibited. In addition, can I ask that you refrain from parking in The Coach and Horses car park, this is a private car park and, as our neighbours, we would like to keep positive relationships with them.

Thank you all for your support to ensure a smooth start to 2022. We have been thrilled to have such an enjoyable and purposeful month.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School