



Whitewater C of E Primary School

Whitewater News: 11th February 2022

This week has certainly felt more spring like as we're starting to notice the days lengthening. There have even been a couple of occasions when I've managed to make it to my car without tripping over something or stubbing my toe as I could actually see where I was going. Rotherwick is a stunning, picturesque village by day and the darkest place on Earth by night!

It's been yet another highly productive couple of weeks. Behind the scenes there's been lots of meetings which included securing funds for the redevelopment of the Year R outdoor area, starting to set up the Breakfast Club and agreeing additional after school provision through The Enrichment Academy. In the classrooms, we continue to embed the Whitewater Way, we have overhauled how we teach reading and have been creating and delivering a curriculum which is engaging and purposeful. Everyone is certainly earning their half term break in a week's time!

In school...

Mrs Joliffe says...

Last week we enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year. We made dragons, learned how to cook noodles in a wok and then learned how to use chopsticks! Some of the children fascinated us by having a go at writing their names in Chinese. This week Rabbits have found six pairs of underpants in a trunk and listened to the story 'The Queen's Knickers'. More excitement to follow! Maths was about measuring length, height and time. They built towers outside and compared them. The children could excitedly talk about which was the tallest. Our 'Woodland Walk' activity was making a rainfall gauge and estimating how much rainfall we will find – we're hoping for a few rainy days! Writing their tricky words in rice was also very popular; we have almost no rice left in the tuff tray!



Mrs Rolph says...

Otter Class have shown great resilience these last two weeks. We have been working hard on our Phonics through Little Wandle which has been an exciting but steep learning curve for us all – especially Mrs Rolph! We have now got the home reading set up too and look forward to hearing how it is going at home.

In maths, we are adding and subtracting using number lines and learning to jump on or back in numbers bigger than one, using our number bonds knowledge. We have enjoyed finding out what happened to the Queen's knickers and all wrote a news report for the 6 o'clock news.

Our Safer Internet Day was fun with lots of discussion about what is safe to share online. We hope you enjoyed seeing your children's work. We have so much more to cram in before half term – including a Drama workshop and a visit from a Rabbi!

Mr Ralph says...

Another brilliant week in Hedgehog Class - the time seems to be flying by. In English the children have been completing their newspaper reports about the destruction of Pompeii and have been amazing reporters, some even reporting for ITV news apparently! In maths, the children have been challenged and focusing on non-unit fractions of amounts usually with Mr Ralph's Brownie recipes or bowls of skittles. In art, children have produced some fantastic watercolour work building towards creating their own Starry Night. In DT the children have begun their work on their roman shields. For



Safer Internet Day, the children produced some lovely recipes for respect and their own mascots to remind others how we should act online.

Mr Greenley says...

Fox Class have had another full fortnight of learning. We are now coming to the end of our writing topic on gargoyles with the children now planning to write their information texts. We have certainly had some gruesome ideas about their diet! I can't wait to see what their models look like when we make them next week.

Disappointingly, we have also finished our first class book. Sputnik's guide to life on Planet Earth by Frank Cottrell Boyce has been a huge hit with Fox Class over this half term, but I would encourage you to act with caution if any of the children ask to read the manual for any electronics you have around the house!

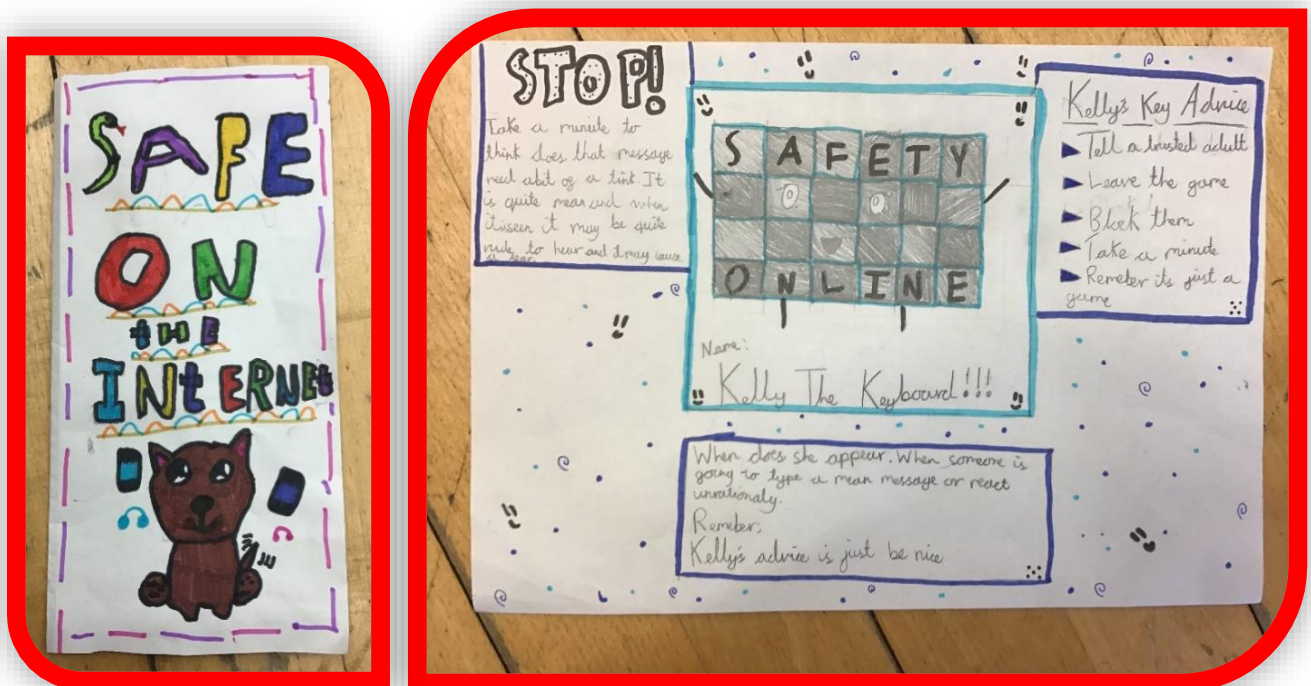
Year 6 have been taking some practice SATs papers this week. I have been delighted at the effort they have put in and with the Year 5 children who have been working quietly during maths lessons to allow their classmates to concentrate during these lessons.

Our weekly times tables challenge is also proving a hit in class. Over the last two weeks every member of the class has improved their recall of key times tables facts. 4 minutes and 35 seconds to beat!

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday of this week, we spent the day thinking about how to use the internet safely and ensuring we can treat people with respect online. Every class looked at a slightly different aspect of online safety from Rabbits learning never to share passwords except with parents to Fox Class creating leaflet guides on online gaming safety. Technology moves very rapidly and it's important that children learn about how to keep themselves safe and what to do when faced with new situations online.

As well as coordinating Safer Internet Day, the UK Safer Internet Centre also produces guides for parents on supporting your children when using the internet and other online games and devices. You can follow the link to the parent guides here. <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



The School Council...

We're delighted to share that the Whitewater School Council has been relaunched. This will provide a platform to ensure that the children have a voice in the way the school is developing and improving. Over the last few days, the children have been electing their school councillors who will meet regularly with Mr Greenley to discuss their ideas. Each year group will be represented by a school councillor, giving each class two representatives. Rabbit class will share ideas and be present at school council meetings through the medium of a teddy bear so we keep our youngest children in mind at these meetings too. We look forward to hearing and seeing the impact the children have on whole school improvement.

Parents' Evening

We are very much looking forward to hosting our Spring Term Parents' Evenings on the 8th and 10th of March. We place great value on the relationship between our school and our parents as it is vital that we work together to best support the children. As with previous Parent's Evenings, we will be asking you to book a time slot, on an allocated date, with your child's classteacher to discuss your child's well-being, progress and overall development. We will share more detailed information next week.

Collective Worship

In the last newsletter, I shared the exciting news that we were visiting Rotherwick Church for our Collective Worship last Thursday. I'm delighted to share that it was a huge success. With such a beautiful church so close, it's great that we can incorporate visits into our regular assembly timetable. Marion was on fantastic form (as always) and the children and staff alike feedback that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and look forward to doing it again. A big thank you to Marion who provided such a warm welcome and delivered such an engaging collective worship.

Breakfast Club

Earlier this week we sent out a ParentMail with a survey attached to gauge interest in starting up a Breakfast Club. Initially there were some issues with the survey link, however these have been resolved. If you would like to register your interest, please use the link below. The Breakfast Club will run from 7.30am until the start of the day. The cost is £8 and you are able to book the week before, once you know your working patterns. We are introducing this service to support our working parents so will do our best to meet your individual needs.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SVL4qoriXEOPrLga00qENI7yEDZNsFEiKAMwz25cCdUOVIHMjISSjhQRUY1UFpHQTc2NFdSM0EySy4u>

Finally, thank you for your ongoing support. Whitewater is a wonderful community to serve and one which we are all pleased to be working alongside.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and we look forward to seeing you all next week.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

Date	Event
1 st March	Theatre Kids Club Starts
3 rd March	PTA Film Night 3.30pm to 5.30pm
8 th & 10 th March	Parents' Evening 3.40pm to 6.30pm
25 th March	PTA Bunny Hop Disco 5.30pm to 7pm
1 st April	PTA Break the Rules Day
7 th April	PTA Teasers Spring Fashion Show 7pm to 9pm
8 th April	Last day of Spring Term
11 th April to 28 th April	EYFS outdoor area being installed
25 th April	Back to School for start of summer term

Start Dates to be confirmed

- Breakfast Club
- Athletics Club
- Hockey Club