



Whitewater C of E Primary School

Whitewater News: 4th March 2022

I hope you all had a restful and healthy half term break. It's a real shame last half term was cut short due to the winds and I sincerely hope that you all remained safe and your properties and belongings remained intact. This week has been a whirlwind of activity and learning. As a result, there's so much to share and I hope you enjoy finding out about what's been happening. The key headlines are: your children are fantastic, the staff here are wonderful and the community we serve is very special.

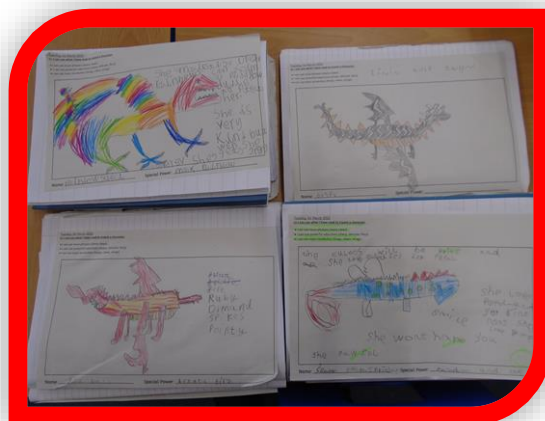
In school...

Mrs Joliffe says...

Before half term, Rabbits loved making Valentine's cards and enjoyed engaging in various activities within the enhanced provision. They met Mrs Onslow's pet snails; Dave and Mario and made patterns using Mrs Jolliffe's leftover snail shells. It was so creative in our class before the storm. Children completed their knickers collages and then made knickers for the queen using the real sewing machine. The skills involved to get to the end product were challenging but everyone showed a great growth mindset attitude when faced with a challenge. We all met Rabbi Solomon and listened to the story of Moses. This week, the pancakes we made in our classroom were delicious and the linked writing activities made us very proud. Last but not least have you heard about the dragon footprints that appeared on the windows and the dragon eggs? Watch this space!

Mrs Rolph says...

Otters all returned this week after a well-deserved rest and were raring to go! Before half term, we had fun making paper which was very exciting – especially the glittery pages! We learnt about the Jewish faith through Rabbi Solomon's visit and we completed our reports on the Queen, showing how much we have learnt. This half term is all about Dragons and Castles and we were super excited to find a nest of Dragon's eggs in our classroom. We have found out about many types of dragon and have invented our own. In maths, we have all been 'in the learning pit' and shown resilience as we explored counting on and back across the 10s.



Mr Ralph says...

The children have made a fantastic start on their return to school and have picked up where we left off. In Topic the children have been focusing on the life and rebellion of Boudicca, learning brilliant facts and that her name comes from the Iceni word meaning victory. In English, the children have been looking at persuasive language and will be working towards writing a battle speech as Boudicca calling the Iceni to arms against the rotten Romans. Year 3 children have been exploring plants and planning experiments while Year 4 children have been creating circuits, testing everyday objects as conductors and will be making more complex circuits. In reading, the children have been enjoying our animal poetry and the choice of language an author makes to describe and paint a picture. They have written some brilliant animal poems using clues for others to guess what animal they have described.

Mr Greenley says...

It has been lovely to have Fox Class back in after our rather abrupt end to the last half term. I hope you all enjoyed seeing the gargoyles the children made in real life when they brought them home on Monday!

All our topics have changed over half term and we have had a very varied week which has included some discussions around immigration, using our driver text of "The Island" before thinking about different viewpoints of those involved in the story. We have created flip book animations as we prepare to look at animation in more detail for our computing topic. The children had some fantastic ideas of people being abducted by aliens, meteors falling in houses and

sunflowers growing from seed. We had a great afternoon investigating and interrogating Ordnance Survey maps and thinking about what we want to find out in our map skills topic.

World Book Day saw the children choose their next class story from a choice of 32 texts as the "World Cup of Books" took place up to breaktime. There were some very hard choices as Black Powder came up against Holes and some very close votes that saw The Dream Snatcher defeat Phoenix to make it through to the final.

It's promising to be another very busy half term!

Sunflower Day...

As we shared earlier in the week, we are having a Sunflower Day on Tuesday 8th March to show our support for the Ukraine during this horrific time as the sunflower is their national flower. On this day the children will be learning about the sunflower and will take part in arts and crafts based around this. The planting of sunflowers will be delayed until April when they are more likely to be successful. The day will focus on support and peace, linking with our values of fellowship and courage, opposed to war. In collaboration with the Bramley and Bishopswood schools, we are supporting the charity Sunflower of Peace. They provide first aid medical tactical backpacks for the areas most effected. Each backpack will be used in the areas most impacted by the conflict and has the ability to save up to 10 lives. We have set up a link on Scopay (www.scopay.com) for the charity Sunshine of Peace Ukraine where you can donate. All monies received will be paid over to the charity. It would be great if we can raise a good amount of money which will help save lives. We thank you for any donations received.

World Book Day...

I think we generated enough static electricity to power the school for a week yesterday! There were onesies, PJs and dressing gowns as far as the eye could see. It was undoubtedly the comfiest day of 2022 so far. I always feel that the emphasis on World Book Day should be on books opposed to costumes which take time and money to produce. The theme of 'Bedtime Stories' opened up lots of conversations about favourite books and really engaged the children in stories and reading. The teachers were incredibly flexible and allowed me to gate-crash their lessons and read a story to each class which I thoroughly enjoyed. In addition to lots of learning about books, we were also treated to two virtual author visits. Rabbits and Otters got to virtually meet Tracey Corderoy whilst Hedgehogs and Foxes spent time getting to know Tom McLaughlin. We all had a great day immersed in the wonders of books.

Parents' Evening...

This is a valuable time to talk with your child's classteacher and to hear about how well they are doing in their learning, find out how you can support them at home and share any concerns you may have. All of this contributes to ensuring your child thrives at Whitewater. Please remember to book your Parent's Evening appointments on Tuesday 8th March or Thursday 10th March. Closing date for bookings is Monday 7th March at 8 am.

Walk on Wednesdays...

Our Junior Road Safety Officers recently led a whole school assembly. They shared with children the benefits of walking to school which include reducing pollution, making a positive difference to climate change and living an active and healthy life. So, we are trying to encourage everyone to 'Walk on Wednesdays'. For those who walk everyday, keep it up. For those who live further away and need to drive, try park and stride...you can park further away from school and walk the last bit. Let's all give it go!

Thank you to the Ground Force Team

Mr Golding and I have said many times that the support we receive from the school community is incredible. This was exemplified again last Sunday when a team of volunteers took to the school grounds by force. The sun shone and the team made massive progress on clearing, tidying and transforming two areas.

The woodland walk area has been completely cleared of brambles and the old fence was cleared. This put up a bit of a fight but with a Range Rover and chains the guys did it in the end. So much was cleared that the skip couldn't cope! The outdoor learning area beds have been made ready for planting. The team erected a fence between the pond and the outdoor classroom which looks amazing.

The volunteers worked tirelessly for up to 5 hours and the amount they all achieved is amazing.

I speak on behalf of all the staff and the children when I say a huge THANK YOU!!!! You work is very much appreciated.

Opportunities to play cricket...

I have recently been contacted about an exciting new venture. Rotherwick ITW Cricket Club will be providing ALL STARS and DYNAMOS cricket with 1 hour midweek sessions being held during May and June.

All Stars Cricket provides a fantastic first experience for all children aged 5-8 years old where they're guaranteed 8 weeks of jam-packed fun, activity and skills development. The programme is designed to introduce children to the sport, teaching them new skills, helping them make new friends and have a great time doing so. **ONLY A FEW PLACES LEFT.**

Dynamos Cricket provides a fantastic next step for all those graduating from All Stars Cricket and the perfect introduction for all 8-11 year-olds new to the sport! Complementing junior cricket, Dynamos provides children with a more social offer focused on developing fundamental movement skills and applying them in an exciting game of countdown cricket.

For more information: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/dynamoscricket>

To book for All Stars: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/66773d32-37a4-4bd8-8a4e-4ab3ae2b36ae>

To book for Dynamos: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/Course/665f05dd-b02c-4a8f-8d3c-97871c80c125>

Finally, we hope your children have enjoyed returning to school this week. It's been a week of great fun and lots of laughter and learning. There's always lots to do and we have an action packed 5 weeks ahead of us.

I hope you all have a restful weekend and we look forward to welcoming you all back into our school during parents' evenings next week.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

Date	Event
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