



Whitewater C of E Primary School

Whitewater Newsletter - 6th May 2022

It has been an incredibly positive (and busy) start to the Summer Term. The children have been on fine form and the adults have been working tirelessly to ensure that learning is engaging and ambitious. There has been a wide range of ways to immerse children in their learning including tadpoles and creepy crawlies, a boat, sunflowers and a very exciting school trip!

In school...

Mrs Joliffe says...

Rabbits have been our champions the last couple of weeks with their impeccable behaviour during both school trips; QMC Science Centre allowed us to look at minibeasts' lifecycles, make a wormery, pond dipping and investigate a leaf heap. The Blue Reef Aquarium was filled with new facts we didn't know about sharks and rays, eels, turtles...

Nemo and Dory aren't actually real fish names, Nemo is a type of orange clownfish that lives in sea anemones and Dory is a royal blue tang. We have started our new topic 'The Blue Planet' with enthusiasm and curiosity. They set up a 'fish and chip shop' and a 'beach cafe' where a lot of new learning is already taking place. Amazing retention of new vocabulary has been observed by the adults working in our class. Maths lessons focus on numbers to 20 and beyond, homework last week matched the expectations in class so thank you for your support. Writing about the sea creatures we met at the aquarium was also a great success.



Mrs Rolph says...

Otter Class have had a fantastic start to this Summer Term. Our Year 1's were very lucky to go on mini buses to Queen Mary's College Science Centre. They were able to share with everyone what they had found out about mini-beasts and pond dipping. Did you know worms only have one head, not two!

This week, we all went on a fancy coach to Blue Reef Aquarium AND explored Southsea Castle. Everyone behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was a busy day, we were surprised only a couple fell asleep on the way home! The castle's cannons were huge and many of us enjoyed pretending to fire them. The sea creature favourites were the puffer fish, turtles and sea horses. We loved getting splashed by the rays and were rather disappointed that the sharks were so small! However, we have learnt lots about sharks and are busy creating fact-files for you to enjoy.

We are busy counting in twos, fives and tens after a tricky week dividing which had us all in the learning pit! We have continued to show how well we are doing in phonics and are loving our Science and Geography lessons exploring seas and habitats. Planting sunflowers for Ukraine has been fun and we will look forward to comparing whose grows the tallest! Let's hope the sunny weather arrives to please us all.



Mr Ralph says...

What a busy 2 weeks back! Having only been at school for 9 days, I am very impressed with the amount of work the children have got through and achieved. To celebrate our new book for our English learning "To the Edge of the World" the children arrived at school to find a boat complete with real sand and shells in the middle of our class. A photo of this went up on Facebook and we were lucky enough to have a response from the author herself. In reading, the children have been fascinated with the book "The Boy at the Back of the Class". This is a powerful book about refugees, which has led to meaningful conversations, superb work spotting themes in the book and inferring character's emotions. In Maths, the children have been working really hard using arrays to solve division problems. In PE, the children have been taking part in kick rounders and are all impressing me, with our last game ending up 68 to 65 points. All of this along with planting sunflowers, watering our own flower bed, taking part in cricket and much more.



Mr Greenley says...

It has been great to see the children back from their Easter holidays and hear about all their adventures while they have been away. The hard work hasn't stopped though with our Year 6 preparing for their SATs week next week. The class have spent a little more time in their year groups to prepare for this and we are all feeling confident.

Our English lessons have taken a dark turn this term, with our text being "The Viewer" by Gary Crew. The children have loved seeing the strange box arrive in the classroom before investigating the vocabulary the author had used. We have taken the structure of the story and adapted it to create our own versions - beware before you read them...they might give you nightmares!

We have started our History topic this term looking at the civil war and learning some basic information about the characters involved ahead of our trip to London in a week and a half's time. Horrible Histories has come in really useful getting some of the information but has left us with a lot more questions about what actually happened.

There have been lots of extra events already this half term with sunflower planting and cricket taster afternoons and more to come this term - it may be short but certainly full of learning!

Jubilee Celebrations

As I'm sure you are all aware, Her Majesty the Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service. We will be getting involved in celebrating this tremendous occasion by having a celebration afternoon tea and you are all invited!

On Thursday 26th May at 1.45pm we invite you to join us for afternoon tea. The children will be making a selection of sandwiches and scones to share with you. So, if you want to bring your own, we will understand. After eating we will be setting up a selection of games for the children to play in their house groups, which you are also welcome to join in with too.

We will also use this event to officially open our new EYFS area that will be completed by the end of today. We really hope that you can join us in celebration.

In the event of poor weather, we will move the event to Friday the 27th May. A separate letter sharing further details will be sent out closer to the date.

Good Luck to our Year 6 children

There are two phrases that can create anxiety and nerves in Year 6 children: "Mr Greenley has a new joke" and "it's SATs next week"! Luckily, Mr Greenley hasn't had a new joke since 1997!

Our Year 6 pupils have been absolute superstars over the past few weeks in the build up to SATs. They have worked hard, supported each other and overcome challenges. I hope you all relax over the weekend in the knowledge that you are ready! Next week is a chance for you all to show off how brilliant you are. We are proud of you all no matter what. Just smile, breathe and do your best!

Sunflowers

Back in March we had a 'Sunflower Day' to show our support for the people of Ukraine who were, and continue to, experience a terrible situation. I shared that we would be planting sunflowers when the weather allowed us to do so. I'm delighted to share that yesterday the sun shone and we embarked on a whole school planting session outside. Thank you to Mrs Sykelmoore and Mrs Hunt who volunteered to arrange and lead the activity. Every pupil will be bringing their sunflower home today for you to plant at home. Thank you very much to everyone who helped out this fantastic display of fellowship and creativity. The teachers are looking forward to seeing your pictures on Seesaw of you sunflowers growing.

If you're anything like me, you may have no idea how to ensure your sunflower grows to be nice and healthy. Mrs Sykelmoore has kindly provided the following advice:

Keep your sunflower inside on a sunny windowsill. Remember to keep moist and within a week you should start to see your sunflower start to grow. Water as required. Then, once they are big enough plant them outside (including the pot!), a great time to do this would be in May half term when there is less chance of a frost! Your sunflower should be in full bloom in August so you can enjoy it during the summer holidays!



This is particularly good timing as we have some very special new pupils joining us over the next couple of weeks. Several kind and generous local people have become hosts for families from the Ukraine. As a result, their school age children will be joining us at Whitewater. I can only imagine how difficult it must be to leave your country of birth at such a young age and travel to a different country so far away whilst speaking no English. I'm absolutely certain that you'll all join us in welcoming our newest additions by showing the same warmth you extended to us when we joined your wonderful community.

I don't like cricket...I love it!

On Tuesday, KS2 were lucky enough to have a visit from Dynamos cricket from the Ageas bowl. The children took part in fun reaction time games before moving onto throwing accuracy skills, catching and batting. All children were included in this fun afternoon with all exceeding my expectations and setting a superb example of Whitewater athletes. Well done for all the children who tried their best even when the going got tough.



It's been an actioned packed start to the summer term and there's lots more to come. Please make sure you have a look at the key dates and add them to your diary.

As always, thank you all for your continued support and I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Head of School

Key Dates

Monday 9 th May to)	SATs Week
Thursday 12 th May)	
Thursday 12 th May	PTA Quiz Night at The Falcon (7.30 pm)
Friday 13 th May	Year 6 Visit to Paultons Park
Tuesday 17 th May	Class Photos
Wednesday 18 th May	Fox Class Visit to London
Monday 23 rd May	Year 6 Visit to Bishopswood School for Writing Day
Wednesday 25 th May	Hedgehog Class Visit to Ufton Court
Thursday 26 th May	Platinum Jubilee Celebration – Afternoon Tea
Monday 30 th May to)	HALF TERM
Friday 3 rd June)	
Monday 6 th June	INSET Day
Thursday 9 th June	PTA Film Night
Monday 13 th June to)	Year 6 to PGL Isle of Wight
Friday 17 th June)	
Monday 13 th June	Year 5 NC Swimming
Saturday 18 th June	Summer Fair
Monday 20 th June	Years 5 and 6 NC Swimming
Monday 27 th June	Years 5 and 6 NC Swimming
Thursday 30 th June and)	RMS Induction Days
Friday 1 st July)	
Monday 4 th July	Years 5 and 6 NC Swimming
Thursday 7 th July	PTA Film Night
Monday 11 th July	Years 5 and 6 NC Swimming
Monday 18 th July	Years 5 and 6 NC Swimming
Wednesday 20 th July	Year 6 Leavers' Service
Thursday 21 st July	END OF TERM