



Whitewater Newsletter - 17th June 2022

It's been a busy but productive start to the second leg of the summer term. The sun has been out in full force this week and we have all found ourselves melting and moaning about the heat in true British style! It's only hot for about 3 weeks each year and yet I have already described the weather as "close", "muggy", "stifling" and "sticky". Despite this, I hope it continues for a little while longer knowing I'll miss it when it's gone. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the sun shines on Saturday during the school fete.

In school...

Mrs Harisine & Mrs Rolph says...

Rabbits Class have been amazing coping without Mrs Jolliffe! Mrs Hairsine and the team have had a fun filled couple of weeks and have continued to learn loads! Despite being upset in missing out, Mrs Jolliffe is very proud of all of her Rabbits.

The children in Rabbit and Otter Class returned rested and raring to go for our final half term and we all enjoyed sharing our own Jubilee Celebrations. We kicked our topic off by finding out what the Titanic was. We used photographs to predict what had happened to it and have now begun finding out about the Titanic's timeline of events. We have tried drawing it and have lots more planned for the coming weeks. The Titanic theme continued in English as we are writing about a mouse called Samson, who was a passenger aboard the Titanic.

Rabbit and Otter Class were very excited to meet a real-life local marine artist on Tuesday! Len Murrell visited to share some of his incredible oil paintings. He talked about how he had started painting when he was 50 years old having also been in the Royal Navy. Len's love of boats and ships was very obvious as they feature heavily in his work. The children loved seeing his paintings. Favourites were the War Ships, the Titanic and the ones with familiar buildings such as Windsor Castle in the background. Everyone had a go at drawing a rowing boat which we all agreed was not as easy as we thought; everyone was in the Learning Pit! Like true artists, we persevered and showed our resilience. We hope that Len will visit us again before the summer, so that we can all join in and paint a boat alongside him.



We are so excited to have five caterpillars! Although very small now, we shall watch them grow and follow their life-cycle. Hopefully, we will release Painted Lady butterflies before the summer holidays! Rabbits have some too so the race is on to see which ones hatch first!

We hope to begin sewing our own sea creatures next week. If you have any old tights or stuffing scraps we can use for stuffing, we would be very grateful!

Mr Ralph says...

Another fun filled and very warm couple of weeks in Hedgehog Class. The children have been working hard and we have been making the most of the good weather by spending plenty of time learning outside in our fantastic school grounds. Our budding young artists spent time using pastels and watercolours using our flower bed as inspiration and the work has been amazing. In Science, we have been learning all about forces and magnets. The children conducted fair tests, testing friction on different surfaces along with finding magnetic and nonmagnetic materials in the classroom

and wider school environment. During our Maths lessons we have all been concentrating on angles which has included scavenger hunts, looking for hidden shapes and angles, passing footballs to understand acute, obtuse and right angles and using Pacman eaters to find right angles in the school and even finding some in the nature trail. It has been another great 2 weeks with Hedgehogs, and I am sad that we are on the count down to the summer and the little time we have left together as a class. I hope everyone has a great weekend and enjoys the scorching weather.

Mrs Elliot says...

Mrs Elliot has been a regular cover teacher at Whitewater since Christmas and has thoroughly enjoyed teaching the remaining Foxes this week. The children have been a fantastic advert for Whitewater pupils by working hard and showing our values. This week, everyone has engaged in their project-based learning. The children have become experts in a country of their choice. They have learnt a range of geography skills whilst also finding out about traditional tales, pastimes, cuisine and sports. Today, they have presented their projects to a high standard. I think we could enter a Fox Team into any quiz and they would be very successful...University Challenge – here we come!



Year 6 Residential – Mr Greenley’s Diary...

We arrived safely at PGL on Monday afternoon and after a tour of the site, we went down to the beach. It was less than 5 minutes before the children were in the water! This was followed by lots of exploring in the rockpools and shell collecting.

Tiredness did set in on night 1 and we managed to have all the children in bed by 10:00pm and asleep by 11!

Tuesday morning was a bit of a shock for as our breakfast slot for the week was 7:10am meaning a 6.20am wake up call! The explanation to our group leader that some of us don't get up until 7:30 fell on deaf ears!

Tuesday morning started with fencing, learning how to start a duel and lunge using the foils. The rest of the day seemed to be spent looking up with sessions at the climbing wall, vertical challenge and trapeze. All the children managed to make it to the top of all the challenges. The children all ate well and have been really sensible about making sure they are hydrated in the beautiful weather and have applied enough sun cream through the day.

Wednesday's activities started with more heights and all the children had successfully completed the abseil down the wall. This was more challenging than the climbing we had done as leaning over the edge was really quite scary! From there we went onto buggy building with the children learning how to tie knots before riding in their home-made buggies. The excitement of the shop followed lunch today and a great water fight with Keri, our group leader to keep the children cool in the hot weather we have been having. In the afternoon we completed the low ropes course and finished with our last climbing activity this week - Jacob's ladder.

This evening is a more relaxed affair with a campfire evening and marshmallows.

The children all really enjoyed the campfire last night and the toasted marshmallows went down a treat as can be seen from some of the photos. A more relaxed evening rather than running around meant we were able to get the children to sleep by around 10:30 last night.

On Thursday, the weather continued to be exceptionally warm but less strenuous activities has meant the children remained cool. Orienteering in the morning saw the benefit of the map skills we had learned in school with the children working out where different points were on the map and finding the stamp. From there we went onto Survivor in the shade of the woods. Everyone had a go at making tent pegs from sticks they had found, using knives (and protective gloves!) to whittle their sticks. They also used a flint and steel to set light to some cotton wool. Everyone achieved both tasks. The den building contest finished this activity with two excellent shelters built. After lunch, we entered the tunnel trail with the children crawling around iron tubes underground to different areas where they could poke their heads

out. Myself and Mrs Brett thought it looked rather like whack-a-mole with the children's heads appearing from the earth bank at different point.

The children have had a great week and have thrived on the challenges presented to them. I am feeling very proud of the team work they have exhibited and the kindness and independence they have shown throughout the week. I think they are also all looking forward to telling you all about it as well as a chance to sleep in their own beds and avoid more 6:30am wake up calls!



Clean Air Scooter Challenge

Thank you to all the children and parents who took part in our Clear Air Scooter Challenge this week. It was wonderful to see so many children scooting, cycling, skating and skateboarding to school along with their parents. Some children were cycling from home, not just from the village hall! We are sure we have some very fit parents and children now! Our Junior Road Safety Officers along with the staff at the school were all very impressed with the effort made. We do have cycle racks outside the front of the school if anyone wants to continue coming to school this way and there is a space there for scooters too. Well done to the children who designed the banner outside the school to celebrate Clean Air Day. It looks amazing and is all the children's own work.

Thank you...

We just wanted to extend thanks and huge appreciation to a few members of our local community who are regularly going above and beyond to help the school, raise funds, improve facilities and provide experiences for the children that they have missed over the last few years.

In advance of the School Fete this Saturday we just wanted to say thanks to our PTA. They are few in number but make a huge impact on the school. Good luck for the Fete ladies, we know it will be a huge success and all of your hard work will pay off.

In connection with the Fete, we wanted to thank Bridges Estate Agents for sponsoring the event and donating money to the school for every advertising post that parents have agreed to have up outside their homes. Members of the senior team from Bridges have been in to see us and are excited to be working with us. They have displayed a genuine and sincere desire to help our school flourish and we are confident that this event is just the start of a positive and mutually beneficial relationship.

A special shout out must go to our weekend Ground Force Team. This team is made up of a mixture of parents and Governors with husbands who have skills and equipment that have enabled them to transfer the woodland walk area of the school. From an overgrown, unloved and unused part of the school it has been transformed into a multi-use outdoor learning area that we are all incredibly proud of. We will shortly send out a separate newsletter sharing pictures of the woodland area and how it is been used.

Another part of our school that has been transformed is our allotment. It is now a vibrant and colourful section of the school, with a fully operational outside classroom. Many thanks to our green fingered experts Mrs Syckelmoore and Mrs Hunt who have been volunteering for the last few months running a lunch time gardening club. Both the staff and children are thoroughly enjoying it.

As always, thank you all for your continued support and I hope you all have a restful weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at the fete tomorrow..

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Head of School

Key Dates

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
Tuesday 28 th June	Hedgehog Class Visit to Ufton Court
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 Flip Flop Disco
Monday 11 th July	Years 5 and 6 NC Swimming
Friday 15 th July	Sports Day
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