



Whitewater Newsletter - 18th November 2022

This time of year is always a busy one. Over the past two weeks, we've spent time reflecting on Remembrance, we've participated in Anti-Bullying Week and we've finished with supporting the wonderful charity of Children in Need. As always, there's been a huge amount happening in the classrooms as the children are now fully emerged in their Topics for this term as well and working hard across the core subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths.

Here's a brief overview of what's been happening in the classrooms:

In school...

Rabbits...

In Rabbit Class we have been busy celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week. We sang some of the all time favourite rhymes and also started learning our nativity songs. We listened to Julia Donaldson books and focused on rhyming words. In maths we loved singing 'My Buttons' with Pete the Cat and practised forming numerals. We compared numbers 4 and 5; using our 5 frames. During PE we played team building games and worked on sharing skills. We are so excited about watching our pumpkin seeds grow. Our experiment with the chickpeas turned out to be a great success too! The story of the Little Red Hen taught us the importance of hard work. Rabbits enjoyed making rice flour using a pestle and mortar; great for motor skills. Thank you for your cardboard box donations, I now have a super snazzy handbag made out of a box! Our learning journey continued with our RE lessons thinking about birthdays, organising a birthday party and then talking about the birth of Jesus. Our RE floor book is filled with examples of great learning in our lessons. Really proud of everyone's efforts this term especially in Phonics and music. Well done Rabbits!

Otters...

Creativity and team work have been in abundance in Otter Class!

During our Computing lessons, the class have been planning their own digital stories without words and started taking photos of their chosen characters in different settings. They needed to draw and plan their frames of their stories before using the cameras to take photos. Working in a team proved really important due to organising the props and holding the camera at the same time. As you can see from the photos below, there has been a variety of characters chosen! We are very much looking forward to the finished stories.

During our Design & Technology lessons, we have continued the theme of 'moving pictures' and had lots of fun creating pivots and levers using split pins and card to create individual moving pictures.

Our topic 'Up, Up and Away' has got off to a flying start with learning about 'Beegu' in English which has a space theme as well as exploring art work from Jazzberry Blue who creates art pieces from a bird's eye view. The children have loved learning about the continents and oceans of the world as well as sharing what they already know about the UK and different landmarks that they have visited!



Hedgehogs...

What a few weeks in Hedgehog Class! Starting with the children creating and painting their Anglo-Saxon brooches and jewellery with some amazing results. In English, the children have written beautiful setting descriptions focusing on Anglo Saxon and Viking ports using precise nouns, adjectives, verbs and fronted adverbials for effect. Today, they have finished a contrasting description of a battle scene with their choice of language being truly terrifying, describing Vikings as remorseless invaders, monstrous and fearsome barbarians. To mark Remembrance Day, the children created two different and eye catching pieces of artwork, one including newspaper headlines from the end of the war which they painted over and one other piece using silhouettes and pastels. This week, we were lucky enough to visit Queen Marys Collage and their science zone, participating in exciting and informative experiments about our science topic



states of matter. These experiments focused on melting points of different solids, particle formation in different states of matter along with identifying if items are solids, liquids and gasses under microscopes and reversible and irreversible changes. We have been lucky enough to have Chance to Shine cricket come in and teach the children on Mondays which has been a big hit among the class. Roll on next week and I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Foxes...

This week's Fox class update is brought to by the lovely Tilly and Lilly B.

These last two weeks, we have been doing many exciting things....

We have been writing our very own Saga of Bjorn. We are all very proud of them and loved creating the battle scenes and unexpected plot twist! Now, we are looking at a book called 'How Santa Really Works' by Alan Snow. This is a really fun Christmas book and we can't wait to do more work on it.

In maths, we have been learning and improving our skills in division and fractions. Year 6 were working on long division whilst Year 5 were learning short division. Another fun thing we have been doing in maths is fractions. We have been using our times tables knowledge to find common denominators and fraction of number.

We have been reading the start of 'The House with Chicken Legs' and have begun looking at a classic: 'Narnia, the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. Both books have been very interesting and hooked us in. We have loved reading them. During this time, we have worked on our inferencing skills and answering test type questions too.

In topic and art the past few weeks, we have been learning about the vicious Vikings. We have looked at where the Vikings originated from and where they invaded. We have designed our own longships based on traditional Viking ships – they all look amazing! We have also been practising the effect of light on figureheads using shadow to help us. We have had lots of fun exploring this topic so far.

Remembrance...

Last Friday saw Whitewater remember. Poppy sales throughout the week enabled the children to show their respect towards those people past and present who have fought in an attempt to keep peace and keep everyone safe. We marked the occasion with a short walk to Rotherwick Church where Marion led a Remembrance Service, Mr Golding read the poem: What are we Fighting For by Brian Moses and some Year 6 children read In Flanders Field by John McCrae. In addition, children across the school created a range of stunning pieces of artwork.

Vocal Ambassadors...

Our newly formed Vocal Ambassadors team spent Wednesday afternoon at South View Federation with children across Basingstoke and Deane schools. All of the children came together seamlessly like they were a well oiled choir machine auditioning for Britain's Got Talent. It was amazing to see, especially as it was the first time they've ever met each other, let alone sing together. There are several more practice sessions before they join together to sing in front of a live audience at The Primary Prom which is at The Anvil in the summer.

Anti-Bullying Week...

At Whitewater, we have thrown ourselves in Anti-Bullying week and have learnt all about this year's theme; Reaching Out! We all donned our odd socks on Monday to show that we are all unique and this is something that makes our world wonderful and needs to be celebrated. In Collective Worship, we spoke about reaching out by reflecting on how we can do this, why it's important to do this and who we can do this with. Following this, the children have designed posters to show our solidarity in making a stance against bullying. The fight against bullying is something that requires all three of our values of Love, Respect and Courage and we are proud to stand together on this.



Football Fixtures...

With the World Cup just days away, Mr Ralph has been doing his own Gareth Southgate impersonation. Whitewater FC (nickname The Red Kites) boarded the mini-bus and travelled all the way to Bramley (not quite as far as Qatar). They pulled on the famous white and red colours and played in a small friendly competition against Bramley and Bishopswood. It was fantastic to see children across the collaboration come together and compete in such a wonderful way. We are significantly smaller than the other schools but we are mighty! The children showed a fantastic spirit and resilience and made us very proud. There are many professionals who could learn a lot about teamwork, respect and courage from our Red Kites.

Wishing a Fond Farewell

Due to personal circumstances Mr Jamie Chapman has taken the tough decision to leave the teacher training course that he started in September. Mr Chapman has been working in Otter Class since September supporting Mrs Norton and the children. Although Mr Chapman was only with us for a short period of time, he forged very strong relationships with both the staff and children and was displaying all the skills needed to become a very effective teacher. We wish him all the very best for his future ventures wherever they may lead. The additional adult support in Otter Class is now being covered by Mrs Miles and Mrs Nicholls, both of whom have a wealth of experience.

Lastly, thank you all for supporting Children in Need today. We raised £139.70. It's a very worthy cause and something that we are all passionate about. The children of Whitewater are loved and looked after, fed and watered. They have the opportunity to attend school where they learn and grow. This is not the case for all children for a wide variety of reasons and Children in Need gives us the chance to show love and help others do our bit to ensure other children have the same life opportunities in the future.

Please make sure you have a look at the key dates and add them to your diary and as always.

Thank you all for your continued support and I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

S Moore

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

22.11.22	Foxes to QMC (am) PTA KS2 Film Night (3.30 pm to 4.45 pm)
1.12.22	PTA Carol Concert (6 pm) Fox Class – Viking Day
2.12.22	Non-Uniform Day for donations for PTA Hamper Raffle
5.12.22	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance (Dress Rehearsal to KS2) Rock Steady Concert
6.12.22	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance PM
7.12.22	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance PM
9.12.22	PTA Online Hamper Raffle
15.12.22	Christmas service at Rotherwick Church (9.30am)
16.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day and Key Stage 2 Carols on the Playground Christmas dinner
End of Autumn Term	