



Whitewater Newsletter – 2nd December 2022

As we enter the last couple of weeks of this term and the all important festive season, there's lots to share with you about the past couple of weeks at school! The corridors and classrooms continue to be busy with learning and laughter as the children and staff work hard every day to ensure we continue to grow together. As well as the usual curriculum, there has been the sound of festive song drifting through the school as children begin practising for the range of Christmas performances we have over the next couple of weeks.

As always, this newsletter will contain lots of information about what the children have been up to.

In school...

Rabbits...

In Rabbit Class we have been enjoying our new texts and making links. We have seen some amazing examples of independent story mapping! We are securing our maths skills while we continue to count, subitise and compare as we explore 1 more and 1 less; using our five frames and multilink cubes carefully and explaining our work. Simple way of consolidating this at home is to include singing 5 currant buns or 5 green bottles. During our woodland walk sessions, we have been collecting natural objects to make wreaths. We are thinking about making decorations using sticks next week. Christmas is coming and we are all immersed in learning about Jesus, celebrations and birthdays. Rabbits are very excited about performing in front of all of our parents next week and practising singing every day. What a hardworking and resilient class!

Otters...

It has been a busy few weeks in Otter Class. Otters have been incredibly busy learning lines and singing in preparation for their Christmas play, '*Donkey for sale*'. The excitement is building for their performances next week! Thank you so much for your support in providing us with costumes!

In Maths, the children have been learning all about 'Shapes' and the Year 1 children went on a 'Shape Hunt' around the school. They managed to spot most 2-D shapes, however finding a pentagon around the school proved difficult! Let us know if you find one whilst out and about this weekend.

We have finished our final 'moving pictures' in DT using the skills we have learnt over the term including sliding mechanisms and pivots. The children are excited to bring home their finished moving picture soon. In Geography, we have enjoyed learning about our local area and locating local landmarks on a map. Lastly, in Science, we have been learning all about plants and trees as well as learning some scientific words such as 'deciduous' and 'evergreen'.

Hedgehogs...

Creativity and courage are full flow in Hedgehog Class. The children have finished their Anglo-Saxon brooches and the results were amazing. Their creativity, patience and focus to create eye catching and bold brooches was great to see. They have now begun their new art topic focusing on the Bayeux Tapestry. They are designing a panel to sew together to create a collaborative piece about what it means to be in Hedgehog Class. The children have finished their contrasting setting descriptions which included a fantastic range of word choices, precise nouns, verbs and adverbs for effect. They are now moving onto using persuasive language. Following this, we are going to be Anglo Saxon leaders and writing an emotive battle cry to convince their tribe to go to war against the vicious Vikings after the raids on Lindisfarne. In Maths lessons, the children have moved on from money problems to creating arrays and solving multiplication problems in context showing some great focus and presentation. During computing sessions, the children have been using the theme of a 'Comparison card game' (based on the popular game, Top Trumps), to understand what a database is by learning the meanings of records, fields, and data. They have been working so hard and with a few weeks left until Christmas I can't wait to be able to tell you about their next successes!



Foxes...

This week's Fox Class update is brought to by Evan and Daniel:

Over the past few weeks, Foxes have done many fantastic things. For English we have been writing about how Santa Claus really works. We have answered lots of baffling questions about this and we are now hoping to make it into a book.

- For Maths we have learnt about adding and subtracting fractions and done a few arithmetic and reasoning tests (practice for SATS in May).*
- For reading we have read a famous book called the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe and completed a reading practice SATS.*
- In French we have been learning about healthy food and learning how to say the different names and determiners.*
- In PE we have been creating Viking themed drama and dance. We have also been doing cricket on Monday afternoons.*
- For topic we have finished learning about Vikings and had an entire Viking day where we dressed as Vikings and did Viking related activities. He even let us hold his weapons!*
- In music we have been learning about the different music notes and seeing how many beats they have. Also, we have been making our own rhythm with our hands, our mouths and glockenspiel.*

We are continuing to do Christmas related things as we get closer to the holidays and are all excited about what is still to come.



Christingle Service...

Earlier this week, Marion and Shona joined us all in the school hall for the first Christmas event of the season...the Christingle Service. This service involves oranges, ribbon, cocktail sticks, sweets, and a candle - The recipe for a fun afternoon! All of the children gathered in the hall to learn about the Christingle before trying their hand at making their own. For those who aren't familiar, each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world*
- The red ribbon (or tape in our case) symbolises the love and blood of Christ*
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations*
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.*



All of the children managed to resist the temptation of sampling the sweets, whilst managing to cover the floors and tables in orange juice! It was great fun to see the older children help the younger children as we got stuck in to this wonderful practical activity.

Sports taster days...

Last Friday, the children were treated to a hockey taster session. It was an action-packed, high-energy morning with a fantastic show of teamwork, growth mindset and courage running through all classes. The children practiced dribbling skills before competing in team relay races and shooting drills. Throughout the morning, the cheers from the hall were deafening and the excitement from the children was palpable. Children participating in a wide range of sports is brilliant to see and we hope to continue the excitement when the children try some Judo sessions next Friday.



PTA film nights...

Thank you to the PTA, who, once again provided the children with such great entertainment at the recent film nights for key stage one and key stage two! Yet again, these events were well attended and enjoyed by all, whilst raising much appreciated funds for the school.

We hope to see many of you at the upcoming Christmas events we have in the calendar. Hopefully you have read the letters with all the information. If not, please see the key dates below and speak to the office for further information.

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

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) – Parents Welcome.
16.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day and Key Stage 2 Carols on the Playground (Refreshments to be provided by PTA) All proceeds from these two events going to Save the Children. Christmas dinner
End of Autumn Term	
03.01.23	Inset Day
10.02.23	Inset Day