

Whitewater C. of E. Primary School

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Love, Respect
and Courage

Whitewater Vision

Developing values and skills of the Christian faith
Including everyone
Nurturing everyone's talents
Life long learning

Thursday 15th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As this is the last newsletter of 2022, I wanted to share a few reflections on what has been both a busy and successful year at Whitewater School. I apologise in advance if this letter appears sentimental and lacking in any real educational purpose. Mr Moore and I feel very fortunate to have been so warmly received into this community and wanted to celebrate the achievements of 2022 and thank the people who have made the year such a success.

The Original Team

The Spring Term started full of optimism and hope. The whole team were determined to put Whitewater C of E Primary School back on the map. One of my first observations of the school, apart from the fact that there appeared to be a Kiln in one of the classrooms and an art outdoor toilet in the courtyard, was that Mrs Fox appeared to be everywhere and do everything. There was no job too big, no task too small for Mrs Fox, in fact she could have been a member of the Paw Patrol!

However, as the days went on, it became clear that it wasn't only Mrs Fox who wore many hats, it was every existing member of staff. Having not worked in a small village school before, I had no appreciation of how so many different tasks are covered by so few people. Therefore, the group of people I would like to thank first are the original team members who were here before us, their love for the school and dedication to the children have been the foundation that all good things this year have been built on. Thank you all for being so steadfast and for welcoming all the new arrivals into your school!

The New Arrivals

It takes a certain calibre of person to join a school that is experiencing some challenges. When a school has been judged to Require Improvement, you know that Ofsted are just round the corner and you know that the local authority will be visiting on a weekly basis scrutinising all that you do. When you also factor in that there is nowhere to hide in a small village school; every contribution made effects the overall performance, it makes their decision to join us even more admirable.

So huge thanks are extended to all those who have joined us this year. Thank you for seeing the potential in the school and for making the new whole school team such a pleasure to lead.

The Wider Community

It was also during the spring term that we decided to try and upgrade some of the facilities in school. It was clear that both the ICT infrastructure and EYFS outside area were in desperate need of improvement. The only problem was that due to low pupil numbers we had no money. What I have come to realise is that there is no barrier that the Whitewater community cannot overcome. I have also come to realise that the PTA can perform miracles. How so few PTA members can produce amazing events and memories for the families of Whitewater whilst raising a huge amount of money is astounding.



Through fund raising, individual donations and establishing positive relationships with local trusts, we raised over £60,000 in this 3-month period. This enabled us to completely re-landscape the EYFS area and purchase a new server, computers and iPads for the school.

This quest to make Whitewater the best it can be didn't stop at the end of the Spring Term. Since then, we have purchased new reading and handwriting schemes, various other curriculum resources, provided enrichment experiences and even bought our own school minibs.

None of these improvements would have been possible without the help and kindness of our local community. To all those who have given so generously with their time and funds, especially the PTA and those who wished to stay anonymous, I thank you. School life for both children and staff has been considerably enhanced because of your combined efforts. Thank you.

Volunteers

The most up to date statistics that I can find for the population of Rotherwick is 522 people. It is therefore a huge credit to the local community that we have so many people willing to come in and support the school.

Throughout the year we have had a number of parents undertake a range of tasks, without whom we would not have been able to achieve so much in such a short period of time. Whether it has been listening to readers, taking responsibility for the Library, leading Gardening Club, leading Forest School on Fridays or helping to improve our grounds and external learning environment; every contribution has had a positive impact and is hugely appreciated.

Special thanks go to the following people for their support:

Mrs Syckelmoore, Mrs Amanda Hunt, Mr and Mrs Jones, Mr and Mrs Cooling, Mrs Trill, Mrs Neaves, Mrs Cutler, Mrs Beard and Mrs Scourfield.

To everyone else who has contributed, huge thanks to you too, we feel very fortunate to have you as part of our team.

School Governors

Having worked in schools for nearly 23 years, I can honestly say that the Governing Body of Whitewater School are a class act. They strike the perfect balance of challenge and support and genuinely all share the same drive to make our school the best it can be. Being a school Governor is a voluntary role but one with great responsibility. So, thank you Governors for the huge amount of time and effort you give to the school.

Both Mr Moore and I would like to give special thanks to Dan Trill and Jo Hunt. Back in December last year Dan and Jo were the driving force behind Whitewater joining The Bishopswood & Bramley Collaboration and then in April they were instrumental in formalising and extending the collaboration agreement. Both Mr Moore and I feel honoured and privileged to have been entrusted with serving the school and cannot imagine life without Whitewater as part of our group. So many thanks Dan and Jo for exploring alternative options of school leadership and trusting us with your precious school.

The Children of Whitewater

Lastly, I would like to thank the people who matter most, our children. It has been delightful to see how much you have grown and developed this year. Whitewater C of E Primary School is a warm, welcoming and loving school because of the pupils who attend. On a daily basis the children display



our core values of love, respect and courage. They treat each other with kindness and actively look after one another. They take on roles and responsibilities with enthusiasm and they display resilience and perseverance in their learning. So, thank you children for making our jobs so enjoyable.

Other School news

Ofsted

As shared in last week's newsletter, we are unable to share any outcomes of the inspection yet. We are predicting the end of January or beginning of February for the final report to be ready for publishing. The timescales are set by Ofsted protocols and the Christmas Break. As soon as we are told the report is ready to share, we will send you all a copy and post it on the school website.

Autumn Term Role of honour

On the final celebration assembly of each term, we ask staff to select one child in each year for a 'Values Award'. This is a very special award for a select few children who demonstrate our school values of **Love**, **Respect** and **Courage** without fail. In recognition of their achievement, the children get a Values Award badge as well as a certificate. In addition, we will take the children out for the afternoon when we return from the Christmas break.

The winners of the Values Awards are:

Year R – Sienna W
Year 1 – Jean Bastien B
Year 2 – Harry H
Year 3 – William C
Year 4 – Anouk T
Year 5 – Sebastian B
Year 6 - Bertie B

The last thing for me to do is thank you all for your continued support. This Autumn Term has flown by with so many events, performances and developments to be proud of. We do appreciate that we are lucky to have such a supportive and engaged parent body.

On behalf of everyone at Whitewater C of E Primary School, we hope you all have a very merry Christmas.

G Golding

Mr Glen Golding
Executive Head



Key dates for next term

Date	Event
3/1/23	INSET Day
4/1/23	Children return to school
9/1/23	Hockey Club after school
11/1/23	Judo Club after school
12/1/23	Tennis Club after school
23/1/23	Year R to QMC Science Centre (AM)
26/1/23	PTA Meeting
1/2/23	Vocal Ambassadors to Southview School (PM)
10/2/23	INSET DAY
13/2/23 to 17/2/23	Half Term
20/2/23	Children return to school
3/4/23 to 14/3/23	Easter Holidays
17/04/23	Children return to school

