



Whitewater Newsletter – 20th January 2023

What a start to 2023! The school has been a buzzing hub of exciting activities. We pride ourselves on the core curriculum we provide for our children, but school life is far more than that. We want to continually offer our children a broad and engaging education full of opportunities – we love sharing these in our newsletters with you.

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

In school...

Rabbits...

Welcome back to business Rabbits, what a positive start to a new year and a new term with fun filled learning activities. We have started talking about cold places and changes in weather. Children enjoyed their woodland walk with clipboards and produced lots of writing despite the cold. They all enjoyed setting up their home corner as an igloo and built a play park for the penguins with slides out of guttering. Their imagination and interests are leading our planning. Our tuff trays are filled with ice and rice! Rabbit class started learning about Chinese New Year; it's the year of the Rabbit. So far, every time I ask them what year it is, they don't say 2023 - they shout 'Rabbit'. Phonics lessons are going so well, I almost want to teach two lessons a day! I would like to thank you all for your support at home and happy to announce that this week you will receive a home learning book with your first homework! - of course, it has to be Phonics.

There is a lovely buzz in the room and our visitors this week praised the way our children are learning and their understanding of the learning behaviours. You must have seen the stickers; we have lots of slinky linky snakes, proud peacocks, independent iguanas and creative chameleons...

In our Maths lessons we are covering measures, so if you find an opportunity please talk about heavy/light objects, empty/full containers and explore comparing capacity. Here's a helpful link: <https://nrich.maths.org/12491>

We celebrated World Religion Day and looked at some symbols for each religion, it was lovely to see the respect children show towards all religions.

Enjoy the weekend and keep warm.



Otters...

Otters have had a fantastic start to 2023! The class have immersed themselves in our new topic, 'Fiery Flames'. We have gone back in time to 1666 and learnt about 'The Great Fire of London' and what life was like at that time and how the fire started.

In English, 'Masha and the Firebird' has been the focus of our lessons with the children having the opportunity to create their own mythical creature! The class have shown amazing creativity with their creatures and at the same time, thought of some brilliant expanded noun phrases.

We have got messy with charcoal in our art lessons, experimenting with different pressures and strokes to create smoke effects in preparation for our art masterpiece based on the Great Fire of London.

In Science, the children absolutely loved creating their own habitat for pretend animals. The children designed and then created their habitat, thinking of what their animals would need in their environment to thrive.



Hedgehogs...

Welcome back to spring term and after a very icy week I am hoping for the weather to warm up soon. It has been brilliant to have your children back in school after the Christmas holidays and I am impressed with the way they have returned. The first week of term we were transported to a different time and place, the valley of the kings in ancient Egypt. During our topic lesson the children have asked questions about Egyptian artefacts and explained what they reveal about their way of life, they have looked at village life and how it differs from ours and learnt how the mummification process worked. They particularly loved the part about the brain being pulled out of the nostrils. In English, the children have been roaming reports detailing the exciting events of the 4th November 1922 and Howard Carters discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. Their choice of language has been amazing and their knowledge has shown a great level of understanding. In art, the children have been studying the work of Christina Balit and her beautiful book the Scrabs Secret. Throughout our reading sessions the children have been looking at new words in context, the way an author chooses their language for effect and how a lowly scarab beetle can save the life of a Pharaoh. During the past 2 and half weeks we have fit in a lot of learning and I can't wait to share what our plans are over the next few weeks! Have a restful and enjoyable weekend. Mr Ralph.



Foxes...

Happy New Year to you all. In Fox Class, we have had a very busy start to the new year. We have begun the New Year with our topic of World War Two. The children have been very excited to start this topic. We have created timelines and considered the question 'What makes a good leader?' We started the term reading the book 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman. The children have worked hard learning about refugees and writing their speeches on homelessness this week. In Maths, we have begun learning about measurement, looking at converting units of measures and how to calculate perimeter and area of composite shapes. The children are looking forward to designing their clay sculpture in art. In science, they will be making their own parachutes to help them learn about factors that affect air resistance. The children are very much looking forward to testing them next week. In our next instalment from Fox Class, we will be back to hearing from the children themselves.

Ofsted Report...

As shared with you yesterday, the report from our recent Ofsted Inspection has been published. We hope you have had a chance to read through it. For us, this is a fair reflection of where we currently are and what our school is like. It captured what a caring, nurturing culture we aim to establish as well as the high expectations we have on learning and behaviour. As staff and Governors, we have taken time to feel proud of what we have achieved together through this report, but we have quickly focused on the future and we continue to drive standards forward in all aspects.

On behalf of the team, I would like to extend a warm thank you for all of your support during the inspection. So many of you took the time to wish us well or drop in a collection of chocolate-based treats. All of this was very much appreciated and kept us well-fuelled.

After School Clubs...

There are still places available in Hockey and Tennis Clubs. These are run by outside agencies and you have to book directly with them. If your child is interested in joining one of these clubs, please contact the school office for more information on how to do this.

Parents' Evenings...

The Spring Term Parents' Evenings are a valuable time to talk with your child's classteacher and to hear about how well they are doing in their learning, find out how you can support them at home and share any concerns you may have. All of this contributes to ensuring your child thrives at Whitewater. Please remember to book your Parent's Evening appointments on Tuesday 7th February or Thursday 9th February – a letter will be sent out next week with all the information you need.

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

23/1	QMC Science Trip – EYFS
25/1	Fire Brigade in (Otters and Foxes) Vocal Ambassadors to South View
26/1	PTA meeting 6pm
7/2	Parents Evening Safer Internet Day
9/2	Parents Evening
10/2	Inset Day
HALF TERM - 13/02/23 – 17/02/23	