



Whitewater Newsletter – 3rd February 2023

It's been another busy fortnight at Whitewater. Children have been engaging in a wide range of learning activities including a science trip, a football match, engaging lessons and we've even had plenty of politics thrown in as well.

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

In school...

Rabbits...

Rabbits made us all very proud with their behaviour during our school trip to QMC Science Centre. Experiments were fun and everyone had a turn with each activity. They were fascinated by the fire alarm hunt. The firefighters' visit also was an exciting event. We enjoyed the stories read by the team and learning about how to stay safe. We have been making story maps following our lessons about the Emperor's Egg. Rabbits enjoyed writing captions and sentences to go with the story. Building igloos with sugar cubes was a favourite this week. Children enjoyed finding out about 6, 7 and 8. They independently found resources to show different ways of matching these numbers. Our new outdoor area resources have been delivered just in time to help us with our lessons, children are loving the giant numicons and the HUGE wooden ten frame in maths. We had some fascinating helicopter stories from Rabbits again this week. I look forward to putting the remaining stories on stage next week and meeting you at the parents' evenings!



Otters...

Otter Class have stepped back in time to the cobbled streets of London in 1666! After having learnt what Tudor houses were like, the children had the task of designing their very own Tudor house complete with appropriate features such as jetties, thatched roof and beams. Planning and thinking of the materials that were needed was done thoughtfully and the features were added to the finished designs.

Staying on the theme of 'Fiery Flames', Otter Class were beyond excited to have a visit from the Fire Service! It was a fun and interactive visit and gave a great insight into the day in the life of a Firefighter. As well as learning about the type of jobs Firefighters respond to such as rescuing cows who have become trapped, we learnt an important fire safety song to tell our grown-ups when we got home.



Hedgehogs...

Another amazing couple of weeks in Hedgehog Class. Seeing how the children are applying themselves is wonderful to be a part of. In reading, the children have been focusing on the 'Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow' and delving into an author's choice of words and some high level vocabulary. The children have been defining new words in context, words including renowned, stickler, shrouded and immaculate. The book is producing some amazing discussions that I wish you could all hear. In English, the children completed a non-chronological report on the Ancient Egyptians and are now creating a setting description ready for their stories after half term entitled 'The Curse of the Mummies'. In topic, hieroglyphs have been decoded, Rosetta Stones uncovered, and new languages created. The children using symbols have created intricate and elaborate languages and I am looking forward to decoding their special messages. During Science lessons, the children have been channelling Benjamin Franklin and searching for conductors in our classroom to create complete circuits some including cutlery, tin foil, my rings, glasses and even table legs.

Foxes...

Written by Holly and Jasmin.

The last couple of weeks foxes have been very busy in Maths, English, Science and Topic. We also had an extra special performance from our JRSO's showing the dangers of the road and how to stay safe.

Last week, in Maths, we were learning about perimeter, area and volume and finding these from shapes. We're measuring obtuse, acute and right angles with protractors in our maths lessons along with estimating the degrees of many different are in various angels. In Arithmetic, Year 6's are doing challenging work that contains: multiplying decimals by whole numbers and finding the percentage of 2-3 digit numbers. Year 5's are also working really hard by doing: adding decimals, adding fractions and times table work.

During these last few weeks in English, we have been re-writing Charlie and the Chocolate Factory so far in our re-write we got up to doing three of the main characters named Veruca Salt, Mike Teavee and Charlie Bucket and their description. Another fantastic book we read was called 'Rose Blanche' it was about WWII and concentration camps. We had to describe one pictures that showed little children stuck in a concentration camp

In Science, we have been designing and making parachutes out of home supplies the most used items were: plastic bag, string, bottles, and paper cups. All of Fox Class really enjoyed testing their parachutes in the playground and in the classroom.

In Topic, we have been learning about WWII and how people lived during the Blitz. We also were talking about what Hitler did in the war and what happened to Jewish people during this time. The class were surprised when the teacher suddenly played the air-raid siren alarm and hurried us under the tables.

Next week, we very much look forward to making our Henry Moore sculptures from clay and painting them.

Collective Worship...

This half term we have been looking at the Christian Value of perseverance in our Collective Worships. We have looked at how we can show perseverance when we are challenged both in school and out of school. We have looked at individuals who have shown perseverance in different aspects of life including the shortest basketball player in NBA history - Muggsy Bogues as well as the inspirational Story of Nick Vujicic who you can find out more on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNnVdlvdTQ>. We used these stories alongside the story of St Peter, who persevered despite many setbacks.

Mental Health Week...

Next week is children's mental health week in school. Our aim as a school is for children to understand;

- What mental health is
- That how we feel and how well we can cope can change throughout the day
- That using the 5 ways of wellbeing (see below) can support our mental health
- Know who to talk to when they need help
- Know how to be good listeners



As part of our plans for the week we are asking children to come to school in non-school uniform on Thursday 9th February. We are asking that children 'dress to express' wearing whatever expresses them as a person e.g. rainbows, bright and colourful, sporty etc. We do ask for donations of your choice for this day which will be going to the Place to Be children's mental health charity.

The Red Kites

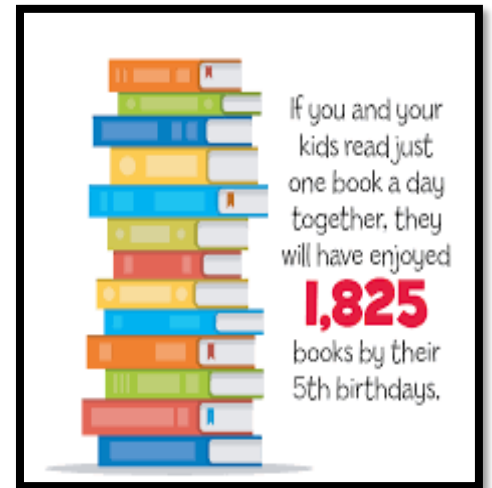
Yesterday afternoon, Mr Ralph filled the school minibus with enthusiasm and footballers. This time it was the turn of a Year 3 and Year 4 children as they donned the famous red and white strip of the mighty Whitewater Red Kites FC. The Festival of Football between Whitewater, Bishopswood and Bramley was full of fun, flair and friendship. The children played their hearts out with smiles on their faces and showed love, respect and courage throughout the whole afternoon. I'm sure they created memories that will last a long time as they proudly represented our small, but mighty school.

Coming soon...Reading Week!

We will be kickstarting the new half term with a reading week commencing on Monday 20th February. As well as planned activities in class, this week will consist of 2 author visits with book signing and a character dress up day on Friday 24th February.

In the week after half term, we will be holding a Reading Week. Teachers are eagerly planning a range of activities to enthuse our children towards reading and developing a range of reading skills. A key focus of the week will be to look at different authors: hopefully helping children to develop a greater awareness of authors they might like to choose. We will also be looking at the types of stories authors like to write: developing children's understanding of genres and encouraging them to try different styles.

On Friday 24th February, we will be holding our Character Dress Up Day – children can come to school dressed as a book character they love. Please do not spend lots of money on a costume, making one from old clothes or home resources is great! We would much rather money was spent on treating them to a new book than a costume for the day.



Thank you for your support...

Lastly, we want to pass on sincere thanks from the entire Whitewater team for the words and emails of support regarding Wednesday's strike action. It was overwhelming and hugely appreciated.

Striking for a teacher is the very last resort. It is a no-win situation. If you do strike you feel like you are letting the children down by denying them education. If don't strike you feel like you are letting the children down by not fighting for improved conditions.

Looking ahead there is more industrial action planned for the 1st of March. Should this round of strike action fall upon deaf ears then I am sure that the teachers will take into consideration how best to move forward in the interests of our children whilst trying where possible to minimize the impact it has on you, our families.

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

We look forward to seeing you all next week at parents evening. 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

w/c 6/2	Children's Mental Health Week
7/2	Parents Evening Safer Internet Day
9/2	Dress to Express Day Parents Evening
10/2	Inset Day
HALF TERM - 13/02/23 – 17/02/23	
w/c 20/2	Reading Week
24/2	Character Dress Up Day