



## **Whitewater Newsletter – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

I hope you all enjoyed the February half term break. Since returning we've wasted no time getting stuck into our learning with our Reading Week. Throughout this newsletter, I'll be sharing reflections on the week as well as the Learning Overviews for this half term from each class.

### **Our Reading Week...**

Throughout this week we have all been enjoying our Reading Week. We have welcomed two authors to Whitewater and finished the week with such a wonderful array of creative and colourful characters. Below is a Reading Week Reflection by Tilly and Isla:

*This week, during World Book Week (which we celebrated a week early), the school has had the privilege of meeting two awesome authors: Keith Hatten and Kerry McIntosh. Both writers were adored by all pupils and teachers. Keith is the author of the popular Purple Panda series and has written many other child friendly books. His stories are based on his children and other family members. Kerry McIntosh wrote Rory Green Secret Agent to the Queen which we all loved and thoroughly enjoyed. This was her debut story, which was also based on her family. Both authors' stories were an inspiration to us all, especially as Kerry surprised us when she said she used to struggle reading as a child! Everyone was eager to get the chance to buy and find out more about these brilliant books!*

If anyone didn't manage to purchase one of the books, but would like to, please let us know by emailing the office. Both authors would happily provide more copies.

As we shared yesterday, the reading theme continues next week as we work together to support the long road to recovery for Turkey and Syria by taking part in our sponsored reading challenge. We look forward to seeing how you all get on!

### **Collective Worship...**

Throughout this half term, our value in focus for collective worships is *forgiveness*. Forgiveness is an important part of Christianity. It does not mean that Christians let others get away with things, but more that they make a conscious effort to forgive and let go of feelings that come with bearing a grudge against a person. These feelings of anger and hatred can cause harm to the person feeling them and this is something we'll be exploring in the build up to Easter.

In addition, Marion continues to lead Collective Worship on a fortnightly basis. She is delving into the concept of *Ubuntu*. Ubuntu is an African concept of personhood in which the identity of the self is understood to be formed interdependently through community. *"Bringing people together is what I call 'ubuntu,' which means 'I am because we are.' Far too often people think of themselves as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world. When you do well, it spreads out; it is for the whole of humanity."* – Desmond Tutu.

You may wish to engage with your child at home throughout the term which will deepen their understanding.



## Rabbits Class...

### **Mathematics**

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children acquire the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. We will provide rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. Children will look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

### **Literacy**

**Phonics** Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, we will follow Spring 2 term planning.  
**Writing** We will continue using kinetic letters to speed up our handwriting skills, focus on using our sounds to write words/ sentences correctly.  
**Reading** This half term, the texts will be all about gardening, growing food and understanding what plants need to grow. We will work together to make sure everyone can segment and blend simple words matched to their phonics knowledge and read the tricky words learned so far.

### **PSED**

We are a HeartSmart School. HeartSmart is a creative approach that we use to build character, emotional health and resilience in children. Heart smart topic is **Don't Hold on to What's Wrong**. This term Rabbit Class will focus on Celebrating New Life in RE, enjoy activities planned with Easter in mind and we will also have discussions about Why Christians put a cross in an Easter Garden.

### **Communication & Language**

This term our focus is on sharing ideas using full sentence and asking questions. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, story-telling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.



### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children are already enjoying art in nature; they are learning about print, starting with making prints of bark patterns by rubbing crayons over paper. They will then continue with observational drawings of flowers and creating 3D nature art.

### **Physical Development**

Our PE days this term: Wednesday & Friday. This term we will follow a unit of work to help get our children fit, the plans are filled with fun and inclusive activities for all. The children will continue exploring other small tools to improve fine motor skills through the enhanced provision. In the outdoor provision the children will be working on their gross motor skills. They will be climbing, running, jumping-using the trampoline, riding scooters and bikes safely. They will continue digging, pouring, stirring, mixing in the mud kitchen and the sand pit.

### **Understanding the World**

We are going to observe and talk about plants, follow recipes and make different foods. We will observe the seeds we had planted last term bloom and also the change that's taking place in nature during Monday Woodland Walks. We will celebrate Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes. Starting this term, we will have a Book Share morning during which children can talk about the stories they have been learning.

## Otters Class...

### **Numeracy**

This term, we will be exploring place value and developing skills in counting in different intervals up to 100. We will be partitioning numbers and improving our addition and subtraction skills. We will also explore measurement in particular money, length and temperature.

### **English**

This term will be learning all about the incredible Australian animal - the 'Quokka'. As well as learning fascinating facts about the creature, we will create a non-fiction report on them to present to the rest of the class. We will also look at poetry and story writing.

### **Computing**

In Computing this term, we will be learning how to use 'Scratch' to create algorithms and creating animations. We will also learn how design a musical instrument and develop our skills on how to control when it plays.

### **Science**

During our Science lessons this term we will explore 'food chains' in a variety of habitats. We will talk about differences between things that are living and those that have never been alive. We will work together in pairs and groups to create food chains and research facts to add to them.

### **Geography**

Our learning will start with discovering the continents and oceans of the world before focussing on the amazing country of Australia! We will learn about both human and physical features of Sydney and compare these with the features of our village, Rotherwick.

### **Music**

During our music topic this term 'It's raining, it's pouring', we will be learning about keeping a steady beat and playing different music patterns. We will be looking at the duration and dynamics of different pieces of music.

## **Spring 2 – Australia Otter Class**

### **PSHE**

'Forgiveness' is the theme of our PSHE lessons this term. We will be reflecting on how our behaviours can affect other people and how we can show forgiveness.

### **Art and Design**

We will be developing our sketching and sculpture skills this term in creating famous Australian landscapes and amazing Faberge-inspired eggs!

### **RE**

The focus for RE this term is 'Salvation' and we will be exploring why Easter is an important time for Christians.

### **PE**

In indoor PE, our dance sessions will have an Australian theme to link with our topic. In outdoor PE, we will be improving our throwing and catching skills and learning how to play 'rounders'.

## Hedgehog Class...

### Maths

We will be looking at revisiting and developing our addition and subtraction skills by solving word problems in context and reasoning and problem solving. After this, we will be moving on to the focus of time, converting between 12 and 24 hours and using roman numerals. Then finishing the term with multiplication and division problems with increasing difficulty and in context.

### English

In English the children will be writing their own mystery story based on the title *The Curse of the Mummy*. Focusing on adverbials of manner and place, punctuating direct speech, and using language to create suspense and mystery. The children will be continuing their work on spelling and daily talk for reading sessions or phonics sessions.

### Science

We will be looking at living things and their habitats. Focusing on identifying vertebrates and invertebrates before going on scavenger hunts, creating mini habitats and exploring the impact of climate change on the environment. The children will raise awareness for endangered animals.

### Geography

The children will be learning about the biomes in Egypt, the importance of the Nile and comparing and contrasting capital cities with London.

## Spring 2 How great is the Nile? Hedgehog Class

### RE

Children will learn about the Christian Story and the concept of salvation through stories of Adam and Eve, Noah's ark and Moses.

### Computing

The children will be using computational thinking and looking at the 4 strands:

- Decomposition
- Pattern Recognition
- Abstraction
- Algorithm Design

### PE

In outdoor PE the children will be participating in handball sessions focusing on hand-eye coordination, teamwork and resilience. In indoor PE they will be focusing on balances and sequences.

### PSHE

There will be a focus on the topic *Too Much Selfie Isn't Healthy*. Recognising unsung heroes, when we need help and how we can help others.

### Music

We will be listening and responding to a wide range of music and creating our own.

### Art and Design

The children will be creating their own cartouches of their own names along with their own Egyptian profiles ready for their museum.

### Foreign Languages

The children will be learning to say and order the days of the weeks and order the months of the year, count on from 11-31 and say their own birthday.

## Fox Class...

### Reading

This half-term we have begun reading our class novel, 'Holes' which we are enjoying. We will also start reading 'Wonder' and using inference. We will study non-fiction, looking at summarising the text. We will also begin reading the Stormkeeper's Island and Rooftoppers.

### Writing

Inspired by our class novel, we will be designing our own lizards and writing an informative non-chronological report as lizard experts. In this unit, the children will learn about 'formality' of writing. The children will compare the serious tone of their report with an informal Survival Guide. Following this, they will write their own guide for surviving Camp Green Lake. At the end of the half-term, the children will develop their knowledge and skills in creating suspense when writing, inspired by Harry Potter's, The Forbidden Forest.

### Maths

This half-term we started looking at 3D shapes and their nets. The children will also learn about radius and diameter in circles. They will develop their knowledge of how to tell the time and read and interpret timetables, as well as line graphs. Children in year 6 will begin to study ratio and proportion, and algebra. Throughout the half-term, the children will continuously practise their arithmetic skills.

### Science

This term the children will be learning about Earth and space. The children have begun to research the solar system, learning about the planets. We will be exploring how far the planets are away from the sun, building our understanding of their temperatures. The children will build a mini-model of the solar system and paint this. They will learn about how we have night and day and the seasons, thinking about how the Earth rotates around the sun. Learning about the phases of the moon, the children will make a moon phase flip book.

## Spring 2 – Fox Class Earth & Space

### Art and Design

The children have begun to learn about the artist Julie Perrot and her piece 'Journey into Space'. They will design their own space artwork, thinking out techniques, colour and composition.



### RE

Children will explore the symbol of the empty cross and its significance to Christians. They will compare how Jesus is portrayed in various. They will deepen their understanding of Salvation. All children will explore the Easter story through drama at Rotherwick Church.

### PSHE

Through Heartsmart, there will be a focus on 'Don't Hold on to What's Wrong' in which children will reflect on the importance of forgiveness.

### PE

In PE this half-term the children will be creating Dance routines linked to their Earth and Space themes. They will also enjoy various hand and ball skill games.

### **Aspirations Day**

As there is so much going on this term, the 'Aspirations Day' that we were going to hold next week has been postponed until the Summer Term. We want to make it a very special day with visitors coming in from various walks of life to talk about their work to inspire the children. We will be advising the date for this at the beginning of next term.

Lastly, this half term we welcome a new member to the Whitewater team. Miss Hill is completing the second part of her teacher training with us. She is based in Otters Class and will be supporting and teaching with us until the Easter break before finishing her training at her host school. I'm sure you'll all make Miss Hill feel very welcome.

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

Take care

*S Moore*

Mr Steve Moore  
Executive Head of School

### **Key Dates**

7/3/23 to 13/3/23	Book Fair
17/3/23	Comic Relief