



Whitewater Newsletter – 10th March 2023

What a couple of weeks! As much as snow creates a picturesque scene, I'd always prefer a huge dumping or none at all. The half measures this week quickly presented logistical complications before rapidly making everything wet and slushy! Thank you for braving the conditions to get your children in and for your support and flexibility as we assessed the situation during the early hours.

Despite the changing weather, it's been a wonderfully productive fortnight! As always, this newsletter will contain lots of information about what the children have been up to.

In school...

Rabbits...

Rabbits enjoyed the challenging phonics lessons and showed a lot of growth mindset while writing the words. They compared numbers within 10 using different resources. Everyone enjoyed using number tracks while making sure they found a number that's fewer/ greater than the one they picked. We celebrated Holi with a fun art lesson led by Miss Maisey and Miss Capon. It was so much fun getting out in the snow and building a snowman. Rabbits are observing their beans and hoping that they germinate soon. They made a wheel showing the lifecycle of a seed, had a go at writing sentences. Thank you to our parents who could make it to the first Book Share morning and supporting us.



Otters...



Otter Class has gone 'down under' this term to Australia! From creating our own cave drawings with pastels to learning about the seven continents, it has been a fun and varied start to the new term and our feet have not touched the ground. As well as this, Book Week brought many reading adventures our way and we loved meeting the authors that visited us and the 'character dress up day' saw such a variety of characters coming to school from Matilda to Sir Captain Tom Moore – thank you for your support in providing such amazing costumes!

In Science, we have started to explore food chains and we made our own, thinking of a variety of habitats. From the oceans to deserts, we thought about which animals would be there and what the food chain may look like.

In our Maths learning we have been exploring the value of different coins and our Year 2 children have been finding different ways to make the same amount of money by filling up piggy banks!

Whilst reflecting on our collective worship value of 'Forgiveness' this term, in our RE lessons we have been talking about 'The Easter Story' and 'Holy Week'. The children worked as team to discuss and sequence events of 'Holy Week'.

Hedgehogs...

Another eventful two weeks in Hedgehog Class! The children have returned from the half term with plenty of energy, focus and creativity. Their spooky stories entitled *The Curse of the Mummy* are taking shape and sending shivers down our spines. The children's use of suspenseful language, fronted adverbials and similes have been wonderful to see. In reading the children have been focusing on the book *Secrets of a Sun King*, a story about deadly curses, mysterious illness and the real life of Tutankhamun. It has been great to see children bring their passion from our Egyptian topic to ask questions about the book and make links across the curriculum. In RE, the children have been focusing on the topic of Passover and Salvation, discussing and retelling the Passover story and the impact this had. The children created their own seder dish to represent their favourite memories using broccoli to represent trees from a favourite holiday,

mash potato from skiing adventures and fizzy drinks to represent the spray from the ocean. In science the children have started their topic of 'Living Things and Their Habitats' and making the most of our wonderful school grounds to go on scavenger hunts before creating their habitats. The children have planted sunflowers for a longitudinal study in science to observe changes and growth over time. This is just a snapshot of what we have been doing and we can't wait to show you are Egyptian work in our museum. Have a great week end, relax and hopefully the weather improves.

Foxes...

This edition's article was written by Bertie and Seb

Foxes have been busy again these past two weeks. We have done some formal writing in English (a formal non-chronological report) about fictional lizards. Our aim was to improve our formal language vocabulary and to sound like an expert on a subject.

In reading we have been working on a book called Wonder by R. J. Palacio. We have been looking at how to figure out a character's feelings from a paragraph. As well as answering 3-mark questions.

In Maths we have been doing arithmetic tests and practice SAT's, ready for May. We have done many other topics in Maths: co-ordinates, reflection, column addition and angles.

In our Science Topic we have been learning about space. These are the activities we have done: writing a fact file about 4 planets and finding about orbit and rotation. We are also creating a dance about space!

Miss Ouazzani has started to hand out pen licences. There are 3 types: learner, full and special. We are all trying extra hard to earn a pen.

Thank you for reading

Sponsored Reading Challenge...

After our wonderful reading week, we launched the fundraising event of a sponsored read. During assembly this week, we caught up with the children to see how they had enjoyed completing the different challenges. Clearly reading upside down, in pyjamas and in a den were highlights! Some children were also very inventive for their 'crazy' places to read!!

Aside from all of the reading fun, it was important to us that we are able to demonstrate our value of *love* to support those who are in need across the world. So far, we have raised **£1535.60** towards those who have been affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. This is a staggering effort and something to be very proud of!

If you have yet to add your donations, please continue to send them into school office.

Well done to all the children who have taken part and thank you to everyone who has sponsored the children and supported the challenge.

James Ketchell...

On Monday 20th March, we have a very exciting visitor to our school - local explorer James Ketchell. He will lead a special assembly for Hedgehog and Fox Classes entertaining the children with stories of his adventures around the world: climbing Everest, rowing the Atlantic Ocean and flying around the world. He'll retell his stories in an exciting way whilst inspiring the children to think of their own challenges and dreams. We would like to invite any parents to join us for this assembly and listen alongside our children. This will start in the hall at 9am if you are interested. He'll then deliver a workshop on resilience for the children in Fox Class.



A Bat Walk...

We have a unique and exciting opportunity to be able to welcome Charlie Allchin, to run a Bat Walk in our school grounds on Tuesday 21st March at 17.45 for approx. 1 hour. Charlie is a bat ambulance driver and bat carer from Berkshire Bat Rescue and during this event we will use heterodyne detectors to try and locate these amazing little creatures as they fly overhead.

Due to the number of detectors available, the number of attendees will be restricted to 30 and only available to families of children attending Whitewater. We also request that that only one adult accompanies your children to allow more attendees to be present.

If you would like to attend this event, please title your email FAO Robyn Jones, Forest School Leader, and email adminoffice@whitewater.hants.sch.uk with your name and number of children who would like to attend. The places will be first come first served. Entry will be free but donations to Berkshire Bat Rescue would be welcome.

Eco Council...

The Whitewater Eco Council has been working with Mrs Rolph to help ensure our school is as eco-friendly as possible. We have noticed that we do not have many bird feeders or nesting boxes. Although it will hopefully begin to get warmer, we hope to ask for your help in setting up feeders and homes to welcome more bird life into our grounds. We will let you know our plans soon.

Red Nose Day...

School Council have been busy helping to plan our Red Nose Day event. We are all looking forward to seeing you in 'Red to toe'. School Council are also thinking about some fun activities to do during the day across the school. For this event we have created a Just Giving Page. We would be grateful if all donations could be made on this page. Please find the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rednoseday23-whitewater-ce-primary-school>

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

Take care

S Moore

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

17/03/23	Comic Relief Red Nose Day
20/03/23	Assembly with James Ketchell (Explorer) (9 am)
20/03/23	Otter Class Visit to QMC Science Centre
21/03/23	Bat Walk (please see above)
27/03/23	Rock Steady Concert (2.30 pm)
29/03/23	Choir Performance to Parents (3 pm)