



Whitewater Newsletter – 5th May 2023

I can't believe that we are already halfway through this half term! We have been thrilled by the wide range of engaging learning the children have been actively participating in throughout the start of the summer term. Whenever there's a Bank Holiday, it feels as if we try to cram 5 days' worth of work into 4 opposed to enjoying any sort of rest.

I tend to write this on a Thursday evening so please feel free to delete any of the following bullet points as appropriate!

- Thank you all for joining us on such a wonderful, sunny afternoon celebrating the coronation!
- Thank you all for joining us for our coronation celebrations. I hope the drizzle didn't put too much of a dampener on the afternoon!
- Thank you to the small number of parents who braved the monsoon conditions to join us for the coronation celebrations. I hope you all avoided injury from a flying gazebo and that you managed to canoe your way out of the playground safely!

As always, I hope you enjoy hearing what has been happening across the school over the past few weeks.

In school...

Rabbits...

What a wonderful time of the year seeing the progress being made in so many areas of learning. I love watching Rabbits' increased independence and also their courage to persevere in all challenges set. We love our texts this term which inspire lots of writing. The Cook and the King was so popular that I had to plan lessons around it following children's interest and demand! Rabbit Class created story maps in groups with such excitement and then shared them with the whole class!

I wonder if you have noticed the difference in their handwriting, especially since we started focusing on kinetic letters. Thank you all for joining our Book Share Morning every Thursday. We worked really hard with the children tidying our book corner to get it ready for this week.

Our class tadpoles are growing fast and with the lovely weather we have had so many great opportunities to observe and talk about different minibeasts and plants (dandelions in particular!). We are becoming expert sculptors creating sculptures with paper, sand, playdough and clay! We have found out so much about King Charles III in the last couple of weeks, our little historians enjoyed putting a timeline together with the help of our new class volunteer. Please ask your children about the facts they have been learning about our king. Maths lessons are so much fun with everyone participating. Rabbits put their hands up confidently to give the right answers in each lesson. Their love for maths shows in the way our resources are used carefully and correctly. Last but not least, what an inspiring day we all had learning about so many different professions during the Aspirations Day. Special thanks to the parents who came in and shared their expertise.



Otters...

With the warmer and brighter weather here, Otter Class have been enjoying athletics PE lessons and developing their skills in team activities. We have been thinking about 'achievement' in a broader sense too within our topic of 'Adventurers and Explorers' where we have been learning about a variety of famous people both from the past and present times. It has been interesting to learn about their achievements in addition to speaking about our own successes and reflecting on what makes us special.

In English we have enjoyed reading the book 'The Journey' and changing parts of it to make into our own stories. We will use the beautiful drawings in the book as a basis for our art masterpieces in the coming weeks, watch this space!

In DT, we designed and made boats, linking to Dame Ellen MacArthur and her solo voyage. The children were given a variety of materials to use and it was fascinating to see their finished boats! We tested the boats to see if they could float for a minimum of three seconds and much to everybody's relief, every single boat made floated!



Hedgehogs...

A busy couple of weeks in Hedgehog Class has been full of learning and fun. In Design and Technology, the children have begun planning their bridges to be tested in a few weeks' time. They began practicing sawing skills focusing on straight lines and above all - safety! Lucky the children went home with all ten digits intact. In Art the children have been channelling their inner Van Gough and recreating Starry Night in



order to create their own version of 'Starry Night Over the Rhône' to link with our topic of rivers. During topic lessons, the children have begun their topic of Rivers beginning with the water cycle and different parts of a river. The children recreated the water cycle in scientific models with the use of warm water, plastic and ice packs to mimic evaporation, condensation, precipitation and finally collection. During reading sessions, the children are reading the book 'The Storm Whale' by Sarah Brennan focusing on beautiful and challenging vocabulary and emotive imagery. In English the children are well on the way to writing their stories based on the book 'Flood'. It has been a fantastic two weeks and I hope you all enjoy the coronation celebrations and school and at home. Enjoy the weekend and see you all Tuesday!

Foxes...

We've had a busy start to summer term in Fox Class. The children have very much enjoyed reading 'The Forbidden Forest' chapter from Harry Potter and using this for inspiration for writing their suspense stories – the children worked extremely hard to use skills which keep the reader on the edge of their seat. This week, we have begun the terrible tale of Macbeth. The children are looking forward to discovering how the story ends. The children have decorated their writing books with ghastly illustrations – fantastic!

In Maths, both Year 5 and Year 6 children have been working hard on increasing their accuracy and consistency in their arithmetic and learning about reading and interpreting different forms of graphs and charts. In Art, we have been very excited to begin learning about Frida Kahlo and the art movement 'surrealism'. The children have built confidence in drawing accurate portraits in the style of Frida Kahlo. Over the next few weeks, they will work on their self-portraits. Over the last week, the children have been working so hard on their auditions for the end of year production. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Elie were thoroughly impressed and had the very difficult task of allocating the roles. Full of excitement, the children now know their parts – we know everyone will be fabulous in the show. To celebrate the coronation, the children enjoyed a small party yesterday in class – we are all excited to celebrate on Saturday.

Next week, Year 6 start their SATs and wish all the children the very best of luck!

Mini-Marathon...

Last week, our children took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon! It was fantastic to get the whole school outside and active! The circumference of the school field was full of Rabbits, Otters, Hedgehogs, Foxes and a gazelle which looked suspiciously like Mr Ralph! With cheeks which matched the colours of the jumpers, the children ran as many laps as they could around the school field in 15 minutes. The results were as follows: -

Rabbits - 90 laps

Otters - 216 laps

Hedgehogs – 345 laps

Foxes – 283 laps

As you all know, despite being in 4 classes, we are all one big team meaning the grand total of 934 laps was a chiefted by Team Whitewater. This equates to a staggering total of just over 100 miles!

By taking part we joined school across the country in a Guinness World Record attempt. Great work everyone!



Aspiration Day...

We held our first 'Aspirations Day' last week. All of the children came to school dressed as what they might like to be when they grow up. They did not disappoint with soldiers, property lawyers, jockeys, artists, authors, midwives, movie directors and lots more! There was a significant lack of teachers meaning the recruitment crisis in education may last a little longer!

Thank you to the parents who offered their time to speak to our children about their careers in travel and aviation, the police force, events and running a restaurant. The children were truly inspired.



Eco Council and Bird Boxes...

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter challenge to create feeders and habitats for our birds and insects at Whitewater. We were so impressed and excited to see them all, what a lot of hard work! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who helped too. The Eco-Council have now met and awarded house points, certificates and sweets to all those who entered. An extra big thank you to Olivia and Isobel's Dad who very kindly gave up his time to hang the feeders, nesting boxes and bug hotels around the school site. We are sure they were eagerly inspected over the quiet, long weekend and two of our boxes are already inhabited by a family of Blue Tits and a family of Blackbirds!



Good luck to our Year 6 children

Our Year 6 pupils have been absolute superstars over the past few weeks in the build up to SATs. They have worked hard, supported each other and overcome challenges. I hope you all relax over the long weekend in the knowledge that you are ready! Next week is a chance for you all to show off how brilliant you are. We are proud of you all no matter what. Just smile, breathe and do your best!

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

I hope you all have a fantastic long weekend.

Take care

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Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates for Summer Term 2023 **Whitewater C of E Primary**

08/05	<i>BANK HOLIDAY – King's Coronation</i>
10/05	PGL Parents Meeting (3.40 pm)
22/05	Year 6 Residential all week
HALF TERM – 29/05/23 – 02/06/23	
06/06	Years 3, 4 and 5 Visit to Marwell Zoo
08/06	YR Vision checks for summer born
14/06	Year 6 Leaver's Service in Winchester
16/06	Kylie Grimes (GB wheelchair rugby player)
22/06	Group Photos
26/06	Year 7 Induction day at Robert Mays
27/06	Year 7 Induction day at Robert Mays
28/06	Bikeability for Y6 New Entrants Welcome Meeting
29/06	Bikeability for Y6
30/06	Sports Day
03/07	New Entrants Teddy Bear's Picnic (2pm-3pm)
04/07	Primary Prom at the Anvil
06/07	Year 6 at Legoland
07/07	Sports Day (Reserve)
10/07	New Entrants Stay and Play sessions (1.15pm-2pm)
11/07	Whole School Move up Morning (9-11)
12/07	Rabbit and Otter Class Visit to Hillier Gardens Fox Class Performance (6.30 start)
17/07	End of Year Reports go home
21/07	Last day of the Summer Term