



Whitewater Newsletter - 29th September 2023

As we come to the end of the fourth week of the school year, there's lots to reflect upon and lots of information to share. Throughout this week, we've spent some time in classrooms seeing learning in full swing and have been thrilled with what we've seen. The children have been engaged and working hard whilst the teaching and learning has been focussed and progressive. It's been an excellent start to the year.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of the parents who were kind enough to feedback to me regarding a recent typo in one of my letters. Even the local Cub Scout Leader was keen to share that she was aware of it as well! Your good humour and understanding were very much appreciated and, despite the rumours, I actually really like football.

I hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening in school over the last couple of weeks and what we have to look forward to. Please make sure that you take a look at the key dates and make a note of anything relevant to you and your child(ren).

In school...

Mrs Jolliffe says...

Rabbits have been settling in really well and getting better at understanding and following the new routines and rules. We have spent some time learning about the school values and trying super hard to keep our focus in phonics and maths learning. In phonics we have learned how to sound out and form the letters: **s a t p i n m d g o c k**. To learn how to make the pure sounds with your child you can watch the Phase 2 Autumn videos on <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Maths learning has been all about matching, sorting and comparing objects; you can try at home with socks or natural objects outdoors. We enjoyed our stories 'The Dot', 'The Leaf Thief' and 'Pumpkin Soup'. We loved everyone's pictures created on the International Dot Day. We have lots of keen writers who covered Miss Capon and Miss Maisey with this week's tricky word written on masking tape. We have our first floor book started with lots of pumpkin soup recipes written by our children, followed by making pumpkin soup in the Mud Kitchen. Children love their daily Kinetic Letters finger warm ups which will support their handwriting later in the year. Rabbits have been introduced to Helicopter Stories, which we will visit once a week all year; it's a way of storytelling and story acting in the Early Years.

Everyone has been super busy engaging in learning, both indoors and outdoors. Children receive special stickers each day linked to their skills and abilities in relation to the Characteristics of Effective Learning. We explain individually why they are a slinky linky snake, concentrating crocodile, persevering parrot or an exploring elephant... Children now access every area independently making the most of the enhancements then tidying up beautifully...no wonder why we have so many names on our proud clouds. Well done Rabbits for making yourselves and your teachers proud, what a great start!

Mrs Norton says...

Welcome to the start of a brand new year in Otter Class! The children have settled into the class beautifully and we have been fortunate to have some new Whitewater children join our class too. The class have been amazing at welcoming the new children and there has been lots of evidence of our school values Love, Respect and Courage being shown which has been lovely.



Kitchen. Children

Our topic 'Toys' has got off to a brilliant start – we have been investigating how toys have changed throughout the decades and had the opportunity to bring in our favourite toy from home. The children were amazed to find out that some of the toys played with today, such as Lego and Mr Potato Head have been around for so long!



During our English lessons, we have been reading books on the theme of Toys. The children enjoyed the story 'Kipper's Toy Box' and the Year 1 children even made their own 'sock thing' and wrote a toy wish list as part of their continuous provision activities.

In Science we have been exploring the wonder of our 5 senses and appreciating how our senses help us every day. We cannot wait for our trip to QMC on Tuesday when we will have the opportunity to take part in interactive activities throughout the day and bring back what we have learned to the classroom.

Mr Ralph says...

An amazing month in Hedgehog Class, I have no idea where the time has gone. For the returning year 4s I am so happy to have another year of teaching you and to the new children and the year 3s, I am so excited to what this year will bring!

On the first day the children arrived to the class to find a Stone Age cave full of tools and weapons to spark the children's imagination and immerse them in the topic of the Stone Age. This topic has lent itself to some fantastic creative opportunities including the children soap knapping their own Stone/soap tools and weapons, they have used air drying clay to create stone age jewellery and today they have completed their mini-Stonehenge. We can't wait to share these with you at our stone age museum which will be arranged soon.

In English the children have been exploring sentence structures and fronted adverbials based on the Stone Age boy. In reading sessions, the children have been developing their inference skills looking at the story of hope in the wisp, comprehension looking at extinct species and this week focusing on guessing animals based on clues – who knew a clue for a snail was a curly suit of armour. In science the children have been studying forces and completing practical experiments which have been great to see. This is just a snapshot of our learning; the children have returned to school eager to learn and full of questions and excitement. Long may it continue!



Miss Pettitt says...

What a brilliant start to the year Fox Class has had! They have thoroughly immersed themselves into their first topic, 'An Expedition to Brazil', and we are all so proud of the children for their hard work. They have shown such maturity in many aspects of school life, which has been wonderful to see. Well done Fox Class - keep it up!

Our learning so far has been fun, exciting and very interesting! We have discovered where Brazil is located in our world and what the climate is like in different parts of the country. Our writing has linked so wonderfully

to our Geography learning, and we have produced some creative diary entries linked to the text, 'The Great Kapok Tree'. Our next task will be to write a persuasive speech about the need to combat deforestation, taking our inspiration from Greta Thunberg.

The children have loved completing different artwork linked to two Brazilian artists - Fernando Medeiros and Beatriz Milhazes. Soon, we will produce some prints inspired by their work. During our first week, we



used oil pastels and watercolour paints to create zoomed in images of animal eyes found in the rainforest. The results are beautiful!

We still have much more fun and exciting learning to come this half-term, and we look forward to sharing more with you soon.

Harvest Service...

As we shared yesterday, this year's Harvest Service is on Thursday 5th October, starting at 9.15 at Rotherwick Church. As part of our celebrations, we are asking for donations of specific food items which we will deliver to Hart Foodbank. For more information on this, please see the letter sent out yesterday. If you are available on Thursday morning and would like to join us, you're more than welcome.

House Captains...

All pupils are allocated to one of our four houses – Diamond, Sapphire, Emerald, and Ruby. Earlier this term, Foxes Class children had the opportunity to put themselves forward to become a House Captain.

I'm delighted to share this year, our House Captains are:

Diamond – Scarlett and Remy

Sapphire – Skyla and Dillon

Emerald – Sebastian, Freya, Chloe

Ruby – Harry and Isla

Parent Governor Opportunity...

We currently have a vacancy on the school's governing body for a Parent Governor. It is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the strategic leadership of Whitewater and to play a key role in ensuring the continued forward momentum and exciting future. We will be sending out more information about the role and the process in due course.

Open Mornings...

Over the next few weeks, we will begin our autumn Open Mornings for this year. It's always great meeting new parents and showing them around our wonderful school. This year, we are hosting 3 open mornings in total which ensures that we keep our numbers small. The dates and times are:

Thursday 19th October at 9.15am

Wednesday 1st November at 9.15am

Tuesday 7th November at 1.15pm

If you have a child who is school age next year, or you know someone who has a child who will be school age next year, please contact the school office to book a place. We'd love to see them.

Parent's Evening and Meetings...

We place great value on the relationship between our school and our parents as it is vital that we work together to best support the children. As with previous Parent's Evenings, we will still be asking you to book a time slot, on an allocated date, with your child's class teacher to discuss your child's well-being, progress and overall development. These will be taking place after half term, during the week commencing 16th October. We will share more information early next week.

It's been an actioned packed start to the Autumn term and there's lots more to come. Please make sure you have a look at the key dates and add them to your diary.

As always, thank you all for your continued support and I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

Key Dates for Autumn Term 2023 Whitewater C of E Primary	
3.10.23	Otters QMC Science trip
4.10.23	School Nursing Team – Flu immunisations Judo Taster Sessions Judo After School Club Starts
5.10.23	Harvest Service at Rotherwick Church (9.15 start)
9.10.23	Virtual JRSO Training
10.10.23	World Mental Health Day – Children to wear something yellow EYFS QMC Science Trip
17.10.23	Parents Evening (3.40-6.30)
19.10.23	New Entrants Open Morning Parents Evening (3.40-6.30)
20.10.23	INSET