



Whitewater Newsletter – 3rd November 2023

I hope you all enjoyed your half term break. We've had a fantastic first week back, despite the wind and rain. Between now and Christmas, there's so much to look forward to. Throughout this newsletter, I'll be sharing some upcoming events, the key dates (including Christmas at Whitewater), as well as the Learning Overviews for this half term from each class.

Remembrance Service and The Poppy Appeal...

Poppies are now available in school to purchase at the office. We also have a limited number of adult poppies, car poppies and wristbands. If your child would like to buy one please send them to school with some change or pop in to the school office before or after school. This year we will be attending our Remembrance Service at Rotherwick Church on Friday 10th November. Please note, this service will be for the children and staff only this year.

Anti-Bullying Week...

This year, Anti-Bullying Week begins on Monday 13th November. To raise awareness of this, it starts with Odd Socks or shoes Day. It's a fun opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! Whitewater will be celebrating our own differences. We are asking all of the children and staff to take part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November 2023. There is no charge for wearing odd socks as part of their normal school uniform for the day and it would be lovely to see as many members of our community getting involved as possible.

Children in Need...

We are approaching that time of year when we mark Children in Need again. This year, it falls on Friday 17th November. As usual, we would like to mark this as a school and give the children a chance to contribute to the charity. To keep the day inclusive and simple, children can come to school wearing Pj's, comfys, slippers or dressing gowns. Remember we will still need to have sensible shoes to go outside and, layers in case we get too hot! Or, we can wear something spotty joining this year's theme of being 'Spotacular'! As always, we are asking children to bring in a donation that we can collect in school to send to the charity as part of their annual fundraiser.

Key Dates...

7.11.23	New Entrants Open Afternoon (1.15)
10.11.23	Fox Class to QMC 9.15 Remembrance Service at Rotherwick Church
13.11.23	Anti-Bullying Week – Where Odd Socks for the week PTA – Bags to School
17.11.23	Children in Need- Non school uniform
22.11.23	PGL Presentation to Year 6 parents (5pm)
28.11.23	Fox Class – Zoom call with Cambridge Museum
1.12.23	PTA Christmas Carols (5.30pm)
4.12.23	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance (Dress Rehearsal to KS2)
5.12.23	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance PM
6.12.23	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance PM
8.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day Values Assembly
11.12.23	Rock Steady Christmas Concert (2.30pm)
14.12.23	Christmas service at Church Christmas dinner KS2 - Carols on the Playground (2.30pm)
End of Autumn Term	

Autumn 2 - Learning Overviews

Rabbits Class...

Mathematics

This term is about mastering number. We will compare numbers, embedding the language more than/fewer than. We will continue visiting positional language and shapes in the environment. We will all aim at deepening understanding of numbers as a quantity and representing these numbers.

We will count different objects and will use this skill in our learning environment. We will read amazing picture books and sing number songs.

Literacy

Phonics Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, we will follow Autumn 2 term planning.

Writing We are using the letter formation guidance from Little Wandle to form our lower case and capital letters. Our target is to write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.

Reading This half term, the texts will be all about pets and rhyming words. We will also continue looking at Non-fiction texts. As part of the routine children will have opportunities to listen to stories and sing songs.

Communication and Language

The children will be given opportunities to take part in circle times, small group discussions where children will be able to practise listening and turn taking skills. We are introducing Helicopter Stories to give children the support they need for their language development.

Personal Social

Emotional Development

We are a HeartSmart School! HeartSmart is a creative approach that we use to build character, emotional health and resilience in children. This term our main focus will be on friendships, how to be a good friend. We will be visiting our school values, 'love, respect, courage', remembering to share these with each other. Rabbit Class will use stories from the Bible to make links and understand better what these values mean.

Understanding the World

This half term the learning will be centred around mapping skills. Looking at our school grounds, exploring our village map, using our construction area to build structures and making maps of these mini villages or grounds.

We will continue exploring changing seasons, weekly Woodland Walk sessions will help us observe how seasons can affect trees and the nature. We will certainly have a great time learning about specialness of Christmas.



Autumn 2 Rabbit Class

Physical Development

Our PE days this term: Wednesday & Friday. This term we are playing team building games and will participate in dance lessons. The children will enjoy dough disco, while discovering 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 digging, pouring, stirring, mixing in the mud kitchen and the sand pit. They will continue climbing, running, jumping-using the trampoline, riding scooters and bikes safely.

Expressive Arts and Design

The focus will be on exploring and engaging in music making. Dancing, performing, singing songs and rhymes. They will continue creating with skills in mind; making art, making props, experimenting with colours and other resources available. Making sparklers and printing firework pictures to start with!

Otters Class...

English

This term our writing will be linked to our topic of 'What makes a Superhero?' We will write a letter in the role of Florence Nightingale to explain what she is experiencing. We will look at other superhero-related texts such as 'Supertato' and produced writing based on these.

Numeracy

Counting in 2s and 10s is an area we will focus on this term and learning how to solve multiplication and division questions. We will explore shapes and fractions, in particular, fractions of shape.

Computing

We will be learning about 'algorithms' this term and finding out why they need to be clear and precise! We will be discussing how different algorithms can be improved to make them more successful.

Science

It is all about 'Wild Weather!' in our Science learning this term. We will learn about the different seasons, months of the year and weather that is typical for the different seasons. We will also be finding out how humans and animals are impacted in the seasons.

History

We will be learning all about past famous and remarkable people this term or 'superheroes'. We will find out why they are famous and compare them to occupations that involve modern day superheroes.

Music

In our music lessons this term, we will be learning about 'pitch' and 'duration'. We will listen to festive music and develop our ability to keep a steady beat. We will practice singing songs for our Christmas play!

Autumn 2 – Otter Class What makes a Superhero?

PE

In outdoor PE, we will be learning all skills involved in Hockey, particularly ball control, passing and dribbling. In indoor PE, we will be doing Gymnastics using the equipment.

Art and Design

We will learn about the famous artist Roy Lichtenstein and look at examples of his work based on Super heroes. We will produce our art work using the different skills he uses, including 'Ben Day' dots.

RE

Our topic in RE this term is 'Incarnation'. We will explore Christmas and discuss why it is such a special time of the year. We look forward to producing our Nativity play too!

PSHE

In PSHE this term, we will reflect on times that we have been shown 'love' and also look at our individual strengths and celebrate these.

DT

Our lessons this term are all about 'Christmas 3 ways!' We will design and make in 3 ways our very own Christmas decoration.

Hedgehog Class...

Maths

The children will be studying addition and subtraction using partitioning and formal written methods. The children will continue to develop number facts and times tables before moving on to multiplication and division using concrete, arrays and abstract representations and looking at real word problems. They will then finish by looking at money problems.

English

In English, the children will be focusing on writing a survival guide for living in the Stone age focusing on precise paragraphs, subordinating conjunctions and clauses to add more information. After this they will be writing a non-chronological report about an animal of their choice from the Stone age period. Reading sessions are designed to focus on skills fluency and intonation this half term encouraging the children to perform pieces not just read them.

Science

We will be looking at animals including humans; learning about the digestive system, teeth and what they are used for before designing experiments to test different liquids and the effect of decay on teeth. The children will be making models of teeth and detailed drawing and annotations of the digestive system.

History

The children will continue to develop their understanding of the Stone Age exploring Stonehenge before then looking at the change from the Stone Age to Bronze Age.

Autumn 2 – Hedgehog Class We Will Rock You - What was life like in the Stone Age?

RE

Children will learn about incarnation and the annunciation story in the bible.

Modern Foreign Languages

Pupils will be taught three high frequency verbs in the 1st person singular form. The verbs are: 'to be', 'to have' and 'to live'. Through the medium of this period of history, pupils will pretend to be characters from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages.

PE

In outdoor PE the children will be participating in tag rugby sessions and indoor PE of dance run by EDCdance.

PSHE

They will be learning about 'Don't forget to let love in' by seeing the positives in themselves and not saying agreeing with 'I don't like me'.

Music

The children will be learning Christmas carols in preparation for Christmas.

Art and Design

The children will be studying Stonehenge, using sketching pencils, pastels to create their own images. After that using card and collage to create a silhouette relief of Stonehenge.

Computing

The children will learn to log in and out of email as well as how to write a simple email with a subject plus edit an email, type in the email address correctly and send the email.

Fox Class...

In **Maths** this half term, we will begin by finishing our unit on **multiplication & division**. The children will secure their knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000 etc. We will then start our next unit, which focuses on **fractions**. This will involve finding equivalent fractions, converting between proper and improper fractions, comparing and ordering fractions, and finally adding and subtracting fractions. We have lots to learn and recap, so the unit will take us all the way through until Christmas! Just before we break up, Year 6 will explore converting units.

In **History**, we will be studying the Ancient Greeks, and more specifically the influences that they have had on our world today. We will focus on 6 main areas: the Greek alphabet, architecture, arts, democracy, the Olympics and philosophy. We will be looking at how these have influenced our world today and how they might have changed over time. To do this, children will study different primary and secondary sources, which illustrate what life was like in Ancient Greece. The children will then be drawing conclusions about the most important influence the Greeks have had on our lives today.

In **French**, the children will be learning about the Olympics! We will learn how to say and spell ten different sports in the Olympic games, then we will explore how to decode and breakdown longer texts.

In **Music** this half term, Greek tragedy will be our theme. The children will explore dynamics, structure and tempo, with a specific focus on the composer's intent/the impact of the music on an audience.



English will link exceptionally well with our Greek theme as the children explore the adventures of Odysseus and then use this to inspire their own writing. After exploring Greek myths, the children will learn about two contrasting Ancient Greek states – Athens and Sparta. They will use their new knowledge to write a balanced argument about which state was superior. We are so excited to see what the children produce! We also will continue with our daily reading and grammar tasks, and weekly spelling lessons.

Our **HeartSmart** theme is "Don't Forget to Let Love In". We explore ways to stay open to the love that is around us and keep ourselves 'topped up' with love.

In **Art**, the children will research Greek pottery, which will help to inspire their own designs for a Greek pot. We will then use clay to bring our designs to life!

PE will continue take place on Mondays and Fridays. Our outdoor sessions will focus on learning and practising the skills needed to play hockey, and indoors, we will have fun creating different dance routines linked to Brazil and Ancient Greece.

During **Science**, we will continue learning about living things and their habitats. We will visit QMC Science Centre to take part in a range of exciting activities which will summarise and extend our learning.

Our **Computing** will use the programming language 'Python', where children will create designs, Islamic art and Mondrian-inspired art. We will learn how to create loops and nested loops to make our code more efficient.

Our **DT** project involves creating a Greek themed pop-up book. The children will decide whether to base their book on a Greek myth that already exists or whether to create their own one. Children will add captions, and include a range of mechanisms/decorative features, including: structures, levers, sliders, layers and spacers.

This half term's **RE** will explore the concept of 'Incarnation' with the key question, 'Was Jesus the Messiah?' We will learn what Christians think about this question and why they believe his birth, life, death and resurrection were part of a longer plan by God. Finally, we will explain the importance of a Messiah to Christians and how this is particularly celebrated at Christmas time.

Dates your diary:

W.c. 13th November – Anti-bullying week
QMC Science Centre trip – Friday 10th November
Year 6 Parents only - PGL Information Evening – Wednesday 22nd November
Greek Day! More info. to follow – Greek outfit needed – Monday 4th December

Homework

Tuesday – Reading and/or Grammar
Friday – Maths and Spelling
Daily – x10 mins reading and TT Rockstars

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

Take care

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School