



Whitewater Newsletter - 24th November 2023

I hope this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. It has been an incredibly exciting and eventful month here at Whitewater C of E Primary, and I am delighted to share with you some of the highlights. As well as all of the usual learning, we've spent time reflecting on Remembrance, we've participated in Anti-Bullying Week and we've supported the wonderful charity of Children in Need.

Here's a brief overview of what's been happening in the classrooms:

In school...

Rabbits...

Rabbits are continuing to make us proud; such respectful behaviour during our remembrance visit to the church also while listening to the nurse teach us how to wash our hands properly! You can try the soap and pepper experiment at home too. In maths we have covered triangles and circles as well as subitising numbers up to 5. We have used 5 frames to notice 1 more and 1 less. In phonics, we need everyone to work on blending a little harder. So many of our enthusiastic rabbits are working hard to form the letters they have learned so far correctly in writing.

We have had so much fun learning about Diwali and Kindness Week; we also loved looking at everyone's odd socks, celebrating Nursery Rhyme Week and making maps.

We have a Christmas Post Office set up outside by our children and they are adding interesting details every day to this area. We love the number of letters and cards we find in the post box! It's now countdown to our nativity show and we are all practising our songs daily. Hope you are learning them at home too!

Otters...

It's been a brilliant few weeks in Otter Class, jam-packed with learning opportunities and fun! We had a fabulous visit to Queen Mary's College where we took part in various fun activities to test what we could hear, see, smell, touch and taste when one of our senses are taken away. We tested changes in water temperature, completed an obstacle course in the dark, pinned a tail on the donkey and tested out different textures with our hands as well as trying some different flavours of chocolate, which was definitely the favourite activity by far!

We have been learning all about some very famous past 'Super heroes and heroines' including Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We have enjoyed learning about why they are so famous and the impact that their work has had on our lives today. Otter class had their very own visit from a Super hero during our English lessons – none other than Supertato! Evil Pea had been up to his usual antics of leaving fruit stranded and Supertato came to the rescue and successfully saved the fruit from high up on our classroom shelf... Phew!

In Art, we have been drawing self-portraits and adding a superhero feature to ourselves. We can't wait to finish them in the style of Roy Lichtenstein and using Ben Day dots to complete them. We look forward to sharing them with you soon!



Hedgehogs...

It's been a busy, fun filled and festive few weeks. The children have approached this half term with an eagerness to learn! Their story writing in English has been great to see. We have been hunters venturing through a forest, but it turns out we are the hunted not hunter! Our story will be completed tomorrow and published over the next few days, which we are very excited about. In maths, the children have been working hard on their multiplication and division skills using arrays and solving word problems. I have been so impressed with how they have been applying themselves. Please make sure they are spending time on timestables rockstars as it will help them greatly during this half term



and beyond. To commemorate Remembrance Day, we created some meaningful and eye-catching art pieces to remind us of the sacrifices people have made. In science we have begun looking at the digestive system and teeth. We are currently running a science experiment to test tooth decay. In 6 jars we have put eggs and different liquids: vinegar, lemon juice, orange juice, squash, coca cola and prime. So far there have been some very interesting results! In class we are introducing precepts and the children have been embracing our new one 'in a world where you can be anything be kind'. This is just a snippet of what is happening, we are all looking forward to the fun of Christmas and more hard work.

Foxes...

The children of Fox Class have started this half-term brilliantly – our topic on Ancient Greece has captured the interest of many, and our learning across the curriculum continues to keep us all very busy!

In English, we have been reading the story of Odysseus and writing about his confrontation with a cyclops! The story has allowed for some wonderful descriptive writing, which so many have enjoyed reading aloud in front of the class. Here are some snippets:

There sat a boulder beside the cave; it looked like it was there for a reason. Odysseus warned his men. Feeling anxious, they still stepped in with bravery, robbing it like filthy pirates. (Dillon, Y6)

The cave was as ominous as the midnight-sky, and the only source of light was the crackling, flickering and erupting fire. (Will, Y5)

He'd never seen anything so menacing. Its skin was rough leather. Its teeth were daggers. Odysseus's eyes were drawn to its face where an eye glowed crimson-red – bright enough to shatter a person's soul. (Effie, Y5)

Out of the blue, there was a tremendous pounding sound of large footsteps approaching. Odysseus (who had a premonition) ordered his men to take cover. Looking, listening and learning, the men planned their escape. (Thomas, Y6)

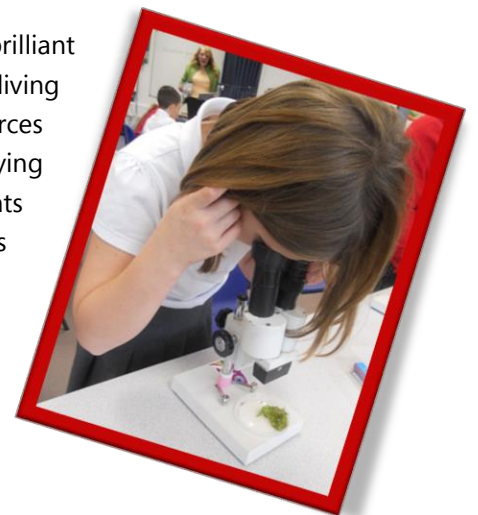


This week, we have been planning and writing our own versions of what happens next in the story – very exciting!

Our fraction journey in Maths has begun and we have already practised so much! The children have certainly realised how important knowing their times tables up to 12 x 12 is to be able to convert and simplify fractions with ease. We have been on Hit the Button and TT Rockstars to warm our brains up, but children need to be on these websites as much as they can at home, too! The quicker we can recall our facts, the easier the Maths will be.

A couple of weeks ago, we had an absolutely brilliant time at QMC completing different activities linked to our learning on living things and their habitats. It was wonderful to be able to use equipment and resources that we do not have access to in school. One of our favourite activities was studying different pond life under microscopes! There were definitely many 'wow' moments and we are very grateful to have had the experience. Here are a couple of pictures from our visit...

Fox Class still have so much fun to come with our topic learning (including our Greek day), and several Christmas activities – we are definitely going to end this half-term on a high!



Remembrance...

A couple of Fridays ago saw Whitewater remember. Poppy sales throughout the week enabled the children to show their respect towards those people past and present who have fought in an attempt to keep peace and keep everyone safe. We marked the occasion with a short walk to Rotherwick Church where Marion led a Remembrance Service, Mr Ralph read the poem: What are we Fighting For by Brian Moses and some Year 3 and 4 children read In Flanders Field by John McCrae.

Anti-Bullying Week...

Last week our school community has come together wonderfully during Anti-Bullying week. As well as odd socks as far as the eye can see, it has been heartening to witness the children engaging in thought-provoking discussions, activities, and assemblies centered around showing kindness to all as well as our values of respect, and love. Our pupils have truly embraced the importance of standing up against bullying, and their empathy and compassion towards one another have been truly inspiring.

Children in Need...

Last week, we had the pleasure of supporting Children in Need, and what a fantastic day it was! The school was a sea of vibrant colours and patterns as our amazing children came dressed in their pyjamas or spotty clothes. It was heart-warming to see the joy and enthusiasm radiating from each and every child. Together, we raised an impressive £109 for this worthy cause. Thank you to all who contributed and helped make a difference.

Bike Ability...

Year 6 recently undertook their Bikeability sessions, as always this was a massive hit with all the children involved. Everyone grew in confidence on their bikes before some then took to the roads of Rotherwick applying their new found skills. Other children honed their skills of bike riding within the school rounds with some non-bike riders becoming confident riders within the 3 days - amazing! A massive well done to all the children!

As you may be aware, there have been some road closures in and around Rotherwick! We understand the added stress this may cause during drop off and pick up times. However, I kindly request that all parents and carers bear in mind the importance of parking considerately and safely. By doing so, we can ensure the safety and well-being of all our families.

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

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Take care

S Moore

Mr Steve Moore
Executive Head of School

Key Dates

30.11.23	Be bright be seen day
01.12.23	Non-Uniform Day for donations for PTA Hamper Raffle
01.12.23	PTA Christmas Carols
01.12.23	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance (Dress Rehearsal to KS2)
05.12.23	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance (9:15am)
06.12.23	Rabbits and Otters Christmas Performance (2:30pm)
07.12.23	PTA Elfridges Christmas sale for children during the school day
08.12.23	Christmas jumper day
11.12.23	Rock steady Christmas concert
13.12.23	PTA Christmas bake sale after school
14.12.23	Christmas service at Rotherwick Church (9.15am)
14.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day and Key Stage 2 Carols on the Playground Christmas dinner
15.12.22	Christingle service for children
End of Autumn Term	