



Whitewater Newsletter – 26th January 2024

In school...

Rabbits...

We are moving really fast this term building on good foundations in both Maths and English. Children are noticing 6,7,8 and getting confident in using the 10 frames. The new trigraphs are challenging them in phonics so keep up the good work at home and make sure they see the graphemes while blending the words (especially: igh - ear - air).

There were many fantastic opportunities during the minus temperatures; we spent time looking at ice experiments, walked around the cold grounds listening to the crunching noise of frost on grass. Dance lessons on Friday mornings fill children with creativity and buzz. Our stories this term are capturing their interest and we see a lot of rabbits engaged in making story maps or writing captions. They are all proud to know facts about penguins and polar bears, they talk about where they live, enjoy learning new vocabulary at the same time. They are still working on completing their paper mâché igloos.



We are learning about people Jesus met through stories. Class worship table is now complete again with our new candle from Bethany, thank you.

You probably know already, we had to close two areas down in our class to revisit the theme 'respect' and 'responsibility'.

The black and yellow tape worked its magic and children have a better understanding now what we mean by these concepts. We have started work on our Big Bird Watch survey and made our birdfeeders.

Otters...

Welcome to the Spring term in Otter Class!

It has been a really successful start to the new term with lots of examples of Love, Respect and Courage being shown on a daily basis in Otter Class. The adults have been really impressed with how well the

children settled back into school after the busy Christmas period and we are enjoying writing out wristbands for children showing the values!



Our new topic 'Kings and Queens' has really captured the interest of the children and they have so far learnt about past queens and their connection with our current monarchy. The children enjoyed the chance to be Queen Elizabeth II when they were put in the 'hot seat' in English! Following our reading of the book 'The Queen's Hat', the children told their partner where their hat had travelled to in London and how they were feeling about losing their hat – as well as putting on amazing Queen accents! We were really impressed how much the children already knew about past kings and queens and they now look forward to our 'Kings and Queens Day'! We look forward to sharing the photos and details of the activities they do. The children will get the opportunity to make a crown in school time to wear, if they are unable to bring in royal clothes from home.

Thank you for providing a photo of your child in a hat, the self-portraits that they did were incredibly detailed and will give the children a good basis for their hat design that they will start in the coming weeks. Otter class have been asked to produce a hat made out of recycled materials as part of a Climate Unity art project – we look forward to sharing their designs with you soon!

Hedgehogs...

As we approach the halfway point of our school year, I can't believe where the time has gone. We have done some amazing things in Hedgehog class and there is plenty more to come which I am so excited to share with you and your children. Over the past couple of weeks, the children have been immersed in their topic of Rome. They have explored the extend on the Roman empire from its humble beginning on the River Tiber to spreading across Europe and into Britain, the importance of Roman towns, roads and military in the spread of Roman life but is not all good though they have learned about the Warrior Queen Boudicca and her impressive uprising. In English the children have completed 2 setting description one based on the beautiful city of Pompeii before Vesuvius' eruption and one description after. The children's language has been very impressive changing from describing Vesuvius as a mighty mountain to a Fiery Demon, molten menace and great destroyer, I can't wait for you to see these at parents evening. In maths the children have started their journey into fractions and continuing their consolidation of times tables facts. In art the children have been focusing on the beautiful art of Christina Balit the illustrator of escape from Pompeii, her work is eye-catching and bold, and I am sure you agree so are some of the children's recreations. I want to offer your children a huge congratulations for what they have achieved so far and I can't wait to see what the second half of the year will bring.



Foxes...

The new term has started exceptionally well for Fox Class. The children's hard work and positive attitudes to their learning has been very impressive.

In English, we have been reading about the tale of Blue John – a child created from the gold of the sun and the blue heart of the glacier by the Queen of Darkness. The children have been producing different text types throughout the unit in role as Blue John. Their letters, which were trying to persuade the Queen to let Blue John leave the cave, were brilliant and many are now on display outside Fox class. You will be able to have a read of them when you visit for Parents Evening next week!



Our learning journey in Art focuses around painting trees. So far, we have studied the work of different artists, including Gustav Klimt and David Hockney, and have started to explore the skill of painting. On Monday, we used watercolours to explore shape, tone and colour. We later followed a video tutorial to produce some amazing watercolours of trees in different seasons:



Our weekly swimming lessons have been going very well – it has been lovely to see so many children try their best in the water. We are very proud of everyone for the excellent behaviour they have been showing at the leisure centre – a real credit to Whitewater.

Year 5 have been embracing Maths lessons by learning more about multiplication and division. It has been great to see their confidence grow! Ratio and algebra have been challenging Year 6, and they definitely cannot wait to begin their decimal unit!

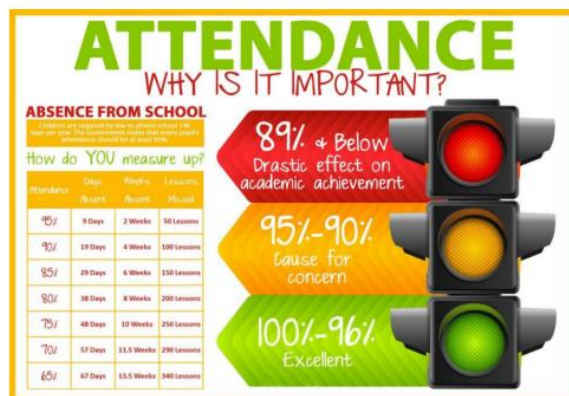
With just a couple of weeks left of this half-term, we have some great opportunities coming up. We will deepen our understanding in science to discover even more about evolution. We have another video call with Cambridge Museum, and a visit from Reverend Marion, who will share her views on the link between creation and evolution. If that was not enough, we have been exceptionally fortunate to arrange visit from an ex-curator of Down House, home of Charles Darwin, who is going to share her knowledge and experience with the children. We cannot wait!

Attendance...

As we continue to move through January - a typically tough month - it seems timely to reinforce some of our key messages around attendance. We have high expectations for attendance and expect that an individual student's attendance does not drop below 96%. Anything below this significantly impact on children's academic achievement. We have noticed a significant number of children who are late into school each morning although we do appreciate that road closures have caused some issues. Can I please remind you that;

- School begins at 8.50 a.m. and the gates are open from 8.40 a.m. and will now be closed at 8:50am. Registration closes at 8.55 a.m. All pupils are expected to be in school for registration at this time. Our teacher's plan early morning tasks for each class including handwriting and maths. It is important that children do not miss this valuable learning and the opportunity to settle into class.

- Pupils arriving late must enter via the main entrance and report to Reception, when they will then be marked late and sent to their classroom. Parents are asked to sign their child in and give a reason for the lateness, as well as confirming their lunch order for that day.
- Pupils who are consistently late are disrupting their own education, as well as that of others. Persistent lateness will be discussed with parents initially and should the problem continue a penalty fine will be issued. (Penalty fines for lateness are issued for 10 late marks within a 100-session period)



Parking....

Our JRSO's (Junior road safety officer's) say...Thank you for continuing to park sensibly and for keeping our children safe by not parking in the layby or on the zigzag lines.



Birdwatch...

The Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. At Whitewater, we are planning to do our bit and head outside to birdwatch on Friday 26th January. At home, please feel free to talk to your children about the birds you see and if you want to take part, please see the RSPB website for more information

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>



26-28 January 2024

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we can make this year a remarkable one for our children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or the school office. Have a great weekend

Kindest regards

M Elie

Michelle Elie
Head of School

Key Dates...

Key Dates for Spring Term 2024

30/1	Parents Evening
1/2	Parents Evening
2/2	AM - Year 4, 5, 6 Swimming
5/2	Year 6 – School Nursing Team in - Heights and Weights Measures
6/2	Safer Internet Day Fox Class Virtual meeting with the Cambridge Museum
8/2	Fox class visitor -Darwin presentation
9/2	AM - Year 4, 5, 6 Swimming Valentines bake sale after school (PTA)
HALF TERM - 12/02/24 – 16/02/24	
19/2	Inset Day
26/2	Chance to Shine Cricket
28/2	SATs presentation to parents – Year 6
4/3	Chance to Shine Cricket
7/3	World Book Day
8/3	Gift for someone special (PTA after school event)
11/3	Chance to Shine Cricket
12/3	Year 2 – Barnaby's giant sing at the Anvil Book fair delivery
14/3	Rabbits and Otters to Winsor Castle
15/3	Red Nose Day Pizza and cookies (PTA event)
18/3	Chance to Shine Cricket
19/3	School nurse year R (Spring born) vision checks
21/3	Choir spring concert (3pm)
25/3	Chance to Shine Cricket KS2 Easter Walk Through
27/3	Break the rules day
28/3	Easter Service at Church
End of Spring Term	