



## **Whitewater Newsletter – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Welcome back after the festive break! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a fantastic start to the New Year. It is with great excitement that we enter 2024, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities. Well, done for getting your children in to school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. This came as a bit of a shock to the system in my household but our daily routines are starting to return. I hope your body clocks and daily calorific intake is starting to return to pre-Christmas levels as well.

Throughout this newsletter, I'll be sharing some upcoming events, the key dates as well as the Learning Overviews for this half term from each class.

### **Living our School Vision...**

As we kick off the year, many of us have made New Year's Resolutions. These resolutions serve as a reminder to focus on personal growth and self-improvement. In Collective Worship on Tuesday, I shared my personal goal for this year which links to our school vision of showing love for others through acts of kindness. Throughout this term, we will be encouraging our students to do the same, both within our school community and beyond. Whether it's helping a friend, holding the door open for someone, or simply offering a smile, these small acts can make a big difference. Let us teach our children the power of kindness and the impact it can have on the world around them.

### **Key stage 2 Times Table Workshops for Parents...**

I would like to invite Hedgehogs and Foxes parents to our Times Table workshop on Wednesday 24th January at 5pm. This workshop aims to provide parents with strategies and resources to support their children in mastering their times tables. We believe that a strong foundation in numeracy is crucial for academic success, and we are committed to working together with parents to ensure our students excel in this area.

### **New Vacancy**

A vacancy has become available for a Personal Assistant to Rev'd Marion.

This is a part-time role, working from home and on Friday mornings from the office in Hook.

If you are interested in this role please speak to Marion (01256 763211) or contact the church office ([office@whitewaterchurches.co.uk](mailto:office@whitewaterchurches.co.uk)) for a job description.

Applications will be received until the end of January.

### **Swimming...**

I would also like to inform you that swimming sessions will be starting every Friday throughout this half term for students in years 4, 5, and 6. Swimming is an essential life skill, and I am thrilled that our students will have the opportunity to develop their swimming abilities. There will be a letter going out very soon with full details.

### **New entrants for September 2024...**

This is a final reminder that the deadline date for Yr R Applications for September 2024 is January 15th. I am very pleased to share that our current predicted numbers for September are looking very positive. If you have not yet applied for a place for a younger sibling, you can do so by completing the online form.

Please make sure you read on to see the key dates for this term and the Learning Overviews for each class.

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 the school office.

Take care

Mr Steve Moore

## Spring 1 - Learning Overviews

### Rabbits Class...

#### Mathematics

We will be looking at Mastering number, addition and subtraction, measure, shape & spatial thinking, odds and evens. The children will continue accessing maths through continuous provision; inside and outside independently and/or with adult support.

#### Literacy

**Phonics:** We are learning Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Spring Term sounds.

**Writing:** We are using the letter formation guidance from Little Wandle to form our lower case and capital letters.

**Reading:** Our Book Hook is The Queen's Hat. We will also look at Non fiction texts about castles.

#### Communication and Language

Children will develop further their attention/ concentration skills in group times and 1:1. Some children will receive interventions to close the gap. They will be encouraged to talk about their learning daily. Focus for speaking is Helicopter Stories.

#### Personal Social Emotional Development:

Revisit Class Charter & School Values  
Our Christian Values this term is 'Responsibility'  
Get HeartSmart: Too much selfie isn't healthy  
Working in pairs and groups  
RE focus is people Jesus met, Easter garden, celebrating new life

#### Understanding the World

Through Discovery Time children will explore different areas of provision within the indoor and outdoor environment. We will talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society and explore the similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country.

We will explore everyday Materials, Seasonal Changes, winter and cold places.

Learning about the Royal Family, we will look at Castles and timelines for history.

Programming; Robot algorithms using iPods as a camera to sequence events.



### Spring Winter in a Castle



#### Physical Development:

Developing motor skills freely while using balls, bikes, balance beams, space hoppers, hopscotch outside. Indoor PE session focus is Dance and Outdoor PE focus is Quick Games.

#### Expressive Arts and Design:

Children will learn about weaving, making a collage and printing banners. They will use different materials especially fabric and ribbons. They will have daily free access to a variety of media and resources e.g: chalks, CD player, microphones and role play resources to engage in rich experiences.

### Otters Class...

#### Numeracy

This term, we will improve our skills in addition and subtraction before moving on to multiplication and division. We will investigate 2D and 3D shapes and their properties.

#### History

We will find out what the children already know about the Royal Family and by asking 'Do all Kings and Queens wear crowns?'. We will be delving into the lives of Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III and aim to end our topic with a Kings and Queens Day!

#### Art and Design

This term we will find out about different hats, crowns and tiaras that are worn by the Royal family. We will use this research to design and make our own piece of headwear! Our challenge will be to use recycled materials.

#### English

We will enjoy reading two texts based on the Royal family; The Queen's Hat and The Queen's Knickers. We will use these as a basis for our writing before researching and producing a non-chronological report on King Charles III.

#### Computing

Our topic this term is called 'Rocket to the Moon'. We will design a rocket using a graphic design programme before building and testing our rockets before recording the data on a computer.

#### Science

In Science this term, we will be looking at everyday materials and appropriate uses for different materials. We will explore their properties and develop our skills on how to describe the materials using scientific vocabulary.

### Spring 1 – Do all Kings and Queens wear a crown?

#### PE

We will be learning about how to play Dodgeball, improving our team work and ball skills. In Dance, we will be dancing to music on the theme of Kings and Queens.

#### Music

We will learn how to use 'Boomwhackers' for the first time and explore 'duration' in particular. We will learn how to use the instrument and how to keep in time to the music.

#### RE

Our focus in RE this term will be on 'Remembering' and how we remember in our own lives. We will explore the Hindu faith and how they remember Vishnu.

#### PSHE

Our topic this term is 'Too much selfie isn't healthy' where we will reflect on how it feels to show kindness and generosity to others.

#### Geography

We will be learning about compass directions and cities of the UK this term. We will name and locate the cities as well as learning some facts about them.

## Hedgehog Class...

<p><b>Maths</b></p> <p>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. After this the children will be looking at decimals and fractions. This will include fractions of amounts and real-world word problems. The children will continue with TTRS in daily sessions.</p>	<p><b>English</b></p> <p>In English, the children will be focusing on writing a setting description based on the book 'Escape from Pompeii.' Children will be writing two descriptions one before and one after the eruption, these will focus on antonyms and synonyms and impactful word choices. They will then work on a persuasive speech from the perspective of Queen Boudicca encouraging her Iceni tribe to rise up against the Roman Empire. This will go along with daily talk for reading sessions and weekly spelling.</p>	<p><b>Science</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>History</b></p> <p>The children will be studying the Roman Empire, the invasion of Britain, the building of Hadrian's Wall and the rebellion of Quenn Boudicca.</p>	<p><b>Spring 1</b></p> <p><b>What did the Romans ever do for us?</b> <b>What is the legacy of an empire?</b></p>	<p><b>RE</b></p> <p>Children will learn about the people of God and the importance of covenant between God and Noah.</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> <p>In this unit they children will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain what some of the blocks do in Scratch.</li> <li>Explain what a loop is and include one in their program.</li> <li>Suggest possible additions to an existing program.</li> <li>Recognise where something on screen is controlled by code.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PE</b></p> <p>In outdoor PE the children will be participating in hockey sessions and indoor PE the children will be swimming.</p>	<p><b>PSHE</b></p> <p>They will be learning about 'Too much Selfie isn't Healthy' how to form lasting friendships, how to think of others and the impacts they have.</p>
	<p><b>Art and Design</b></p> <p>The children will be creating their own rugs based on the ones in the book 'Escape from Pompeii'. The children will be focusing on geometric patterns and sewing, cutting and sticking pieces of felt.</p>	<p><b>Modern Foreign Languages</b></p> <p>The children will learn 10 common vegetables in their plural form with their definite articles. They will learn how to buy and sell vegetables in conversations.</p>

## Fox Class...

In **Maths** this half term, Year 5 will begin their second unit on **multiplication & division**. The children will learn and use formal written methods for each operation. After this, they will be prepared for learning how to multiply **fractions** and find fractions of amounts. Year 6 will apply what they have learned throughout Key Stage 2 into a range of problems and challenges. As their confidence continues to develop, they will investigate **ratio, algebra, and decimals**, making links with other areas already studied this year. Daily arithmetic will be part of each lesson.

In **Computing**, children will identify how barcodes and QR codes work. They will learn how infrared waves are used for the transmission of data while recognising the uses of RFID (radio frequency identification). They will be gathering, analysing and evaluating data collected from RFID data collection points.

Our **French** lessons will involve looking at the weather this half term and learning how to describe it within sentences.

We will have some **Geography** lessons which focus on economic activity including trade links. We will consider the question 'Is Southampton dock a gateway to the world?'

Our **Music** unit explores timbre. We will explore and identify different instruments and voices within orchestral families and choirs, and their role in a wider range of ensembles.

## Where have we come from?



We have a couple of exciting themes in **English** which link nicely with our topic learning. To start with, we will look at a fiction text called 'Blue John', about a boy who has been created by the Queen of Darkness from the blue of the glacier and yellow of the hot sun. The story will inspire us to write different text types including letters and a newspaper article. Once we have gained new knowledge about evolution, we will study the text 'Moth: An Evolution Story, and retell the story of the peppered moth in the style of a Shakespeare sonnet – how exciting!

Our **PSHE** will continue to be taught through HeartSmart, exploring the principle, "Too Much Selfie, Isn't Healthy." Having thought about the value we should place on our own hearts, we now begin to revisit how we can look after the hearts of others. We will also have specific lessons on mental health and wellbeing this half term.

Outside **PE** will take place every **Wednesday**. Please make sure children come into school wearing appropriate kit on these days. Swimming lessons will start during Week 2 – don't forget to bring swimwear to school!

**Science** will form the basis for our topic - children will learn about the theory of evolution and how species have developed over time. We will focus on DNA and how genetic information is transmitted from one generation to the next. As part of this, we will learn about the variation between individuals within a species, too.

During this half term's **RE** unit, we will explore the concept of creation alongside evolution having learnt that Charles Darwin was a committed Christian. The topic leads to some very interesting questions including 'Can a Christian be a scientist?' and 'Do you think faith and science are compatible or in conflict?' We hope to invite Reverend Marion in to share her viewpoint as she is also a scientist!

In **Art** this half-term, the children will explore the skill of painting. We will use a range of techniques to apply paint in different ways and give reasons for the decisions we make. By the end of the unit, the children will be able to use the primary colours and black and white to mix a full range of hues and tones. To support our learning, we will explore different artists (e.g. David Hockney and Gustav Klimt) and use their work to inspire our own final pieces.

### Dates your diary:

**12.01.24 – 09.02.24** – Swimming lessons every Friday morning – don't forget to bring cossie and change of clothes to school!  
**24.01.24** – KS2 Times Tables Workshop – 5pm  
**06.02.24** – Safer Internet Day

### Homework

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

## **Key Dates...**

### **Key Dates for Spring Term 2024**

12/1	AM - Year 4, 5, 6 Swimming
19/1	AM - Year 4, 5, 6 Swimming
24/1	KS2 Multiplication Workshop for Parents (5pm)
26/1	AM - Year 4, 5, 6 Swimming
30/1	<b>Parents Evening</b>
1/2	<b>Parents Evening</b>
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
9/2	AM - Year 4, 5, 6 Swimming
<b>HALF TERM - 12/02/24 – 16/02/24</b>	
19/2	<b>Inset Day</b>
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
11/3	Chance to Shine Cricket
15/3	Red Nose Day
18/3	Chance to Shine Cricket
21/3	Choir spring concert (3pm)
25/3	Chance to Shine Cricket KS2 Easter Walk Through
28/3	Easter Service at Church
<b>End of Spring Term</b>	