



## Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to see all of our children returning to school and to welcome our new Nursery and Reception children. The children have settled in really well and are busy making new friends and enjoying the wonderful learning opportunities. We look forward to a successful term.

## Health and Safety

We hope you kept safe and well over the summer holidays. As you will already be aware, the you that we shall continue to follow Local Authority and DfE guidance and adhere to our robust risk assessment. We would, therefore, ask parents to cooperate with the following:

- **Please DO NOT send your child to school if they have any of the following symptoms:** a new continuous cough or a high temperature or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell. If they have any of these symptoms, please follow the guidelines from the link below or call 119 for advice: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- **Always wearing a face covering** when entering the school site, **unless** you have a medical exemption.
- **Maintain your 2m social distance from others at all times.**
- Please **do not** arrive more than 5 minutes before the class start time, where possible (we understand that you may have more than one child to drop off).
- **Only one adult** should be on the school site with your child/children. **Please do not interpret this as one adult per child.** This enables us to reduce the number of adults on site at any time.
- **Lateral Flow Tests** for your child and family are widely available free of charge. **We shall also be distributing test kits to parents on the playground and we will let you know what days these will be given out.**
- Please use these links to find out more <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/lateralflowtesting>  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>.

## VACCINATION DROP-IN CENTRES

Please click on the link to find out where you can obtain your vaccinations within Coventry and Warwickshire

<https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/vaccination-drop-in-clinics/>

## Morrisons Good to Grow

It's Good to Grow is a token collection scheme that allows schools to collect for free gardening equipment to get kids outdoors and growing. Between 6<sup>th</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for every £10 spent in store or online at Morrisons customers will automatically receive one Grow Token to donate to your chosen school.

You'll need to be a MyMorrisons customer to take part so make sure you download the app and select a school to donate your Grow Tokens to.

Finally, don't forget to scan your app or MyMorrisons card at checkout every time you shop to receive your Grow Tokens. Once you've selected a school, you'll be able to donate your Grow Tokens to them.

From 24<sup>th</sup> October, they'll be able to redeem the Grow Tokens they've collected against a range of growing and gardening equipment for school.

We would love for everyone to get involved and donate your tokens to our school. For more information please visit <https://itsgoodtogrow.co.uk/faq>

# Class Teacher Messages...

## Nursery

The Nursery children are all settling well. They are enjoying exploring all of the Nursery resources and making lots of friends.

Thank you for the wellingtons that have been sent into school. If you can send a pair of named Wellingtons to keep in school for your children, they will be able to access the Nursery outdoor area at all times.

Please can you put your child's name in their jumpers and cardigans. It really helps staff at the end of the day.

All Nursery children are attending Nursery for their full session next week.

We are all looking forward to a fantastic term.

Mrs Ruth McShane



## Reception

We are so pleased with how well the children have settled during their first full week of school in Reception. This week, the children have been learning the rules and routines, developing relationships with the adults and making new friendships.

Next week, we would like the children to be dropped off at the class gates in order to continue to encourage their independence in entering the classrooms. Please can we ask all parents and carers to ensure that you are selecting your child's meal (school dinner or packed lunch) using school gateway. If you need any help with this, please contact the admin team in the school office and they will be happy to assist you. We look forward to seeing you all again next week. Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Ridgway (Early Years Leader), Miss Blower and Miss Mosey



## Year 1

Year One have had a fantastic start to the term and we are so pleased with how well they are settling into Key Stage One. We started off the week with our Humanities Launch on our topic of Transport. The children investigated some car parts by weighing them, seeing what parts were metal with magnets and looking closely at them with magnifying glasses. The children then explored some real cars and we started to look at differences from the very first cars to cars today.

In English, we have read the book *Harris Finds His Feet*, who develops his skills as a hare through the story. The children have been practicing skills learnt in Reception such as using capital letters, fingers spaces, full stops and using their Fred Fingers to sound out words. In Maths, we have been revisiting numbers 1 to 10. We have practiced counting, making and writing them. Next week, we will move on to ordering them and counting forwards and backwards.

Have a fabulous weekend and enjoy the last of the sun!

Miss Skidmore, Mrs Ellis (Year 1 Leader), Miss McShane



## Year 2

Year 2 have had another great week this week. We started the week with our humanities launch morning. The children learnt about what life was like in Anglo-Saxon times. They also learnt what taxes were. They acted out how taxes were used in Anglo-Saxon times and how they are used today.

In maths, the children have been exploring what the digits in a number mean. They have been using tens and ones charts and part hole diagrams to do this.

We have started a new book in English called "Varmints." The children enjoyed looking at the front cover and making predictions about what they thought might happen in the story.

Mrs Sandhu, Mrs Gill (Year 2 Leader), Mrs Nolan



# Class Teacher Messages...

## Year 3

The children have worked incredibly hard this week. In English, we have been looking at The Pirate cruncher . Year 3 are beginning to create their own character description of a pirate. In Maths, we have started place value. We used dienes to help us count in hundreds, tens and ones. In Humanities, the children have been learning about the Stone Age and have been reading the story Stone Age Boy.

Miss Khan (Year 3 Leader), Miss Waddell Miss Hussain.



## Year 4

Year 4 have been settling into their new classrooms and getting to know their new teachers. They are doing a great job! On Monday, everyone enjoyed our humanities launch day, where all the children took part in various activities based on Ancient Egypt. We made death masks, wrote in hieroglyphs and researched Ancient Egyptian gods to name but a few! This week we have started to read 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' in English and have been working on place value in maths. We've been practising our two timetables and the children will be tested on them next Friday. We would like to say a big thank you to all the children for working so hard and settling in so well.

Miss Cox (Year 4 Leader), Mrs Hatton and Miss Chapman



## Year 5

The children in Year 5 have had a brilliant week. We started the week off with launching our new topic – World War Two. It was an action-packed morning and both the children and teachers learnt lots of new facts. We have also started our new reading book this week – Friend or Foe. The children have enjoyed reading the start of their new book and are excited to see what happens to Davey and Tucky on their adventure during the Second World War.

The teachers have been very impressed with the English work the children have produced linked to this book. In Maths, the children have been working hard on place value and working with numbers up to 1,000,000. It has been very pleasing to see the children showing a determined and independence approach to their maths in all lessons this week. We are all looking forward to a great year ahead and making Year 5 a year to remember.

Mr Johnston (Assistant Head and Year 5 leader), Miss Wherly, Mrs Sharratt and Mrs Williams

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the new school year and have settled well into their new classes. We welcomed them all back to school and we extend our thanks to the parents and carers for helping ensure the transition was smooth. Year 6 have got straight back to work! We have started our new novel, 'Skellig' which our English lessons will be based around and we have launched our humanities and science topics, The Ancient Maya and Evolution and Inheritance. All children have been given a reading book and we expect children to read regularly, a minimum of 5 times a week. Children will also have spellings to practise at home and we would encourage children to practise via Times Tables Rockstars.

We would like as many parents as possible to join Class Dojo. This will enable you to see your child's achievements and you will be able to send messages and communicate with your class teacher. If you need any help with this, please see your child's teacher and we will be happy to help you.

We would like to remind parents that applications for secondary schools are open and this must be completed by 31st October 2021 in order for the best chance for your child to be placed in your chosen school. If you would like any help with this, please see your child's class teacher.

Mr Payne (Assistant Head and Year 6 Leader), Mrs Harrison and Mr Openshaw

## A Message from the Inclusion Team

We would like to say a huge WELCOME BACK to all of our children and families!  
We have had a very positive start to the new school term.

### Attendance

CONGRATULATIONS to **5G** who achieved 100% attendance last week!  
and to **2B** who achieved 99.3%  
You will be awarded 5 extra dojos by your teacher!

### Punctuality

It is vital that children are in school on time each day. An important part of the school day is the 'settling in' time in the mornings which children can miss if they are even a few minutes late. Please take note of the start and home times for your child's class.

	Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Doors open (R,1,2) or meet children outside (3,4,5,6)</b>	8.25 morning 12.10 afternoon	8.45	8.45	8.45	8.50	8.45	8.50	8.45
<b>Home Time</b>	11.30 3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.20	3.15	3.20	3.15
<b>Playtime</b>			10.40-10.55	11.00-11.15	11.40-11.55	11.00-11.15	11.40-11.55	11.00-11.15
<b>Lunchtime</b>	11.30-12.30	11.30-12.30	12.00-1.00	12.30-1.30	12.00-1.00	12.30-1.30	12.00-1.00	12.30-1.30

### Reporting Absence

If your child is absent from school you must contact the school by 9.20am on each day of absence; giving a clear reason for absence along with your child's full name and class details. Children's attendance is monitored weekly by our Attendance Team who seek to work actively with parents/carers to ensure that regular attendance is maintained (with the exceptions of children isolating in line with current Guidance).

### Family Welfare

Remember we are here for you and your family, if you have any welfare concerns, e.g. mental health, finance, housing or general wellbeing, please contact us at [familywelfare@whitmorepark.org](mailto:familywelfare@whitmorepark.org) we will get back to you to offer support. This email is only accessed by the inclusion team.

We know it may be difficult for parents who are working to speak to us, if you contact us by email first then we can discuss convenient times to call you. We will respond to your email as quickly as possible.

### Family Hub Information

A family hub is a place where children, young people and their families can access help and support. The people working in the family hub will work in partnership with you and your community. They will help you find and get help from different services in the area and will be able to give you information, advice and support. Please take time to have a look at their Facebook page as this is updated regularly with tips, advice and useful information including various support services across the city.

Our local Family Hub is 'Pathways', they are based at Radford Primary School. You can follow them on Facebook or Twitter for information about local events and support for families.

<https://www.facebook.com/pathwaysfamilyhub>

<https://twitter.com/hubsfamily>

**Tel: 02476978130**



Be the BEST  
you can be

## A Message from Miss Carney

### **Hello everyone,**

We hope that you have all had a lovely holiday. The children are working so hard and settling back into school life really well.

### **Some slight changes that I would like to make you aware of:**

- We are delighted that Mrs Heer has returned. She will be taking lead on any Personal Learning Plans.
- Mrs Wade will be taking lead on any medical care plans.
- I will continue to support with any other Special Educational Need for example, referrals to external agencies, My Support Plans, and Education & Health Care Plans.
- If you are unsure who it is within the team that you need to speak to, you are welcome to contact me directly and I will point you in the right direction if not me.
- *Please remember that if you have any concerns about your child, in the first place you need to speak with their class teacher. At the moment this will still need to be over the phone or via a Teams meeting.*

### **This term**

The inclusion team are really looking forward to restarting Thrive. Both Mrs Smith and Miss Chadwick are now trained Mental Health First Aiders. Miss Chadwick is also now trained in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. We are therefore really looking forward to putting these skills to use and supporting even more children who may be struggling on a social, emotional, mental health level.

### **The Den**

What can I say? A Massive THANK YOU to Mr Fox for all his hard work over the summer holidays! He has transformed our Inclusion Suite into a fantastic area. We have:

- The Fox room for Thrive type activities.
- The Hedgehog room for cognitive behavioural therapy work and for our external agencies to use when working directly with children.
- The Butterfly room where children can received mentoring or mental health first aid support.



The rooms may well be used for other needs too.  
Not forgetting the garden... we can't wait to start harvesting there either.

**Have a wonderful year everyone.**

**Miss Carney**

## Our School Nursing Team Health focused websites

Coventry School Nurses have launched two websites, one aimed at children and another tailored towards teenagers:

[www.healthforkids.co.uk](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk) offers a fun way for children to learn about health with games, activities and quizzes.

[www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk) hosts videos and webchats as well as articles to educate teenagers on a range of health topics such as contraception, mental health, drugs and alcohol.

**Chat Health texting service** Chat health is a free service that enables 11-18 year olds across Coventry to send confidential SMS text messages to School Nurses who will provide impartial advice and support. The number to text is 07507 331949.

**Parent Advice** Parents can call the School Nurses between 8.30am -16.30pm, Monday to Friday on 02475189190 to discuss any child health concerns they may have.

For advice and support from your school nurse please text "Chat Health" on 07507 329114 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. If your child is unwell please call your GP or call 111. For medical emergencies ring 999.

## Useful Links

### Finance

[Coventry Independent Advice Service](#) is a charity offering free advice, information and support to Coventry residents. Our service is confidential and **our** skilled advisers can help you with things like:

- Identifying entitlement to benefits and helping you make claims
- Helping you to sort out debt or other money problems
- Challenging decisions on benefit claims

### Winter Grant scheme

**Available to families in need till the end of March 2021**

The **COVID Winter Grant is available till the end of March 2021** to support vulnerable families and individuals in many ways – from food to warm clothing.

Find out more and how to apply at [www.coventry.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/coronavirus) or call **0808 583 4333**

### Safeguarding

Home is supposed to be the safest place for us all right now, but if you are experiencing domestic abuse then the advice to stay at home could be frightening. If someone is in immediate danger and their life is threatened, they should dial the Police on **999**.

[Coventry Haven](#) - ensure safety and empowerment for women and children who are subjected to Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) in any form. They offer a range of services including a Safe To Talk Helpline **0800 111 4998** or **024 7644 4077 (Monday to Friday 9am-4.30pm)**

[National Domestic Abuse Line \(REFUGE\)](#) - Refuge supports women, children and men experiencing domestic violence with a range of services including a 24-hour helpline **0808 2000 247**.

### Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Young Minds](#) - a national charity which supports children and young people with mental health and well being. They have specific resources for young people around COVID-19, and also offer support to parents.

[Childline](#) - Childline is available to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. You can talk about anything. Whether it's something big or small, they have trained counsellors to support you. The helpline is **0800 1111** and is available between 9am to midnight every day.

[Samaritans](#) - Coventry & District Samaritans is an independent charity, run entirely by unpaid volunteers. They provide a free 24-hour helpline for people who are upset, troubled or who are feeling suicidal. Call **116 123** at any time of the day or night or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org).

In addition to their normal services Samaritans has set up a [confidential support line for NHS workers and volunteers in England](#). This operates from 7am to 11pm every day. NHS staff can, of course, still use the 24 hour helpline if they prefer.