



Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week I have been impressed with the quality of our children's writing. They never fail to amaze me with their creative ideas, their ability to share what they have learnt and how they can make further improvements.

As part of Black History month, all of the children across the school have been finding out about and researching historical and present day people, who have influenced society in a positive way and have changed how we live today.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Health and Safety

- **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>
- When there is a positive case in your child's class, parents will be informed by letter and advised to take their child for a PCR test. There is no longer the requirement to isolate, unless your child has the **main symptoms** but as they are a possible close contact, the strong advice is to have a PCR test. If your child has a positive result, then you would need to inform the school immediately. Please telephone the school during normal school hours. However, if it is out of school hours, please email Covid-19@whitmorepark.org or send a message via Schoolcomms. We do not need to be informed of negative test results.

Where can you access PCR testing if you have been told that you can't test unless symptomatic?

Symptomatic test sites should still accept people who don't have symptoms, but you need to book ahead and booking online is the easiest way: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

The valid circumstances for PCR testing without symptoms are:-

If you are a close contact of a positive case.

You have been instructed to PCR test by the local authority or Public Health (this would include instruction by schools).

You are part of a study/clinical trial or are required to take a PCR test due to access hospital treatment/admission.

Moat Street Car Park – drive through testing centre

9am - 3pm every day

CBS (Ricoh) Arena, Car Park C - drive through testing centre. (Car Park C is located adjacent to the stadium, and can be accessed from Jimmy Hill Way)*

9am - 3pm every day

Broad Street - walk in testing centre

8am - 8pm every day

Whitefriars – walk in testing centre

8am - 8pm every day

A Message From the Admin Team

The school nurses will be coming into school on Thursday 4th November to do the flu immunisations. This week we have sent an email to parents of children in Reception – Year 6 with the information regarding this. All forms this year are online using a unique link for our school, this link will close on 14th October. A form must be completed for each individual child whether you do or do not give consent.

If you have any queries regarding the form or the flu immunisation please contact the school nurses on 024 76 961422.

Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

This week the Nursery children have been very interested in movement, in particular "rolling things". They have experimented with cars on a small slide, we then worked to build ramps. After we started to notice other things that roll, like hoops and cable drums. Some of the children built a moving structure using cable drums. What an exciting week!

Mrs Ruth McShane



Reception

Well done to the Reception children for another super week at school. This week they have learned the sounds d, t, i and n. Please see your child's seesaw account for a little more information about these sounds so that you can practise at home. We have been reading the story 'The Little Red Hen', we had a close look at some real grains of wheat and even tried planting some - fingers crossed that they begin to grow!

In Numeracy they have been using some important maths vocabulary to compare. They have used more than and fewer than to compare small amounts, taller and shorter to compare height and longer and shorter to compare length.

Please remember to send your child's reading folder into school on Monday so that their books can be changed (reading 5 times at home will earn your child the sticker for their bookmark - please remember to sign reading diaries, thank you). Have a great weekend everyone!

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



Year 1

This week, in English the children have been reading and writing about the story Ruby's Worry. They have discussed what worries them and how best we should deal with a worry. They have continued to work on using correct punctuation and making sure they have written in full sentences. The children have started RWInc groups this week and will be working with smaller groups to develop their phonics knowledge and comprehension skills when reading. In Maths, we have been learning one more and one less than a given number. They have been using cubes and number lines to solve problems.

In Humanities, we have been learning about sources and how we can use them to learn information and answer our questions. At home, you may want to use Google, a smart assistant or a book to find out information about Transport to support our learning in school.

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



Year 2

Year 2 have been hooked by our new book in English this week. It is called "Salty Dogs" and is all about Dog Pirates. We explored what pirates were like and what they did. The children also acted out parts of the story and gave their best pirate impressions!

In Maths, the children have been solving missing number patterns. They used 100 squares to count in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s to complete the problems.

The children carried out an experiment in Science to discover the effects of exercise on the body. They concluded that running on the spot was the best exercise to get their hearts pumping.

They also became researchers in Humanities to find out facts about Lady Godiva. They then pretended to be news reporters to report back their facts to the class.

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 expanded noun phrases and preparing for their diary entry as a pirate. In Maths they have been practising column addition with renaming in the tens and ones column. In Humanities, the children have been continuing their learning of the Stone age and have been learning about Skara Brae. In Science, the children have been looking at how to make shadows bigger and smaller! The children had so much fun experimenting with the torches! Miss Khan (Year 3 Leader), Miss Hussain and Miss Waddell.



Year 4

Year 4 have had another amazing week. We have started a new book called 'The Spider and the Fly,' which we are really enjoying. So far, we have written in character as the fly and responded to all the pictures and text with predictions and relevant questions. In maths, we have been adding, with renaming in the ones place. In Humanities, we have been learning about the importance of the River Nile to Ancient Egyptian farming. We've had some brilliant examples of home learning sent in and are so proud of the effort all the children are making



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

Year 5

The children have had another great week at school and we are all very proud of how they are tackling Year 5. In English, the children have been writing their own World War Two short story. It has been great to see the pupils focused and determined to write the best story that they can and include the skills that have been taught to them over the past three weeks.

We really enjoyed coming together as a whole year group this week for an assembly on Black History Month. We discussed the achievements of people from the past and present, and learnt that Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, Bishop Wilfred Wood, Barack Obama and many more have made the world a better place by standing up for what they believe in. In the assembly we set the children a challenge to see if they could read any poems written by the talented and inspirational Benjamin Zephaniah.

It was also lovely to share our Effort and Value awards in our assembly this week and to hear of the great things that are happening across the year group.

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

Year 6

It was lovely to have all of the children together again for their first assembly since the start of the pandemic. Although we can only meet in year groups, the children were very mature whilst learning about Black History Month and we have tasked them with some optional research homework about black influencers throughout history (scientists, media personnel, human rights activists etc). Within the assembly, we also celebrated the amazing effort that children have been putting in since the beginning of the year, awarding Effort Awards and Values Champion awards - make sure you're linked to ClassDojo as we've shared photos of this week's winners on our class stories and wouldn't want you missing out on seeing your child!

There will be a virtual meeting with Mr Payne that all year 6 parents will be invited to regarding SATs arrangements for this year. We are currently waiting on the Department for Education to inform us what SATs will look like for this year following the cancellations due to the pandemic. As soon as we know, we will meet and inform parents of the best ways to support their children (both academically and emotionally), what resources are available to you and the timetable for the week. All we know at the moment is that SATs week begins on May 9th 2022.

Finally, can please inform parents that the Action Tutoring sessions happening after school on Tuesdays and Thursday will now be commencing on 2nd and 4th of November (after half term). This is due to the number of tutors currently available, and we apologise for any confusion on their behalf.

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

Attendance and Family Welfare Team

Attendance

WEEKLY WINNERS (w/c 27.09.2021)

KS1 – Rbeta 96.9%

KS2 – 3Beta 100%

Congratulations! Your teacher will award you with 5 dojos!

Here Today Here Tomorrow
Every School Day Matters!

Our schools target for attendance is 96.4%; this is for the whole school and for every pupil.

At Whitmore Park Primary School we view regular attendance as an essential part of a child's academic and social success. The school seeks to ensure that all its pupils receive a full-time education which maximises opportunities for each learner to realise his/her true potential in an aspiring, caring environment. All staff work with pupils and their families to ensure each pupil attends school regularly and punctually.

Our Attendance and Welfare team can help with advice and support if you are experiencing any barriers around attendance and punctuality.

Value your child
Value Their Education
Value Their Life Chances
Every school day matters!

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** 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.

Pathways Family Hub

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.

[Facebook - pathwaysfamilyhub](#)

[Twitter - hubsfamily](#)

Tel: 02476978130

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 offers a fun way for children to learn about health with games, activities and quizzes.

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

Domestic Abuse

[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.

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.

Coventry Blaze Offer

Elite League Ice Hockey has finally returned to the Skydome Arena and the Coventry Blaze's season is well underway.

Through their Sport in the Community, giving families the opportunity to enjoy top-level live sport at an affordable price, the Blaze are proud to offer our staff reduced price tickets for the following games in October:

Sunday 17th October vs. Belfast Giants at 6pm (Elite League)

Sunday 24th October vs. Guildford Flames at 5.30pm (Challenge Cup) *

Sunday 31st October vs. Cardiff Devils at 5.30pm (Challenge Cup) *

All games to be played at the Skydome Arena, Croft Road, CV1 3AZ

Per-game (max five tickets per-booking):

Adults: £12

Under-16: £7

Normal adult ticket price £19 and under-16 £11 + booking fees.

*** Free skating included**

After the games on 24th and 31st October, you can skate for free, saving over £10 per-person for a general skating session. If you need to hire skates, it's just £3 per-pair to do so from the Planet Ice skate hire.

To book tickets:

Complete the online application form by clicking on the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/Blaze-Offer-Oct>

THE BOOKING FORM WILL CLOSE AT 12PM ON EACH GAME DAY.

Tickets should please be paid for IN CASH.

Tickets should be collected at the Promotional Ticket Desk, next to the main Arena box office ahead of the game.

Doors will open one hour before face-off.

If you have any questions, or need help, please e-mail: coventryblazehockey@gmail.com



Optimistic October 2021

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you

2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)

1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month

10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished this week

9 Share an important goal with someone you trust

8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding

7 Look for the good in people around you today

6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better

5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good

4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list

17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society

16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting

15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted

14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation

13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing

12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today

11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward

24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently

23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise

22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague

21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you

20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time

19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future

18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the week ahead

31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month

30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future

29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to

28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?

27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time

26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face

25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities this week?

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

