



Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week I have been into classes to talk to children about their reading and I was very impressed with how knowledgeable the children were about authors and how they were able to talk with enthusiasm about the books they were reading both in school and at home.

I am delighted to see how well the children in Nursery and Reception have settled into school. It has been wonderful to see them engaged with learning through play and having fun in their outdoor areas.

I hope you have an 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>
- **Please wear 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).
- **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>

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>.

Reading

It is our pleasure to update you all on reading for the first time this school year. At Whitmore Park, reading is at the heart of our curriculum and we want to ensure that every child has a love of reading. To help children in school to achieve this, we want every child to read...read...read. In every unit of work in English, we have a fiction or non-fiction book at the heart of our lessons. This book is central to developing the writing and reading skills we want children to develop and we do this through interesting and engaging activities.

It is clear to us already that children enjoy reading and show a love of books. To ensure that this love continues we would like all children to aim to read five times every week at home. The children will earn a dojo point for every time that they read. They will also receive a stamp for reading five times a week. After a child has earned ten stamps then they will be able to choose a new book.

We have had a busy start to the term and have already: ordered new reading books for the whole school; looked in English books with a focus on the teaching of reading; and discussed reading with our Aspire network schools. We have exciting plans for reading and are looking forward to making reading a subject that all children enjoy and love.

Mr Johnston and Mrs Sandhu [The English Team]

Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

Nursery have been out collecting more things for the nature table this week. We went out of the Nursery garden, into the school playground to look at a lovely tree with red Autumn leaves. We collected some red leaves to make pictures.



We have been putting all of the leaves that we are collecting into a tray in our outdoor discovery area. The pile of leaves is huge!

Mrs Ruth McShane

Reception

Happy Friday everyone! The Reception children have had a great week learning p, g, o, c in their Read, Write Inc lessons and all about repeating patterns in Numeracy. They learned that patterns can be made with colour, shapes and also sizes.



We have also baked bread just like the little red hen did in the story that we have been learning. We hope that it tasted delicious!

PE will be commencing next week. Please check your child's Seesaw account for the details. Please remember to send reading books in on Monday. Have a great weekend everyone!

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

Year 1

This week in English, we have started a new book called Journey by Aaron Becker. This book is very special as it has no words so we have had to use our imagination to think about what the girl might say or how she might be feeling.



In Humanities, we have been comparing old and new car parts and we thought carefully about why they might have changed. The children sorted the parts into old and new parts and wrote why they might have changed. Next week on Tuesday, we will be going on a Autumn walk around the school grounds. Please can you send your child into school with suitable shoes or wellies that are ok to get muddy, thank you. Have a fabulous weekend!

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

Year 2

We have been carrying on with our Salty Dogs story this week in Year 2. The children enjoyed taking part in a conscience alley. They took turns to be a Salty Dog and walk down the alley. The other children were trying to persuade the Salty Dog to either sink and abandon their ship or swim to get their treasure.



In Maths, the children have been looking at different ways to add. They used equipment and drew pictures to help them solve problems. They also worked in partners to learn how to use column addition for the first time.

In Science, the children learned about Louis Pasteur and wrote their very own fact files about him.

The children also enjoyed creating comic strips in Humanities. They used these to describe what happened in Lady Godiva's life.

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

Class Teacher Messages...

Year 3

This week in Year 3, we have continued to work on adding and using the column method in Maths to help us rename. Next week we are moving onto subtraction. In English, the children have enjoyed more work on writing extracts of a diary pretending they have stowed away on the ship from the story *The Pirate Cruncher*. In Science the children did an investigation using shadow puppets, measuring the size of the shadow to find out how to make a shadow bigger and smaller.



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

Year 4

In Year 4 this week, we have been continuing to read 'The Spider and the Fly.' We have used drama to think about how each character feels and why. We have written in role as the spider and the fly. We have learnt about the features of a diary and will be writing in a diary entry in role next week. In maths, we have moved onto subtraction and all the staff were impressed with the children's mental maths skills and formal methods.

In humanities, we have been researching the archaeologist Howard Carter and the contribution he made to our understanding of Ancient Egypt and in science we have been experimenting to find out the variable which affects the rate of water evaporation.



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

Year 5

It has been a brilliant week in Year 5 and the children should feel proud of their fantastic achievements. In English, we have started our new unit of work, learning how to write a formal letter. This week we have learnt how to use formal language and parenthesis in our sentences and the children are looking forward to using these skills in their writing next week. To end this half-term, the children will write a formal letter to the author of *Friend or Foe*, who is Michael Morpurgo, explaining what they have learnt and enjoyed about this book. In maths, we have continued with our unit of work on addition and subtraction with numbers up to 1,000,000. It has been great to see the children talking about their calculations and using mathematical vocabulary to explain their choices. They have worked very hard in maths and have shown a good understanding of how to use the written method for addition and subtraction. In Humanities, we all enjoyed learning about which countries fought in World War 2. It was interesting finding out which countries were on the Allies side and which countries formed the Axis. In Science, we investigated changes in materials and observed different changes to see whether they were reversible or irreversible. The method of changing materials included: mixing bicarbonate of soda and vinegar; mixing sand and beads; mixing vinegar and red cabbage indicator; melting chocolate; and making toast.



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

Year 6

The children have really shown how quickly they can adapt this week, moving into their groups and dealing with lots of last minute changes like the mature Year 6s we knew they would be. It's great to see them working so hard and giving their all everyday, and can't thank our parents enough for the support they provide at home.

We can confirm that we have booked our annual residential trip to Dol-y-Moch, and will be providing more information/hosting a parent meeting soon. You will receive a letter home with key dates and deposit/payment plan information, with places being offered on a first come first served basis. It was one of the first questions the children asked at the start of the year so we are thrilled that restrictions have lifted enough for us to go ahead with this trip.

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

Attendance and Family Welfare Team

Attendance

WEEKLY WINNERS (w/c 11.10.2021)

KS1 - 2BETA (97.5%)

KS2 - 5DELTA (98.1%)

**Congratulations! Your class will receive the Attendance Trophy this week
PLUS you will be rewarded with 5 dojos each!**



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.

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 - hbsfamily](#)

Tel: 02476978130

A Message from the Admin Team

As the weather is getting colder please remember that school fleeces and hoodies for PE are available to purchase from school. Fleeces cost £14 and Hoodies are now £14 without initials and an additional £2 to include the child's initials.

Please place your order on the school gateway and state the size required. If you are ordering a hoodie please let us know if you would like it with or without initials and also if you would like it in red or grey.

Please note that because these are ordered in they can take around 2-3 weeks to arrive.

A Message from Miss Carney

Hi everyone,

Miss Chadwick has loved creating caterpillars with some children during Thrive this week.



Each segment of the caterpillar is a different colour purposely. You can talk about emotions that are green – happy, excited. Orange emotions – excitement, enthusiastic... If you do make any at home we would love to see the photos.

Thrive has a couple of social media accounts. This week, on Twitter, they shared a number of breathing techniques for children. You can find the tweet at <https://twitter.com/ThriveApproach/status/1448219720478507008> or by following their Twitter account - @ThriveApproach

On our own Twitter account, this week we have posted an update message from myself. SENDIASS has shared the following links with school:

- School nursing autumn newsletter
- FREE parent/carer session on 'Childhood Anxiety'
- Info regarding the Autism Cafe

Have a look in the thread (https://twitter.com/whitmore_park/status/1447545404824956930) for further information or contact SENDIASS directly at: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/iass>

We do try to send information out to parents as quickly as possible so please do keep an eye out on our Twitter.

Have a great week,
Miss Carney

Our School Nursing Team Health focused websites

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.

Useful Links

Mental Health & Wellbeing

[Young Minds](http://www.youngminds.org.uk) - 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](http://www.childline.gov.uk) - 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](http://www.samaritans.org) - 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.