



Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

All of the teachers in school are looking forward to the parent consultation meetings next week. This is an important opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to find out about the progress they are making in their learning and their general achievements in school. If you haven't made an appointment, please do as soon as possible.

Happy Diwali to members of our school community who will be continuing to celebrate over the weekend. Keep safe when you are celebrating Bonfire Night.

Have a great 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>
- **We wear face coverings to protect others. Please wear a face covering** when entering the school site and building, **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).

Vaccinations – please click on the link below for information regarding vaccinations and where you can find drop-in vaccination centres.

<https://www.healthwatchcoventry.co.uk/advice-and-information/2021-11-01/how-access-covid-19-vaccination>

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.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

Reading

We have big news to share with you all! The Scholastic Book fair is once again returning to Whitmore! It will be here from Wednesday 10th Nov until Wednesday 17th November.

This year the book fair will be held slightly differently to previous years as due our Covid restrictions, we are unable to invite parents on to school site to have a look at the books before purchasing.

You will however be given a QR code to use to make payment for the books your child would like to purchase and we will send home a link to share which books are available to buy. There is an exciting range of books this year!

Reading is a key life skill and its value is fundamental within our curriculum; as a school we are extremely dedicated to all our children learning to foster a love of reading. We therefore, hope you will purchase as many books as your child wishes! There will be more information to follow on the variety of books available and payment options.

Mr Johnston and Mrs Sandhu [The English Team]



Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

I hope that all of our Parents and Carers had a lovely half term holiday. The children are all really happy and settled back into Nursery life. This week we are looking at the celebration of Diwali. The children are completing lots of fun activities to help learn about celebrations in our families. Please look on Seesaw at the end of the week to see your children having fun.

Mrs Ruth McShane



Reception

This week the children have learned the sounds e, l, h and sh (please see your child's Seesaw journal for more information).

The children were very excited to receive a visit from a parent, on Thursday, to talk about Diwali. They listened to a fantastic story about 'Rama and Sita' and how Diwali is celebrated.

In Numeracy, children have learned how to write the number 3 with the help of Thelma three. They have begun to learn about composition of numbers, for example, three is made of one and two and can be written as $1+2=3$.

Well done to all children who have been reading at home at least 5 times a week and an extra special congratulations to those who have been reading every single day! We are so proud of you. Please remember to sign and date your child's reading diary (at least 5 times per week) and send reading folders in on Monday.

We hope that you enjoy any Diwali or bonfire night celebrations this weekend. Have a lovely time and stay safe.

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

Year 1

This week, the children have started learning about bikes as part of our Transport topic for humanities. They have thought about how bikes they have used in their own life have already changed, for example, moving from a trike to a bike with stabilisers.

In English, we have a book linked to our Humanities topic which is called Mrs Armitage on Wheels. The author and illustrator is Quniton Blake and we have spoken about where else we might have seen his illustrations.

We have started our Religious Education lessons this half term and we have learnt about beliefs. We discussed the beliefs we all have such as what we believe is the best colour or best best movie. We have learnt that Christians believe in the story of Genesis and that they believe God created the Earth in seven days.

Happy Diwali to everyone. We also hope you have fun celebrating Bonfire Night!

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



Year 2

The children have settled back into school beautifully after the holidays. We started the week with a launch day dedicated to our new Great Fire of London topic. The children had a brilliant time creating houses from 1666.

The children also thought of their own questions about the Great Fire of London. They are looking forward to having some of these answered next week on their trip to Selly Manor!

In English, we started our new book "Amazing Grace." The children enjoyed using clues to predict what would happen in the story.

We are continuing with addition in Maths. The children are beginning to become confident at using known methods to solve different problems.

In Science, we started our new topic "Materials." We went on a treasure hunt around the classroom to see what materials we could spot.

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



Class Teacher Messages...

Year 3

This week in Year 3 we have started reading Fantastic Mr Fox which we are really enjoying and during the next three weeks we will be working hard to create a setting description of the farms. In Maths we are continuing our column subtraction but have moved onto renaming. In Humanities we have begun our topic of Bronze Age and the children are enjoying this especially comparing it to their previous work on Stone Age. We have started our rocks topic in Science and explored the different types of rocks in this week's lesson and learnt how they are formed. Next week we are moving onto looking at soil.

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



Year 4

In Year 4 this week, we have moved on to a new English unit and will be using a National Geographic publication on Ancient Egypt to support our work. We are learning all about Non-chronological reports; who they are written for and what features they include. In our reading lessons, we have learnt about contents pages, fact boxes and glossaries. In our writing lessons, we have been focusing on the skills of past tense verbs, third person and fronted adverbials. We have also researched facts about the National Geographic Society and its importance in supporting explorers so that we can find out more about the world we live in.

In maths, we have moved on to the topic of multiplication, including how we use repeated addition and adding another group of, as strategies to work out our timetables facts. In arithmetic, we have started to use a compact written method for multiplication of hundreds, tens and ones by a single digit number. In science, we are continuing to investigate the changing state of materials and which changes are reversible.

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

Year 5

In English, we have started our new class novel 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and the children are gripped already with the fantastic plot centred on World War Two. We are all in agreement that Emma Carroll is a fantastic author and her use of description and detail take us to such a historic time in history. We have also started our new unit of writing on play scripts in our English lessons this week. It has been enjoyable to read and act out play scripts; and to write our own sections of play scripts linked to 'Letters from the Lighthouse'.

In maths, we have started our new unit of work on multiplication and division. It has been great to see the children rising to the challenge of identifying multiples, factors, common factors and prime numbers. We have been especially impressed with how the children have worked with their partner and then used their understanding to work independently in their journals and workbooks. In Humanities, we have continued to learn about World War Two and the children produced fabulous work on The Battle of Britain. Whilst in RE, the children demonstrated great maturity when learning about the meaning of prejudice and the impact this had on people during World War Two.

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

Year 6

We're extremely excited to be welcoming our visitor from Animals in Mind on Monday. We have carefully selected our animals in line with Darwin's Theory of Evolution to tailor the session to our needs and cannot wait to share some photos with you! Please ensure all children have brought their letters back as we need to ensure there are no allergies etc.

In Science, the children conducted an experiment linked to evolution in birds, understanding and exploring how different beak shapes have adapted and are suited to different environments and purposes. The children had worms, nuts, seeds and insects and had to use their 'beak' tools to see which was most effective. We had a lot of fun and of course, it turned into quite the competition!

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



Attendance and Family Welfare Team

Attendance

WEEKLY WINNERS (w/c 01.11.2021)

KS1 – 1 Delta (98.0%)

KS2 – 6 Beta (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.

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Family Welfare

Winter Coats! As we enter the colder months, we would be very grateful for donations of children's winter coats, so that we can provide these to any of our families in need.

See the flyer at the end of the newsletter, regarding a free session for parents/carers on Childhood Anxiety;

Community News

We wanted to thank you for all your amazing food and drink donations for the Harvest Festival. The donations will be taken to the Coventry Foodbank and given to families across Coventry. A second thank you for the incredible amount we raised for the Royal Society for Blind Children. We raised a total of £520.02! The charity helps blind or partially sighted children and their families. It is a charity that helps one of our own pupils at Whitmore Park. As a school, we really appreciate your continued support.

Festive Fun 2021

Coventry Holiday Activity and Food Programme (18/12/21 - 03/01/22)
Free Holiday Clubs, Experiences and food! for all children entitled to Free School Meals.
Please see the link below for further information about bookings.

<https://www.whitmorepark.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Festive-Fun-2021-Brochure.pdf>

A Message from Miss Carney

Hi everyone, I hope that you have had a lovely half term.

The Primary Mental Health Team have released the following parent information sessions. These are currently being delivered virtually. More information can be found by clicking the link. If there is a particular sessions that you may be interested in but can't access the link, please email admin@whitmorepark.org who will arrange for a paper copy of the session details to be sent to you.

<https://cwise.com/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjjm4n6208.pdf&ver=8444>

Understanding and supporting children aged 3-11 years with Anxiety

Understanding Sensory Needs in school aged children

Understanding Emotional Regulation in school aged children

Understanding and supporting school aged children who Self-harm

Understanding Low Mood in children and young people

Understanding and supporting children and young people with School Refusal

Understanding Self-Esteem in children and young people

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.

Pathways Family Hub

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**



WILDEARTH

WELCOME TO SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS,
MEETING LIKE MINDED PEOPLE AND
LEARNING NEW SKILLS...

OUTDOOR SKILLS

16-25 YEARS OLD?
INTERESTED IN NATURE AND THE
OUTDOORS?

**JOIN OUR 5-WEEK COURSE,
EVERY TUESDAY,
STARTING 16 NOVEMBER 2021,
10:30AM - 2:30PM
AT LOCAL WOODLANDS**

Call 02476 920025 OR TEXT us at 07432 528007 to book
your place.

Facebook @WildEarthUK, Instagram @wild_earth_uk,
Twitter @WildEarthUK

UK YOUTH

In partnership with SENDIASS, Coventry Educational Psychology Service (EPS) are running a FREE session for parents/carers on **'Childhood Anxiety'**

Anxiety is a common experience for children and young people. Associated difficulties may have been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic - either during lockdown or on return to school.



In this session we will think about what anxiety is and what parents can do to support children and young people to overcome their fears and worries.

Key areas we will explore in this session

Understanding Anxiety

- Normalising anxiety
- Types of anxiety
- Anxiety and the brain
- What to look out for

Supporting Children and Young People

- Supporting children at home
- CBT approaches
- Toolbox of strategies

VIDEO LINK SESSION

EITHER Wednesday 24th November 2021 - 10am-12pm

OR Tuesday 7th December 2021 - 10am-12pm

*The same session will be delivered twice, so please state which date you can attend or if you are available for either date.

To book a place or for further information please
contact: SENDIASS Tel: 024 76 69 4307
or email: iass@coventry.gov.uk