# Whitmore Park Newsletter

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Issue 43



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to get into all classrooms this week and see all of our children working hard, fully engaging with their lessons and showing all of our school

values. They showed respect as we celebrated Remembrance Day with a minutes silence and have shown maturity when learning about the importance of the 11.11. You will of course have heard how amazing your children are during your parents evening calls this week, and its been lovely to hear your comments and see the pride you have for your children on the playground each morning.

## **Community News**

We wanted to say a big thank you for all your donations to the Poppy Appeal! Your poppy donations help support the Armed Forces community past and present.

The children have enjoyed learning about the significance of a poppy this week through their assemblies and making them in their Art and Thrive lessons. We also held a minute silence on Thursday to remember those that gave their lives in the war.



## **Health and Safety**

- Vaccinations please click on the link for information regarding vaccinations and where you can find drop-in vaccination centres. https://www.healthwatchcoventry.co.uk/advice-andinformation/2021-11-01/how-access-covid-19-vaccination
- 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: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a>
- 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).
- 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/coronaviruscovid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/

## Reading

It has been lovely to see the children attending the Book Fair this week and making a wish list of books they would like to purchase. The Book Fair is in school until Wednesday 17th so there is still time for children to take a look at what's on offer. 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! Please use this link https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay/1192822 to make the payment. You can then use the link below (https://forms.office.com/r/pwByh7EY9s) to let us know which books the children have bought.

Mr Johnston and Mrs Sandhu [The English Team]



# Class Teacher Messages...

## **Nursery**

Nursery had lots of fun last week talking about the celebration of Diwali. We made masks, Rangoli patterns and divas. We also tasted traditional food and learned how to dance to Bangra style music. Mrs Patel dressed Mrs Jeevan in a sari. She looked beautiful. Here is a picture of some of the Divas that the children made. Please look on Seesaw to view the children's work. This week we are talking about babies and growing up. We are sharing a lovely story called "The Growing Story" it talks about the difference between babies and ourselves.



Also we have made some beautiful firework pictures. We have used them to make a lovely display inside Nursery.

Mrs Ruth McShane

## **Reception**

The children have had an exciting time in Reception this week with a visit from firefighters at Coventry Fire Station. They brought their fire truck and some equipment to show the children and even let them all have a sit inside the truck! It was a fantastic morning and hopefully one that the children will remember for a long time.



Reception have also had lots of fun using their creative skills to make firework rockets this week. In phonics they have learned the sounds r, j, v and y. Please see Seesaw for more information. Please remember to send reading folders in on Monday. Have a great weekend!

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

### Year 1

This week in Arithmetic, we have been learning about coins and how much they are worth. We have sorted the coins, looking carefully at what shape they are and what is written on them. We have tried adding small amounts together. To support your child at home, you could give them some coins to look at or even to spend in a shop.



In RHE, we have been learning about ways we can stay healthy. We have looked at the healthy food plate to see the different types of foods we should be eating. We have discussed how much sleep we should get, why we should exercise and drink water.

Well done for working so hard this week!

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

### Year 2

Year 2 have had an amazing week filled with lots of brilliant learning! We have spent some time researching about the Great Fire of London in preparation for our trip to Selly Manor. The children are so excited for their first trip in Year 2!



The children looked at division facts for the 10 x table in Maths. They will be tested on this weekly from next week. This will be instead of their weekly 10 x table test.

In Science, the children thoroughly enjoyed carrying out an experiment to find out which materials were waterproof. They found out that plastic would be most suitable material for a diving suit as it doesn't let water through. Mrs Sandhu, Mrs Gill (Year 2 Leader), Mrs Nolan





# Class Teacher Messages...

## Year 3

This week Year 3 have been continuing to learn column subtraction in maths involving renaming. Next week we will be moving on to multiplication looking at repeated addition counting in 3's,4's and 8's. In Literacy we have been continuing our setting description and the children have been using prepositions, adjectives and using our senses to write about the farms. In Science the children really enjoyed investigating the components of soil. In Humanities we made our own Stonehenge and wrote some facts about this famous Stone Age monument.



### Year 4

In year 4 this week, we have continued to work towards writing a non-chronological report about an aspect of Ancient Egypt. We have learnt all about captions, how to use sentence starters to create cohesion within a paragraph and how to plan a short report. We have also been learning how to skim and scan when reading, to support our research.

In maths this week, we have been learning how to use what we already know to work out our timetables. We have concentrated on our 6,, 7, 11 and 12 timetables and now have a variety of strategies to work out the tables we don't know yet. In arithmetic, we have been consolidating our understanding of a compact method for multiplication.

In humanities, we have taken part in a short quiz to test the knowledge we have learnt so far. In science, we have planted seeds to create our own ecosystem so that we can observe the water cycle in action.

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

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

### Year 5

The children have had a great week and should feel proud of all their fantastic achievements. In English, we have continued with our work on play scripts and the children especially enjoyed planning their own play script about two children travelling from Poland o England during World War Two. We have also been reading our class novel 'Letters from the Lighthouse' and we are all excited to find out what adventures Olive and Cliff go on and if they can solve the mystery of the coded note. In maths, we have continued our learning on multiplication and the children have worked extremely hard to understand: prime, composite, square and cube numbers. It has been very pleasing to see children using concrete equipment to help with their learning and then using this understanding to explain their ideas in a confident way. In Humanities, we had a brilliant afternoon learning about the Coventry Blitz through primary and secondary sources. We have also reflected on Remembrance Day by discussing sacrifices made, answer questions about the history of this significant day and made poppies. Finally, it was lovely to talk to parents this week during Parents' Evening and we would like to thank you for your continued support.

# Year 6

We had an amazing visit from Animals in Mind on Monday, and welcomed some incredible creatures into the classroom. Lyn, the lady who ran the workshops, was amazing at linking to our evolution topic, and the photos are all up on ClassDojo for you to see.

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

This week we've been studying the respiratory and circulatory systems in our bodies as part of our 'Animals including Humans' science topic. Our main focus has been the heart and lungs, understanding their functions and how they keep us alive. We explored the body in very intricate detail, drawing on Augmented Reality to enhance what is normally quite a hard lesson to understand. The children loved it, and it enabled us to travel around the different systems and literally prod and poke around innards that are very much out of bounds on a living person without doing damage!

As previously mentioned, there will soon be a SATs meeting for parents (date still tbc), so make sure you're connected to ClassDojo and the office have the right contact details so that no important correspondences are missed.

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

## **Attendance and Family Welfare Team**

### **Attendance**

(w/c 08.11.2021)

WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: 93.1%

### **WEEKLY WINNERS**

KS1 – 1 Beta (98.3%)

KS2 - 4 Gamma (99.0%)

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





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

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### **Family Welfare**

We are here for you...

Please get in touch if you have any concerns regarding your child's wellbeing.

We are well equipped to support you and your family with matters such as mental health, financial, bereavement and general welfare.

Winter Coats Appeal: 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. Thank you.



## **Our School Nursing Team Health focused websites**

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

<u>www.healthforkids.co.uk</u> offers a fun way for children to learn about health with games, activities and guizzes.

<u>www.healthforteens.co.uk</u> 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**

<u>Coventry Independent Advice Service</u> 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**

<u>Coventry Haven</u> - 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)

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

#### Mental Health & Wellbeina

<u>Young Minds</u> - 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.

<u>Childline</u> - 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.

<u>Samaritans</u> - 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 <u>confidential support line for NHS</u> <u>workers and volunteers in England</u>. 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 - hubsfamily Tel: 02476978130