



## Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely time over the Christmas holidays and would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2022! It is lovely to see the children returning to school. Many have been very excited about starting their new learning themes and they have all been engrossed in finding out new information. Everyone in school is looking forward to a successful term.

## Health and Safety

With increasing COVID cases across the country, it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain supplies of Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) and there is now a shortage across the country. As a school we face the same difficulties in obtaining supplies, however, as soon as we are able to obtain a supply, we will distribute them on the playground as normal. In the meantime, you can attend one of the following walk-in centres without an appointment to have Lateral Flow Tests taken:

Indian Community Centre	Market Way	Old Woodlands School
243 Cross Road Coventry CV6 5GP	14 Market Way Coventry CV1 1DL	Broad Lane Coventry CV5 7FF

**Opening hours:** Monday and Fridays: 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00am to 4.00pm

**People with symptoms of Covid-19, or anyone that has been told to self-isolate, should not attend and instead [book a test](#).**

For more information of where you can collect test kits or visit walk-in centres where you can get LFT tested regularly, please click on the link below:

[https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/1/council\\_and\\_democracy/3551/covid-19\\_coronavirus#rapid](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/1/council_and_democracy/3551/covid-19_coronavirus#rapid)

You can also order tests via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Parents were sent a letter via email this week, informing them of the range of symptoms related to Covid-19 and the new isolation rules. You can find it on: <https://www.whitmorepark.org/covid-19/>

## A Message from the Admin Team

Reminder - Due to increasing numbers in COVID-19 we would like to ask parents/carers to refrain from coming into the school office where possible due to it being a small area. Please either call the school office on 02476 335697 or email admin@whitmorepark.org where possible and a member of the team will get back to you as soon as possible. If it is necessary for you to come into the reception area please ensure that you are wearing a face covering unless exempt.

Please ensure that your child brings everything they need to school with them in the morning to reduce the number of items coming into the office then being passed onto classrooms. As ever please endeavour to ensure your child arrives to school on time and enters the classroom through their door.

## Reading

During part of our Training Day, we worked as a team to organise the reading books across the school. It was great to see a buzz amongst the staff when we were looking at the new reading books and all of the great ideas that they had to make reading even better in 2022.

We are very excited for children to read the new reading books this year and hope that they enjoy the adventures that they will go on and the new information that they will learn. It is our aim for all children to have a love of reading and this important skill is at the heart of everything we do at Whitmore Park. Keep reading children.

Mr Johnston and Mrs Sandhu [The English Team]

# Class Teacher Messages...

## Nursery

Nursery children have all been very excited to come back to Nursery and play with their friends and all of the Nursery toys. The Nursery staff have enjoyed listening to the wonderful things that you have been doing in the holidays. Thank you for the photographs and kind messages that you have posted on Seesaw.

Mrs Ruth McShane



## Reception

It has been lovely to welcome the Reception children back into school and hear about their experiences over the Christmas holidays. They've enjoyed being back in school with their friends and we're impressed with how they've settled straight back in.

This half-term our Reception theme is 'Terrific tales!' We will be reading many traditional tales which Reception children always love! We have revisited the Read, Write Inc sounds this week and are continuing to practise our blending to read words.

Please continue to read your child's reading book with them at home for a few minutes each day. We will change reading books on Monday. Have a great weekend!

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



## Year 1

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely holiday. The children have been very excited to tell us all about what they got up to and all the exciting things that have happened. They have written some fabulous sentences and we are thrilled with the energy they have shown towards their learning so far.

In Humanities, we have started our topic on Victorian Life. We looked at a wide range of life in Victorian Times such as the workhouse, school and homes and we will look at these in greater detail in the coming weeks. The children enjoyed exploring a variety of videos and photos to start this topic.

We had a box of items from a boy called Tom who was moving to the workhouse and the children thought of some superb questions to ask him. Well done for a great first week back!

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



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to 2022. On our first day back, we had a Launch morning to introduce our new Humanities topic- the United Kingdom. The children went on virtual tours of the countries of the UK and then completed passports to show the facts they had learnt. They enjoyed identifying the human and physical features of each country. The children were particularly interested in the stories behind Giant's Causeway and the legend of the Loch Ness monster.

We had a poetry week in English and the children looked at the features which make a good poem. They were able to create their own similes based on colours.

In Maths, we have moved on to multiplication. The children learnt how to draw arrays and equal groups to solve unknown multiplication number sentences.

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



# Class Teacher Messages...

## Year 3

Welcome back Year 3 . We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and feel rested ready for lots of learning this year. This term we will be learning about Romans, in History, magnets and forces, in Science, and dreams and goals in RHE. We will also be continuing our multiplication learning in Maths and we will be starting a new literacy unit about a short story called the tunnel. We would like children to continue practising their 3, 4 and 8 times tables at home on TT Rockstars. Please continue to read with your children 5 times a week and enjoy all the lovely new books. We were very pleased to give out lots of great books as rewards for those children who got 10 stamps last term. Keep up the great work.

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

## Year 4

In Year 4, we have used our writing skills to recount our holidays and learnt about main clauses and subordinate clauses. In maths, we have begun to times one-digit numbers by multiples of 100. On Friday, we had our launch morning for our next humanities topic - Our Local Area. We used map skills to read maps of England and search for the main cities of the United Kingdom. We learnt about compass points and how they are used to explain direction and we started to research facts and events about our city. Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about Coventry and how/why it has developed over time. We will also be looking at the main features of the city and how land is used to develop these. This week we also finished our Keeping Healthy topic in RHE, talked about why we celebrate the New Year and retrieved previous knowledge in science.

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



## Year 5

Year 5 have had a great first week back after the Christmas Holidays. In English, we have started our new class book 'Escape from Pompeii' and the children have enjoyed reading about Tranio and Livia. We are all looking forward to finding out what will happen next with Mount Vesuvius and the Roman children. It has been very pleasing to see the children working extremely hard in their writing lessons too – learning to create a blurb and write sentences with facts and relative clauses. Whilst in maths, the children have been learning to use the short division method to calculate four digits divided by a one digit number. Well done on a great first week in 2022 Year 5 – let's make this a year to remember.

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



## Year 6

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday with lots of opportunities to be with family, friends and loved ones.

This term we are looking forward to starting our 'Crime and Punishment' humanities topic. The children have always loved the gore when learning about torture methods and crime through the ages, and it links beautifully to this term's book 'Holes' by Lois Sachar. The story follows the journey of Stanley Yelnats, a convicted teen sent to a correctional facility in the boiling desert. It's always a favourite with the year 6 pupils (and the teachers love it too!).

We have extended our CGP order deadline to Friday 14th January. Please ensure you have sent your order through so that your child has the correct revision materials. Please do ensure the office has your most up to date details and you're connected to Class Dojo as there are lots of announcements and important letters coming home over the course of this term.

As the weather gets colder, please also ensure children are wearing the correct uniform with extra layers underneath and coats in school at all times.

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

## A Message from Miss Carney & Miss Chadwick

We would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year. We hope that you have had a lovely time over the holiday. I always feel that January isn't really the start of the year and that September is when we move classes. However, each term is a term that we can start anew and set new challenges for ourselves. One of the first things that the children will make in Thrive are 'positive thought' jars where we will add positives that we have achieved or experienced. We will keep adding to them and adding them to the jars over their time in Thrive so that at the end of their provision they can look back and remember the good things.

We hope that you all have a fantastic term.

Best Wishes,

Miss Carney and the Inclusion Team



## Our School Nursing Team Health focused websites

**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 \(REFUGES\)](#) - 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

[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.

## **1, 2, 3, Count with Me**

Family Learning stay and play sessions

These free stay-and-play sessions are for parents/carers and their children aged between 0 and 5. The sessions take place in Family Hubs across the city – chose the best venue for you.

We will:

- Give you lots of fun activities to help your child learn about maths and number
- Share resources with you and your child to enjoy during and after the sessions
- Share ideas which will help you to support your child's development
- Address any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's learning and development

**Where:** Chose any venue

Woodside Family Hub – Tuesday – 9.30 – 11.30 from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Aspire Family Hub – Tuesday – 1.00 – 3.00 from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Harmony Family Hub – Wednesday 1.00 – 3.00 from 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Moat Family Hub – Thursday – 9.30 – 11.30 from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Pathways Family Hub – Thursday – 1.00 – 3.00 from 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Families for All – Friday – 1.00 – 3.00 from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Mosaic Family Hub – Friday – 9.30 – 11.30 from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**How:** Just come to the venue at the time of the course, or you can enrol by searching for 'Family Learning' on the Adult Education website <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted>

To find out more contact:

kate.steventon@coventry.gov.uk or 024 7697 8730

steve.withers@coventry.gov.uk or 024 7697 1301

Family Learning – programmes that promote strong positive relationships within families; enabling parents and carers to support their children's learning and development.