



## Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely seeing the children being active at playtimes. The PE staff have been supporting lunchtimes to co-ordinate games and ensure that children take part in lots of fun activities. We hope that we will be able to resume our after school sports clubs after half term if the COVID rates in school continue to decrease. Staff have reported that they have had successful parent consultations where they have been able to talk about the progress children have made in school and identify their next steps moving forwards in their learning. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher, they will be contacting you to set up a meeting over the next two weeks. Have a lovely weekend.

## Health and Safety

We have been fortunate in obtaining some supplies of LFT kits for parents this week and these were handed out on the playground on Thursday morning. We hope to be able to distribute more next week, if we are able to obtain further supplies. Staff will be situated on the back playground.

There are also Mobile Testing Centres for LFT tests. There is no need to book an appointment, please use the link for further information; <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/council-democracy/services-disrupted-coronavirus/2#communitytest>

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)

To get NHS advice about COVID-19, including symptoms, testing, vaccination and self-isolation, please click on the link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> You can also order tests via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

For information regarding vaccinations click on the link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

: For up-to-date Covid-19 guidance by click on the link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

- Do not send your child to school if they have the following symptoms:- New continuous cough; high temperature, loss of; or change in, sense of taste or smell; headache; sore throat; tiredness/fatigue; muscle aches; sickness or diarrhoea; runny nose/cold symptoms; shortness of breath.
- 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)

## Reading

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. Please continue to read 5 times with your child at home so they can gain their stamp each week. 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.

A fantastic way to promote reading with your child would be to get involved in the **National Storytelling Week** which takes place between the 30 January – 6 February. There is a brilliant website where celebrities are reading extracts from a wide collection of well-loved children's books including **George's Marvellous Medicine by Ronald Dahl** being read by presenters Dick and Dom, **Robo-Runners by Damian Harvey** being read by Olympic runner Hannah England and YouTube star Amazing Phil explains what he loves about his favourite children's book, **Skullduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy** and many more.

Why not take a look with your child and see which one is their favourite by clicking on this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/world-book-day/z6nt47h>



# Class Teacher Messages...

## Nursery

This week in the nursery children have been learning about the celebration of Chinese New Year. We have had lots of fun making dragons and water lily table decorations. We have watched a lion dance and danced to traditional music as well. We have even tasted noodles and most of us thought that they were really tasty.

Mrs Ruth McShane



## Reception

In Reception this week the children have really enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. We have talked about the traditions associated with Chinese New Year and how some people celebrate. The children had the opportunity to taste noodles and even tried to eat them with chopsticks! In Numeracy we've learned all about the composition of number 8 and the children have enjoyed completing simple addition calculations independently. Have a great weekend and please remember to send reading books in on Monday.

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



## Year 1

In Humanities, we have been learning about what school was like in Victorian times. The children went back in time and entered a Victorian classroom with a strict Victorian teacher. They learnt the rules of Victorian schools, the lessons they would learn and the punishments that would have received for breaking the rules.

In Science, we have been experimenting with our sense of taste. The children blind tested some crisps to see if they could work out the flavour of the crisps. Next week, we will be learning about wolves in English if you would like to do any research at home. We will be going on a winter walk on Wednesday so please can you bring appropriate footwear or Wellies on this day.

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



## Year 2

We started a new book for our English topic in Year 2 this week. The children were given the title "The Storm Whale." They then used paints to create a water wash to bring their visualisations about the story to life. The children really enjoyed being creative and imaginative.

We began to look at odd and even numbers in Maths this week. The children enjoyed being number detectives and deciding whether numbers were odd and even. We also looked at fact families for multiplication and division. The children were given pictures and had to write multiplication and division number sentences to match.

In Science, the children investigated bendy and rigid materials. They put weights on materials to see how much they would bend. The children concluded that paper was the bendiest material.

The children enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year during Skills Academy. They were excited to learn that they were either the year of the horse or goat. They created Chinese lanterns to celebrate.



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

# Class Teacher Messages...

## Year 3

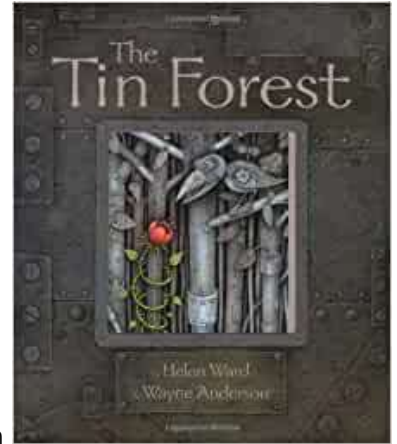
This week in Year 3 we have started two new topics in our learning. In English we have started The Sheep Pig and focusing on subordinating conjunctions in our writing to write a persuasive letter. In Maths we have moved onto mass and really enjoyed weighing objects in the classroom to see what is heavy and what is light. In Science we did an experiment to find out what materials in the classroom are magnetic and what are not. We found lots! In Humanities we are continuing our topic on The Romans and this week have learnt why Boudicca was an important person to the Roman Army. We even pretended we were in the Roman times and sent a 'Wanted' poster out to find her!

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

## Year 4

In year 4 this week, we have started to read a new book in English called 'The Tin Forest.' We have used the book to write a comparison about the character's reality and dreams, focusing on the use of appropriate adjectives. In maths, we have been learning about fractions. We can recognise hundredths, order fractions on a number line and add fractions with the same denominator together. In science, we have continued to explore sounds by investigating how to change the pitch of an instrument. In humanities, we have been researching Coventry and planning a tourism leaflet. In RHE, we are continuing to develop our understanding of bullying: how to identify it and who to talk to.

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



## Year 5

It has been another busy week in Year 5 with lots of great learning taking place. This week in maths, we have learnt how to subtract fractions and the children should feel very proud of the perseverance that they have shown during our lessons. We have learnt how to subtract fractions with different denominators and convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. In English, we have focused on the skill of inference in our reading lessons. The children have worked hard to read between the lines and draw conclusions from a variety of texts from throughout the week. In our writing lessons, the children have planned and wrote their diary entries with a choice to write about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius or about a significant day from their life. In humanities, again the children enjoyed learning about volcanoes and this week learnt how they are formed. The children produced some beautiful work and were able to label the different parts of a volcano. In PE, the children enjoyed learning and building on their ball skills during basketball. Well done on a brilliant week Year 5 and for all of your hard work.

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

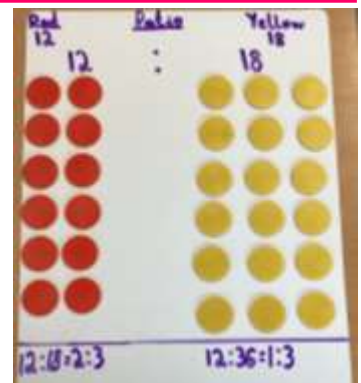
## Year 6

This week, we've been looking at Ratio within our maths lessons. This was completely new to the children, and they've done incredibly well to understand how to use them when comparing quantities and numbers. There are a few new topics still upcoming and we hope they pick those up just as quickly!

By now, you will have all received your CGP books. Please ensure your children are taking time out of their schedule to revise the topics that we've covered in all subject areas. It is really important that you watch the SATs meeting video that we published to ensure you understand how SATs works and what it tests, as the children have to recall everything they've learned from Year 3 onwards and will need to revisit these as much as possible.

We are thrilled that our Warning Zone trip will be going ahead next week, and look forward to sharing the photos with you. Please ensure your children are on time on the day of their trip else they will miss out!

We appreciate your full support and can't thank you enough for working alongside us to achieve the best for the children.



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

## Attendance and Family Welfare Team



### Attendance

WEEKLY WINNERS (w/e 04/02/2022)

KS1 – 1Gamma – 97.7%

KS2 – 4Delta – 96.3%

Congratulations! Your class will receive the Attendance Trophy next 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%; this is for the whole school and for every pupil.**

Please Remember to call school by 8:55am to report your child's absence

02476335697

Mrs Smith and Miss Keeling are here to support you with any attendance or welfare concerns.

Please call or email us at [familywelfare@whitmorepark.org](mailto:familywelfare@whitmorepark.org)

### Punctuality

We have noticed a large amount of pupils arriving late and coming through the main reception.

Can we please just remind parents that Reception, Years 1, 2, 4 and 6 doors open at 8.45am and Year 3 and 5 doors at 8.50am. Please ensure your child is on time on the playground in the morning ready to meet their class teachers.

<u>Minutes late per day during the school year</u>	<u>Equals days worth of teaching in a year.</u>
5 minutes	3.4 Days
10 minutes	6.9 Days
15 minutes	10.3 Days
20 minutes	13.8 Days
30 minutes	20.7 Days

## PE / Sports News

During spring term, children from reception to year 6 have been covering gymnastics within their P.E lessons. Pupils have had the opportunity to learn how to move in different ways safely and also put together sequences of movement. The P.E team have been very impressed with all the pupils enthusiasm to lessons and also pupils confidence in using a range of apparatus, moving over and under them to also help develop their core strength.

The P.E Team would also like to wish the best of luck to our year 6 rowing team, who will be competing in the School Games region heats this Friday. We know they will do Whitmore Park proud with all their hard work.



# SEND & Thrive

Hi everyone,

As we enter a new month, it is time to share the Action for Happiness calendar with you all. Further information can be found at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/february>



## Knit-for-Nowt

We are particularly excited to have taken receipt of a parcel of Worry Monsters from [www.knitfornowt.org](http://www.knitfornowt.org)

Knit-for-Nowt is a charitable service based in Yorkshire. It appeals for knitted, crocheted, or sewn hand puppets and "worry monsters", which are used by therapists to help children... There is a huge need for these across the country. They are made by a dedicated team of volunteer knitters/makers and then donated to Social Work teams, Children's therapists and Thrive practitioners right across the UK.

We can't wait to start using them within school.



## 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](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk) offers a fun way for children to learn about health with games, activities and quizzes.

[www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://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](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.

### 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**