

Whitmore Park Newsletter

14th January 2022

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Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a super week of learning in school. We now look forward with huge anticipation to what the future may hold for all of our children and staff at Whitmore Park. We hope to build on the successes of 2021 and look forward to our children meeting new challenges, achieving their goals and most of all being happy and enjoying each day at school. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Health and Safety

Community test/collection sites in Coventry

Indian Community Centre
243 Cross Road
Coventry
CV6 5GP

Market Way
14 Market Way
Coventry
CV1 1DL

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

· 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). · You can read the up to date Covid-19 guidance by clicking on the link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Reading

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school! We hope you have been reading over the Christmas break and we would love for you to share what you have been reading with us this term. Please let your class teacher know of a recommendation and we will feature it in our newsletter this term.

You will have noticed that your children are beginning to bring home a new range of reading books. It is really important that children are reading at home. We encourage the children to try to read 5 times a week. They will continue to receive a dojo point for every day they read!

We appreciate your support in helping and encouraging your children to read at home. Please ensure that you also sign their reading journal so we can see how many times they have read. Every Friday we log down how many times the children have read and then the week starts all over again from Saturday to Thursday. This then allows us to keep track on giving out stamps which means giving out brand new book prizes!

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.

Mr Johnston and Mrs Sandhu [The English Team]

Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

Nursery have begun learning about a new story this week called "Can't you Sleep Little Bear". We have talked about what bears look like and looked at lots of different pictures of bears. The children found this very engaging. They were very interested in the Sun Bear and the Moon Bear, so we looked at videos of them on the internet. On Tuesday we watched a live link of the pandas at Edinburgh zoo.

Have a lovely week

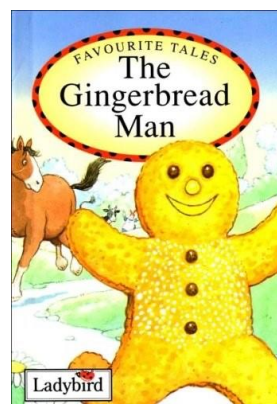
Mrs Ruth McShane



Reception

This week we have been reading the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' and have enjoyed joining in with singing "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!" We have continued to practise our writing too. Next week, we will be baking biscuit men! In Numeracy we have been looking at the composition of numbers to five (by the end of the year Reception children need to recall all subtraction and addition facts within five so we will have lots of practise at this). Please send in reading folders on Monday so that books can be changed. Have a great weekend everyone.

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



Year 1

In English, we have been reading 'Look Up' and we have learnt all about Mae Jamison who was the first African American woman to go to space. The children have written some superb facts about her and written some questions that they would like to ask about being an astronaut or something they would like to know about space.

In Maths, we have been learning to read and write our numbers in word form to 20. This is something that you can work on at home by trying to spell the word for each number e.g. 11 would be written eleven.

In RHE, we have started our topic of Celebrating Differences. We have looked at our class and how we are all similar and different. We have created a class ginger man paper chain or ourselves to show how we are all different or similar.

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



Year 2

Year 2 have started a new book in English this week. It's called "Toby and the Great Fire of London." The children enjoyed putting the front cover together like a jigsaw puzzle and making predictions about what they thought might happen in the story.

In Maths, we have been continuing our learning on multiplication. The children have been applying their different methods to solve a variety of problems.

We have moved onto learning the 2 X tables for our weekly times tables tests. Please could you practice these at home with your child. We will have our first test next week.

In Humanities, the children "fixed" the United Kingdom as it had been jumbled up. They then located the capital cities and wrote sentences using geographical terminology e.g. north of, west of, next to.

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



Class Teacher Messages...

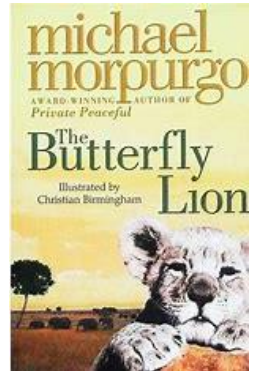
Year 3

This week the children have been reading the story 'The Tunnel' by Anthony Browne. They have been looking at the sequence of the story and been looking at how characters speak in stories using inverted commas. In Math the children have been learning the compact method for multiplication and starting to learn the formal written method for division. In Science the children have been introduced to their topic 'Forces and magnets' which they found very interesting and in Humanities have started learning some interesting facts on their new topic 'Romans'.

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

Year 4

In year 4 this week, we have started reading 'The Butterfly Lion' by Michael Morpurgo. We have learnt about the author and how and why he writes his books and started to read the beginning of the book. We have discussed why he gave the story this title and predicted what the book will be about. In Maths, we have been developing our formal written method for multiplication and practised multiplying three digit numbers by a one digit number. In Geography, we have learnt the difference between physical features and human features. We have started to discuss the term 'land use' and how this might apply to different parts of Coventry, for example some land is used for factories and some for housing. In Science, we have started our new topic of sound and will be learning about how sounds are made and sound travels to our ears. In PE, we have started to develop our target practice skills, including archery.



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

Year 5

It has been a brilliant week in Year 5. This week in English, the children have continued to read 'Escape From Pompeii'. They have applied their knowledge from the tale to begin writing a newspaper report about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and the devastation of Pompeii. The children have begun to think about a headline and the 5 Ws for the introduction. In maths, the children have worked hard on fractions. In Computing, the children have been coding by animating sprites and choosing a background – using code. In Design and Technology this week, the children have created mechanisms such as sliders and levers to be used in a pop-up book. In PE, the children worked on their jumps and leaps to create a sequence in Gymnastics. An amazing week Year 5; keep it up.

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

Year 6

This week marks the start of our year group reading competition! To encourage our children to read 5 times per week, the classes are competing to win prizes and rewards. The winning class will be the class who has the most amount of people reading at home 5 times a week so please promote this at home. We've talked about sacrificing the 15 minutes children spend killing time on TikTok and swapping this for a book, so your support would be greatly appreciated. The reading journals need to be signed by a parent once a week, but the children should be completing them themselves!

We had an amazing afternoon launching our Crime and Punishment topic, and this week we continued looking back to the Roman Empire and the laws they introduced that lawyers still study today. The children very much enjoyed learning about the punishments of the time and even introduced some prior knowledge to the conversations that the teachers had to look up! They are very engaged and we are very excited to see where the topic will lead! Our CGP order went in today, so those that have paid will receive their books as soon as they start arriving next week.

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

Attendance and Family Welfare Team



Attendance
WEEKLY WINNERS (w/e 14/01/2022)
KS1 – 1Beta – 97.3%
KS2 – 3Gamma – 95.7%

**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

SEND & Thrive

Hello,
You may have seen on the Twitter feed that the One Voice Parents Forum Coventry are hosting IPSEA SEND Law Training for Parent Carer forums. If this is something that you are interested in, please check out the information provided.

Thrive has restarted this week with some groups. We have been focussing on New Year, new starts, fresh starts, positive starts and the importance of recognising and celebrating positive moments. With all this in mind the children have been creating positive memory jars. This week they have been decorating them. Every session following, they will add a positive memory from the week to their jar. This will remain in the jar until they complete their intervention, when they will take them all out and reflect on all the positivity that they have stored.



We hope that you have a lovely week.
Miss Carney

voice

One Voice Parents Forum Coventry are hosting the IPSEA SEND Law Training for Parent Carer forums, this is tailored to the main issues parents are facing in our area, and it will also cover:

- The Legislative framework for supporting children and young people with SEND
- The legal duties of local authorities and schools/FE colleges and other settings
- Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessments and reassessments
- The content of EHC plans, including naming a placement and amending a plan
- Annual reviews
- Appealing to the SEND tribunal
- An introduction to the Equality Act 2010, including the duty to make reasonable adjustments
- The law on exclusions
- The temporary legislative changes arising from Covid -19 (If currently applicable)

DATE: Friday 21st January 9.30-3PM via Zoom

This will be a popular session, places are limited. The sessions will be delivered remotely via Zoom, with a representative from IPSEA. Zoom can be accessed on phones, laptops, iPad etc.

To book your place or for more information please contact Kellie or Carol on 07874242733 or Email onevoicegroup@btinternet.com. We can help go through how to log in to the session, just get in touch.



voice

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 - [hubsfamily](#) Tel: 02476978130**