



Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the half term, I would like to look back and celebrate the achievements of our children, appreciate the work of our staff and thank our parents and carers for their support. It has been a busy term with lots of challenges, however this hasn't stopped us! We have provided a curriculum for our children full of exciting experiences and opportunities whilst continuing to support their well being. I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable half term with your families and we look forward to seeing you on 28th February.

Health and Safety

Chickenpox Case in School

We have been notified that there has been a case of chickenpox in school. Please see the link below for advice about chickenpox. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>
Head-lice Information

Please see advice via the link below regarding head-lice. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/#:~:text=You%20can%20treat%20head%20lice,if%20they%20have%20head%20lice.>

COVID19 Information

We are awaiting a delivery of some supplies of LFT kits for parents. Once we receive them these will be handed out by staff 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

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)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Due to the current situation many families are finding themselves in a difficult situation financially. Please see the link below which will direct you to information regarding eligibility for free school meals. You may apply, even if your child already receives a free school meal through the Government universal scheme for children in Early Years and KS1. Any application will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially.

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals>

MONIES OUTSTANDING

May we respectfully request that any outstanding payments are settled as soon as possible? If you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact school to discuss this. Any correspondence will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

This week in Nursery we have shared the story "Whatever Next" We have talked about what you can see in the night sky and what you can see in the sky in the daytime. When we have been in the garden we have been looking carefully and spotting things in the sky, like birds, aeroplanes, clouds, and lots more. We have been building rockets in the construction area. We have printed stars and decorated planets. We have even acted out the story using toys. It has also been Valentine's Day this week, some of the boys and girls brought in flowers for each other. It has been lovely to see such kind friends. I hope that you have an enjoyable week and a very restful and happy Half Term holiday.



Mrs Ruth McShane

Reception

This week in Reception the children have continued their learning around Knights and Castles. We were very excited to welcome special visitors into school on Wednesday who re-enacted the characters of a Knight and an archer. The children were fascinated to see the armour and hear all about it. We watched a video of the knight in a battle re-enactment, this was very exciting! In the classroom we have created knights using a toilet roll, they are all different and created independently by the children. We have been very proud of the children's independent writing this week too - we've seen some super sentences! We hope you all have a fantastic half-term week. Send us some photos on seesaw if you go anywhere exciting! Keep up the daily reading if you can, a few minutes every day will secure the brilliant progress that they have made this half term.



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

Year 1

This week, we have been on a sound walk to test our sense of hearing. We ensured we stood and walked really quietly so our ears could listen carefully to all the noises. We discussed what we all heard and recorded our findings. This was our last lesson on our senses. Can you name all five and explain what they are for?

In Humanities, we have finished looking at Victorian Life by creating Victorian buildings out of junk modelling. The children did a fantastic job and we have tweeted some of their creations if you would like to look on our school twitter page. Next half term, we will be learning about important Victorians such as Queen Victoria and Lord Shaftsbury if you would like to do any research over the half term.

We hope you all have a fun and relaxing half term. Well done for all you hard work so far!

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



Year 2

The children have amazed the teachers this week with their story retells of "The Storm Whale." They concentrated on using description and conjunctions to add more detail to their work. The teachers were especially impressed with the children's use of language to show how Noi felt at different parts of the story.

We started looking at mass in Maths. The children enjoyed using balance scales to compare the weights of different objects in the classroom. They used the words heavier and lighter to compare.

In Science, the children enjoyed designing their own squishy toys. They explored different materials to see which would be best for a squishy toy. The children had fun exploring the human and physical features of Coventry in Humanities. They researched familiar places and completed their own fact files. The children have worked extremely hard this half term. We hope that they all have enjoyable holidays with their loved ones and that they are ready for some more fantastic learning when they come back!



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

Class Teacher Messages...

Year 3

Year 3 have had a very busy final week before half term. We have completed our persuasive letter and did a really good job! They enjoyed being bossy farmers and using lots of persuasive language to keep the pig on the farm! After the holidays we are going to learn about the Anglo Saxons in Humanities, the human body in Science and fractions in Maths. We are really looking forward to a lovely break next week!

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

Year 4

In Year 4, we have written a short story setting based on the 'The Tin Forest.' In maths, we have subtracted fractions and mixed numbers. In arithmetic, we've added mixed numbers. In science, we planned, carried out and evaluated a science experiment based on our 'Big Question' - What is the best insulator to prevent sound waves reaching our ears? We learnt to only change one variable and measure our results accurately. We then wrote up our experiments. In RHE, we have continued to develop our understanding of what bullying is, how it can be prevented and what to do if we see it happening to others. In PE, we took part in our last archery lesson. Please check your school comms for a letter we have sent out regarding our trip to the Birmingham Think Tank in March.



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

Year 5

What a great half-term it has been in Year 5! The children have worked extremely hard in all lessons and produced fabulous work throughout the curriculum. As a team we are extremely proud of every child and would like to thank all of the children for their efforts. We would also like to thank the parents for your continued support. In English this week, the children have planned, wrote, drafted and published their own free verse poem about what would be in their magic box. It was great to see the children including adjectives, alliteration, similes and metaphor to describe items that meant a lot to them. We also enjoyed listening to children performing their poems. In maths, we have been working on tables and graphs this week. The children have shown a good understanding of interpreting: flight timetables, train time tables and graphs. In Science, the children enjoyed grouping living things in a range of ways and gave fantastic explanations for their choices. Whilst in PE, the children learnt the skill of starting a game of basketball with the technique 'jump ball'. The children worked extremely well in pairs and then in groups of three when learning this important skill. Well done, Year 5. You all deserve a restful and relaxed break after all of your hard work this half-term. We all hope that you have fun and enjoy your time with your family and friends.

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

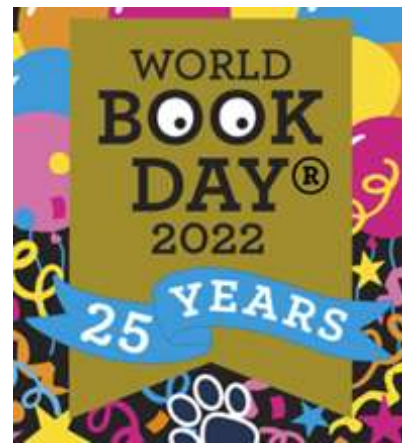
Year 6

We were sad this week to say goodbye to our thoroughly enjoyed book 'Holes'. We completed the multiple narratives and pieced it all together to the shock, awe and surprise of the children, navigating a lot of twist and turns to conclude a memorable experience for the children. We go from the Texan desert to an isolated island for our next piece of work, and can't wait to share the outcomes from this with you. Once again, the resilience of our children has shone through as we tackled Algebra for the first time this week. Watching them all grow and understand this unit is an amazing sight to witness and we love how much more of a mathematical understanding they have - if you walk into their bedrooms and see them calculating with letter instead of numbers don't panic! They know exactly what they're doing! Not only did the trip to the warning zone aid our understanding of e-safety, but we celebrated e-safety week this week. Mr Evans provided an amazing assembly to get the children thinking, and then the children created some lovely posters to display around the school. Please talk to them about this at home and ensure you share online experiences as a family.

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

Reading

The end of our Spring half term is upon us and what a wonderful half term it has been seeing lots of children enjoying our new collection of books to take home to read. Children have also enjoyed taking home their own choice of book from class libraries too! At Whitmore Park we are continuing to encourage ALL of our children to read, read and read some more! 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.



On Friday 4th March (first week back after half term) we will join the nation to celebrate World Book Day! Children will spend all day exploring a new text and completing activities around it. If children wish to, they can come to school dressed up as their favourite book character too! Every child at school will receive a £1 book token that they can exchange at participating shops for a brand-new book that have been selected this year to be part of the World Book Day celebrations. There is more information about these book token on this website: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/> During the week, we will be asking teachers to hand out Golden Tickets to children showing their passion for reading. Golden Ticket receivers will be placed in a raffle and there will be a winner announced from each class and they will win a World Book Day Prize.

PE / Sports News

The last few weeks have been an amazing time for sport across the school and especially Year 6. As mentioned in last weeks post, regarding our amazing Year 6 Rowing teams, and the fantastic achievement of the boys coming second within the School Games Coventry Heats, those boys will now head to Level 3 finals which will take place next half term. Off the back of this great achievement last week, our Rowing4All mixed team (Pictured) won the Coventry region heats and will also progress onto their own Level 3 finals, which is a brilliant achievement and we are so proud of all of the 4 pupils who took part.



This term within P.E. lesson's, all year groups have take part in their gymnastics modulars, from myself and the rest of the P.E Team, I would like to thank all the pupils for their creativity during lesson's and also bravely for trying the wide range of apparatus. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable half term. All the best, Mr Parry.





Attendance

WEEKLY WINNERS (w/e 18/02/2022)

KS1 – 1Beta – 97.7%

KS2 – 5Beta – 96.6%

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

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

THEATRE NEXT DOOR PRESENTS
A RHUBARB THEATRE PRODUCTION

WED 23 FEB, 10.30AM & 1PM
HOLBROOKS COMMUNITY CENTRE

THE TIME MACHINE

Pay What You Wish 5+

2021

BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

Please follow the below link if you are interested in booking tickets: [Theatre Next Door: The Time Machine \(Holbrooks Community Centre\) - Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 \(coventry2021.co.uk\)](https://www.coventry2021.co.uk)

Safer Internet Day 2022

Safer Internet Day 2022 was celebrated on 8th February with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Whitmore Park Primary School, and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. During the week, pupils had an assembly to highlight Safer Internet Day as well as completing some fun and engaging activities that have helped them to understand the importance of being respectful online. We are also running an online safety poster competition.

Entries for the competition should be handed in by the 4th of March.



Rules for the competition:

Your poster must:

- Include the SAFE rules
- Be handed in by 4th of March

Your poster should:

- be colourful and creative
- have bold writing so it is easy to read

You might include:

- Drawings of people using technology
- Drawings of technology
- Drawings of people following the SAFE rules

The winning posters will be put around the school and be shared in the school newsletter, on the school website and on our school Twitter!

Good Luck!

We have attached to this newsletter a pack for parents and carers includes information and activities to help parent support their child in using the internet positively and safely.

The pack contains:

Conversation starters: Helpful questions and phrases to start a conversation with your child about staying safe online.

Family online safety plan: A plan to help your family shape the way you will use the internet and technology safely, responsibly, and positively.

Family activities: Fun activities that you can do with children of all ages to explore respect and relationship online.

Parents and carers' resource sheet: Useful sources of advice and information online, including how to report online problems

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**