

# Whitmore Park Newsletter

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

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## Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, I have been very impressed with the amazing writing that the children have been bringing to show me. They have all shown fantastic progress since September and are working hard to include all of the skills they have learnt in their stories. A massive thank you to the Olympian Kimberley Woods for visiting the school to share her inspirational story with the children. I'm sure that it has inspired many of them to try hard, aim high and reach their goals! I hope you all have a lovely weekend with you families.

## Health and Safety

You will be aware of the change to restrictions announced yesterday. The school will continue to work to the risk assessment in place until further guidance has been received from the Local Authority. You can read the up to date Covid-19 guidance by clicking on the link <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

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](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)

## 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.

We all know that looking after the environment is so important and this week's book recommendation is all about climate change. It is called The Last Bear written by Hannah Gold. It is beautifully illustrated by Levi Pinfold. The Last Bear invites readers to care about the science behind the fate of an endangered species and to believe in one girl's magical solution to the problem. A heart-warming and magical story of a very special relationship between a child and a polar bear which will inspire readers of all ages to realise that they, like April, can make a difference in the battle against climate change. Maybe you'd like to take a read?

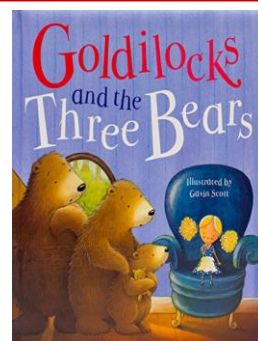


# Class Teacher Messages...

## Nursery

Nursery have been enjoying Goldilocks and the Three bears this week and have been joining in retelling the story! The children have engaged in lots of outdoor play with the better weather this week and have been developing their gross motor skills on the outdoor equipment. They have been doing lots of dancing and singing. A favourite this week has been 'Shake your sillies out' We've loved watching their dance moves.

Mrs Ruth McShane



## Reception

In Reception this week the children have been writing some fantastic sentences - we are really impressed with how they are starting to use their phonic knowledge more when writing. In Numeracy we've been learning all about the composition of number 7 and how to write it with help from Sir Seven (please see Seesaw for more info). Independently, children have been practising their cutting skills to make gingerbread men and have been solving lots of simple additions! We also went on a seasonal walk around the school grounds to check for changes that are happening to our environment - maybe they can tell about some of these changes when you are out and about. Have a great weekend everyone and please remember to send reading folders in on Monday, thank you.

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



## Year 1

This week in Science, we have been investigating our sense of touch. We used our hands to feel items in a box and guess what the item was. We then recorded our answers and checked whether we had got it right.

In English, we have started reading the book 'Chocolate Cake' by Micheal Rosen. We have acted out sneaking down stairs to eat chocolate cake. The children have been writing sentences about the boy being mischievous and have been using an exclamation mark within their sentences.

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



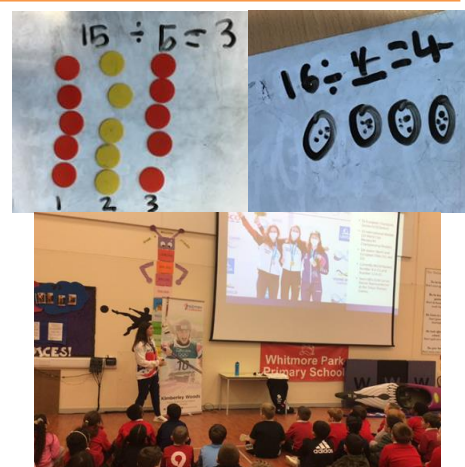
## Year 2

Year 2 have worked extremely hard this week writing their own diary entries. They pretended that they were a little boy called Toby who was amongst the fire in 1666. They enjoyed using chatterpix to orally rehearse their diary entries before writing them. The teachers were really impressed with their attempt to use time words to make their entries more interesting.

We have started looking at division in Maths. The children learnt how to do sharing and grouping to solve different problems. They were able to show these using equipment and drawing pictures.

In Humanities, the children explored rivers and seas in the United Kingdom. They located these on a map and researched facts to create a poster. The children were thoroughly excited to also meet Olympian Canoeist, Kimberley Woods this week! They loved hearing about her journey from young girl to gold medallist.

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



# Class Teacher Messages...

## Year 3

This week the children have written some fantastic stories in English based on the story of 'The Tunnel'. We are very impressed by the quality of the work and the children are really proud of their stories. In Maths, the children have been learning about length and have enjoyed converting cm, m and km. Also they had a fun week in science investigating friction and what makes a fair test. In humanities they have had fun watching Julia Caesar and learned about his importance in the Roman Empire. The children really enjoyed meeting our Olympic athlete and were really in awe and inspired by her amazing achievements

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

## Year 4

This week in year 4, we have written a short story opening based on the Michael Morpurgo book 'The Butterfly Lion.' We are really enjoying reading the book and will finish it as our class reader. The children have been looking for other books by Michael Morpurgo because they think he is such a good author. In Maths, we have started handling data; interpreting pictographs, block graphs and line graphs. We have also continued practising our formal written method for division. In Humanities, we have been using grid references to read maps and identifying the changes in land use in and around Coventry over the last one hundred years. In Music, we have learnt a rap about bullying and in Science we have learnt about scientist Alexander Graham Bell who invented the telephone.



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. In English, we have started our new unit of work on diary entries and have learnt what features make a diary entry successful and how to use a variety of pronouns and modal verbs to avoid repetition in our writing. In maths, we have continued with our work on fractions, learning how to add fractions with different denominators. We have also learnt how to write fractions in their simplest form and as mixed numbers. In Humanities, the children enjoyed learning about: the structure of the earth, tectonic plates and the ring of fire. Whilst in PE, we have continued to learn skills in basketball and this week learnt how to use the forward pass and how to choose when to pass or shoot. We have also discussed the term 'respect' in our class assemblies this week and the importance of treating every person the same. Well done on a great week Year 5. Keep trying your best.

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

## Year 6

The response to our story 'Holes' has been exactly what we wanted. Our year 6s are engaged, curious and desperate to know what comes next. The groans as we reach the end of the chapters and begging we have to endure on a daily basis of 'just one more chapter' really is exactly what we love about reading! Some of our children have even taken the book to read the whole thing for themselves! While this love of reading is fuelled, can I please remind you to ensure reading journals are being completed at home and signed so that the children can earn their rewards.

We had an inspirational visit from Olympic Canoeist Kimberley Woods this week, and the children got the opportunity to ask their sports related questions and unpick the mind-set of a true athlete. She brought in her gear and canoe used in the Tokyo Olympics and the children were in awe of her skills and achievements. Who knows... maybe more than one of our children in the audience will be inspired to go on to become a celebrated Olympian!

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



### Attendance

WEEKLY WINNERS (w/e 28/01/2022)

KS1 – RBeta -96.2%

KS2 – 4Delta – 93.5%

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<br/>the school year</u> | <u>Equals days worth of<br/>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   |

## INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CARERS

**FREE ONLINE** workshop for parents and carers to help keep their **children safe online**.  
Hosted by WestMidlands Police in partnership with Coventry City Council's Prevent Team.

We will share **guidance and strategies** on how to make the internet a safer experience for children.

The following topics will be explored:

- Apps and appropriate ages
- Safety settings
- Grooming, sexting, bullying, radicalisation and extremism
- Gaming
- Introducing house rules
- How to approach conversations and what to do if your child is a victim



To view dates and times and to book a place, please [click here](#) or scan  
the QR code above.



West Midlands  
**POLICE**



## SEND & Thrive

### Parents Evening feedback

Thank you for taking the time to meet with your child's class teacher. Mrs Heer and I have been notified by class teachers where parents / carers have asked to contact us. One of us will be in touch with you as soon as possible.

### PLPs

Teachers are also in the process of sharing Personal Learning Plans with the parents / carers of children who have one. If you have any further concerns about these, please contact Mrs Heer.

### MSPs

The children with My Support Plans will be having theirs reviewed in line with when they were written. If you have any concerns about these, please contact myself.

As always, if you have any other concerns, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Many thanks

Miss Carney

## PE / Sports News

This week was a exciting week for the P.E Team. We came together as a school community to celebrate all the extracurricular sporting activities our pupils take part in outside of school. Pupils were ask to wear their uniform/kit which they wear for the day on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. It was great to see so many pupils dressed in their Twaenko, Karate, Irish dancing, Football and Rugby kits, gymnastic uniforms and so many more. As well as this we had a special visitor to school, Olympic Canoeist Kimberley Woods. Kimberley hosted a assembly for every year group, and told her inspirational story of how from a young child she wanted to go to the Olympics and all her hard work and challenges along the way. Mr Parry was very impressed by how all the children from reception to Year 6 were engaged in Kimberley story and so attentive in asking some brilliant questions. As a P.E Team, we would like to thank every one who took part in the day and especially Kimberley taking the time to visit our 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**