



Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well done to our incredible Year 6 children - what an amazing week they have had! They have worked hard with confidence and resilience and used every single second to demonstrate their ability in Maths and English during the SATs this week. We are tremendously proud of their attitude to their learning and their commitment to be the 'Best they can Be'. It has been lovely to see so many children participating in our after school clubs and we are looking forward to taking part in a number of sporting festivals over the summer term. Have a great weekend!

Health and Safety

Polite Reminder about the Trim Trail

The trim trail is only available to be used during school time when supervised by school staff due to health and safety reasons. Please can parents remind children not to use it when dropping off and collecting before and after school. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Polite Reminder about Parking

In the interest of health and safety and good neighbour relations, please can parents/carers take care to park responsibly when dropping off and collecting pupils around the school site. We have received feedback from neighbours of some cars blocking driveways, parking on yellow lines or blocking the pavement. Many thanks for your co-operation.

COVID19 Information – updated 1.4.22

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

Parents are no longer required to wear a face covering when on the school site.

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).

Please do not send your child to school if they test positive for COVID19

With effect from 1.4.22, for children testing positive for COVID-19 (under 18 years old), they should stay at home for 3 days and avoid contact with others. They should then return to school and normal activities only if well enough and they don't have a temperature.

When children and young people with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

All children and young people with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues.

It can be difficult to know when to seek help if your child is unwell. If you are worried about your child, especially if they are aged under 2 years old, then you should seek medical help.

The mainstay of COVID-19 advice for the general public will remain as:

Wear a mask/face covering in enclosed spaces

Keep indoor spaces ventilated

Stay away from others if you have any symptoms of a respiratory illness, including COVID

Vaccination remains the best way to protect us all from severe disease and hospitalisation due to COVID infection

Please note that we are **no longer able to access Lateral Flow Tests** to give out to families, so we are no longer able to distribute them on the playground.

Vaccinations

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

Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

This week in Nursery we have started to talk about cats. We have looked closely at different pictures of cats. We can talk about how all cats have ears and tails etc. we have also looked at how they can be different by examining patterns and colours of their fur. We are also learning lots of facts about cats.

In the garden, we have played a game. How many sticks can you pick up in a minute? This was great fun; it has also made the garden look tidy and has helped to make a better environment for the insects in the bug house.

In music, we have been playing with bell instruments. We can make quiet noises and loud noises. We like the loud noises the best.

Have a lovely weekend.



Mrs Ruth McShane

Reception

This week in Reception we have been reading the story Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne. This story has prompted discussion about how life may be different in a hot country like Africa. We have looked at the different fruits that Handa put in her basket. We liked the sweet smell of the guava! We have also talked about the different African animals that appear in the story. Can the children tell you about the story of Handa's surprise at home?

We are really looking forward to being able to take the children on their first school trip to the farm on Tuesday next week! We have sent a couple of reminders about the trip on Seesaw. Please send reading folders in 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

This week in Maths, we have been learning to find half and quarters of shapes and colouring in one quarter or one half. We have used sharing circles to share amounts in to two or four to find how much it would be.

In English, the children have worked on developing their use of conjunctions and accurate spelling when rewriting parts of The Smartest Giant in Town!

In science, we have continued our topic on animals and have been learning about carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. We have learnt about what they eat, what characteristics they might have and some animals that belong to these groupings. We have recorded our findings in a table.

We hope you have a fabulous weekend!



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

Year 2

Year 2 have had another fun filled week of learning. In English, we continued reading the story "The Day the Crayons quit." The children enjoyed choosing one of the crayons and explaining why it was their favourite. We also did some role-play work around the story. The children pretended they were one of the crayons and their partner asked them questions,

In Maths, the children have enjoyed completing activity mats which involved answering a variety of reasoning style questions. We have also started learning our five times tables. Please could you reinforce this learning at home.



We continued learning about "What makes something living?" in science. The children sorted pictures into "living," "not living" and "dead." The children enjoyed debating about which category paper would fit into as it comes from a tree but is an object!

We also read an interesting non-fiction text about Ants. The children were fascinated to discover that an ant could carry things that weigh more than 50 times as much as they do! The children answered written comprehension questions on this text.

Year 2 will be completing their SATs next week. Please ensure your child is in school. As already discussed with parents, the children are familiar with completing assessments and we make it as low key as possible. We have every faith in all the children that they will do fantastic!

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

Class Teacher Messages...

Year 3

It has been lovely to have all the children back for the whole week this week. We have carried on our English topic of a setting comparison and the children have gathered lots of great adjectives to prepare for their independent write next week. In Maths, we have continued our work on graphs and the children have been able to draw their own bar graphs and learnt how to interpret the information shown on different types of graphs. We had an exciting science lesson this week, the children planned and set up an experiment to find out how water is transported through the plant. In Geography, we have discovered how to find locations on maps using grid references.

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

Year 4

In Year 4 this week, we have been working hard on planning, writing and drafting a persuasive advert for a new king based on Macbeth. In maths, we have been using decimals to find totals of money and have been rounding to the nearest £1 and £10 to estimate bills. In humanities, we have been using maps and other sources to learn about the countries which make up the continent of South America. In science, we have discussed what characteristics all living things have. In music, we have learnt the song Blackbird by The Beatles and in RHE we have continued to learn about how to relate to others.



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

Year 5

It has been a brilliant week in Year 5 with lots of great learning taking place. In our reading lessons, we have continued to read our class novel 'Hacker' and the children have shown a great understanding of how to discuss vocabulary and unknown words. Whilst in writing, the children have drafted, edited and published a persuasive speech about the main character Vicky. In maths, we have worked on position and movement learning how to: name coordinates, plot coordinates and describe translations. In music, we have started to learn to sing 'The Fresh Prince of Bel Air'. We really enjoyed listening to and singing along with this track. In humanities, we launched our new topic on Ancient Greece this week and the children enjoyed asking questions and completing activities. In Science, the children enjoyed investigating forces and describing what they found out using scientific vocabulary. Well done on a great week Year 5.



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

Year 6

The week in which we have all been working so hard towards - SATs week - is over and done! Again, we would like to congratulate all our Year 6 pupils for their relentless efforts and their determination to ensure they reach their full potential. On Friday, we had an enjoyable day watching a film with popcorn and drinks and carousel in the afternoon. We will now turn our focus towards writing as these results will be submitted next month. We would like to thank all of the staff who have helped Year 6 with SATs throughout the week.

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

Reading

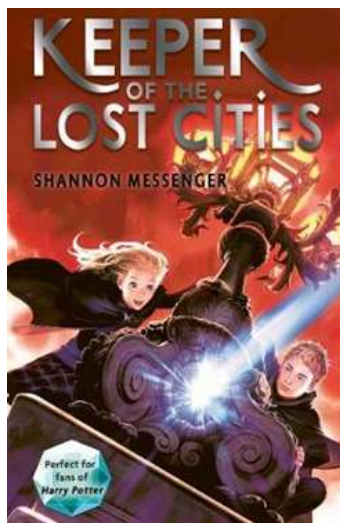
When speaking to children about what they enjoy reading during their Reading for Pleasure sessions, so many of our older children said Harry Potter - of course a magnificent series of books! So, this week I recommend 'Keeper of Lost Cities' written by Shannon Messenger. If you like Harry Potter - you'll love this,

Sophie is the odd one out at school and even in her family. Not only is she super-smart with a photographic memory, but she can read minds too. So when she discovers she's not actually human, strange as that is, things suddenly start to make sense. With a new friend, Fitz, also not human, she travels to another world to discover more about who she really is.

Meanwhile, in the human world, strange fires are causing terrible problems – can Sophie help? And even in her new home, she's in danger, thanks to the mysterious secrets buried in her memories.

As you all know, 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.

A riveting story that will really appeal to fans of magic, adventure and mystery. Happy Reading



Mrs Sandhu, Mr Johnston and Mrs Dankaro (English Team)

PE / Sports News

We have had a great week with the start of our After School Sport Clubs, and it has been great to see so many children from across all year groups sign up and have fun learning new skills. We still have a few places left on the below clubs. Both clubs will be used to select children to take part in city wide festivals, so if this would be something of interest please sign up your child/children, and have the chance to represent our school!

The clubs with spaces are:

Monday – NFL Flag American Football– Year 5&6 – a link to what the sport and festival will be <https://youtu.be/ry7zTd9mHdY>

Tuesday – Tag Rugby – Year 4&5

To book your spaces, please visit school comms or contact the office to book your child/children place.

Attendance and Family Welfare Team



WEEKLY WINNERS (w/e 13/05/2022)

KS1 – 1Beta – 99.3%

KS2 – 6Beta – 98.6%

Whole School – 92.9%



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.



Holidays in Term Time

Now most restrictions have eased in the UK and around the world, many people are now looking to get away on holiday. Can we please just remind you that holidays in term time will not be authorised and can lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Only under exceptional circumstances will we authorise a holiday request. Please also make sure you complete an Exceptional Leave in Term Time form. You can collect the form from the school office.

After School Meet and Greet

Tuesday's Meet and Greet was a great success with many families dropping in to browse the lost property and our pre-loved uniform. We were able to re-unite many families with lost items (Hooray!) and provide replacement uniform items for lots of children! Many children were happy to receive a free tennis racket from the PE team. We have managed to half our collection from this one session and will be holding an additional date in the coming weeks.

Further details will be provided on this.

Please be aware that any unclaimed items still in school by half term will be donated.

If you were unable to attend and would like to look at the uniform or lost property please contact Mrs Smith in the Family Welfare Team.



What else can I do to look after my child's eyes?

- Get outdoors – regular play and exercise can help with eye health because it ensures the eyes get a good supply of oxygen. Studies show two hours of outdoor activity is ideal for healthy eyes.
- Eat healthily and keep hydrated.
- Protect your child's eyes from the sun – never let them look directly into the sun and always wear good quality sunglasses (they should always carry the 'CE' quality mark and the British Standard BS EN 1836:2005).



Children's Eye Health

What symptoms do I need to look out for in my children?

Many eye conditions do not display any symptoms and children are often unaware that their vision is not perfect, so it's important to have regular eye tests if you are concerned.

Did you know?

- Up to **1 million** children in the UK currently have an undetected vision problem.¹
- Over **90%** of children visit a dentist regularly, whilst only **53%** of children have ever had an eye examination.²
- **84%** of parents agree that improved vision would have a positive impact on their child's performance at school.³

¹ Professor David Thomson, City University, London
² Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009
³ Statistics provided by the Eyecare Trust and based on DCSF 2009 School Census, 0-12 year olds.
⁴ Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009
⁵ Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Survey 2009



Does my child have eyesight problems?

Good eyesight is crucial to ensuring a child develops at school and socially to the best of their ability. Anyone can develop sight problems – but it is especially important to look after children's eyes. Research shows that around 20% of school-aged children¹ have an undiagnosed vision problem – that's one in five children.



How often do I need to visit the optician?

The UK National Screening Committee recommends screening at age four to five years. After the first test it is advisable to return every two years or as recommended by your optometrist (optician).

How do I find my nearest optometrist (optician)?

- In England, go to the NHS Choices website www.nhs.uk and select 'Opticians' from the 'Find services' section.
- In Scotland go to www.scotland.gov.uk and type in the search bar 'NHS Boards'.
- In Wales go to www.wales.nhs.uk and click on 'NHS Wales Directory'.
- In Northern Ireland go to www.hscni.net and click on 'Local Services'.
- Look in the Yellow Pages.
- Call NHS Direct: 0845 4647.

Why regular sight tests are so vital

It's easy for us to neglect our eyes because they don't usually hurt when there is something wrong. The eye is still developing throughout childhood so if problems are treated early it can make a lifelong difference. 84% of British parents believe that good vision has a positive impact on their child's performance².

All children are entitled to a free NHS sight test and help with the cost of glasses

Children are entitled to a free NHS-funded sight test and an Optical Voucher. An Optical Voucher entitles you to help towards the cost of glasses or contact lenses. Further information is available at www.nhs.uk



Vision matters

Children with a family history of eye problems are more at risk of developing squint and lazy eye. Signs which may indicate a problem with a child's sight include: difficulty concentrating, behavioural problems, headaches, sitting too close to the television, rubbing their eyes a lot.

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**