



Message from Mrs McGibney

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, it has been wonderful to see the children going out on school trips again! Reception had a fantastic experience at the farm with lots of first hand learning about animals. Our girls and boys football teams have taken part in tournaments or matches both here and at other venues. Yesterday, we hosted an outdoor active maths and sport session for some Year 3 pupils from Whitmore Park and other local schools in our network and the children described it as 'amazing, 'brilliant, 'best day ever'. We will be making great use of our super outdoor grounds for learning during the summer term especially our cross-curricular orienteering course. Please look out for information coming soon on the events that we will be inviting you to join us for during the summer term such as sports days and end of year celebration assemblies.

Health and Safety

IMPORTANT INFORMATION BRIEFING FROM THE UK HEALTH SECURITY AGENCY RE RISE IN CHILDHOOD INFECTIONS WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH PARENTS/CARERS ON BEHALF OF THE UK HEALTH SECURITY AGENCY

Scarlet Fever, Chicken Pox and Hepatitis

In recent weeks there has been a rise in the incidence of a number of childhood infections to rates higher than normally expected. The aim of this briefing is to raise awareness about these infections, update you on the signs and symptoms, signpost you to sources of additional information and confirm the actions that need to be taken.

Chickenpox and Scarlet Fever

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) have reported a rise in the number of children with Scarlet Fever (caused by a bacterium called a Group A Streptococcus) and Chickenpox across schools and nurseries in England, including some settings where Chickenpox and Scarlet Fever are co-circulating.

Children who have had Chickenpox recently are more likely to develop a more serious infection during an outbreak of Scarlet Fever. Parents should remain vigilant for symptoms such as:

A persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling) which may indicate a more serious problem in relation to scarlet fever. If you think your child may have scarlet fever, please seek medical assistance, as this will need treatment with antibiotics. Any children with an underlying condition which affects their immune system, should also contact their GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed. Please also seek medical advice if symptoms are not improving, or getting worse, on antibiotics.

Hepatitis

It has been widely reported that there has been a sudden rise of acute hepatitis (liver inflammation) in children across the UK. Confirmed and possible cases are predominantly aged between 3-5 years old – jaundice and vomiting are the most frequent symptoms experienced. Investigations increasingly suggest that the rise in cases of hepatitis may be linked to adenovirus infections (a family of common viruses) but other causes are still being actively investigated. There is no evidence of any link to the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. The majority of cases are under 5 years old and are too young to have received the vaccine.

The chance of children developing hepatitis remains extremely low, however, parents should be alert to the signs of hepatitis (including jaundice). Please see below for further information about hepatitis. Please also note there is not a vaccine available for this newly identified hepatitis.

Signposting and actions to be taken

With an increase in disease activity, it is important to:-

- be extra vigilant and mindful of the symptoms of these infections
 - maintain infection control and hygiene measures
- make sure children wash their hands properly to help to reduce the spread

Please see the link below to a factsheet from the Public Health Agency with further information:

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2022-](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2022-05/Hepatitis%20in%20children%20factsheet%20A4%20pp%2005_22%20Final.pdf)

[05/Hepatitis%20in%20children%20factsheet%20A4%20pp%2005_22%20Final.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2022-05/Hepatitis%20in%20children%20factsheet%20A4%20pp%2005_22%20Final.pdf)

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.



Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

This week in Nursery we will be looking at some of the Mog books by Judith Kerr. Mog is one of my favourite story characters. One of the books that we will be looking at is "Mog and the Vet" We will be learning all about the job that a vet does. Later this week we will be creating a veterinary surgery in the role play area. We have been practising our writing this week by making flags for our sandcastles. We have drawn pictures and coloured patterns on our flags, we have even written our names on them. They looked fantastic in the sandpit. Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Ruth McShane



Reception

We were very excited to take the Reception children on their first school trip to Ash End Farm on Tuesday. The trip reinforced our learning this half term about 'amazing animals'. We were fortunate to see many farm animal babies - hopefully your child can remember the animal baby names (kid, calf, lamb, foal and piglet). It also provided us with many opportunities for children to practise their writing in school. We were really pleased with the children's excellent behaviour on the trip and the tour guide also commented on this. Well done children! It was a fantastic day full of fun, smiles and learning. Please remember to send reading folders in on Monday so that reading books can be changed. Have a great weekend everyone.



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

Year 1

In Maths, Year 1 have been learning how to find fractions of amounts. They have used practical resources and pictures to work out a half and a quarter of different numbers. In English, Year 1 have continued to write about The Smartest Giant in Town. They have focused on using exclamation marks and spelling words correctly. In Geography, Year 1 learnt about human and physical features. They enjoyed going outside to explore what human and physical features they could see around our school grounds. In Science, Year 1 have learnt about mammals. Year 1 are thoroughly enjoying learning and sharing facts about animals!



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

Year 2

Our "Special Agent Training" week is complete! Year 2 have worked extremely hard and we are very proud of them all. All children worked relentlessly and showed huge amounts of dedication and determination to ensure they reached their full potential. We are looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Jubilee next week and have lots of exciting things planned for the children to reward them for their hard work. We would also like to thank all of the parents in Year 2 for their support throughout "Special Agent Training" week!



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

Class Teacher Messages...

Year 3

This week the children have had a great time writing some wonderful setting comparisons. We are so impressed with the quality of work and can really great progress! In maths, the children have enjoyed learning about money and calculating different amounts of money. In science, the children had lots of fun planting plants and are looking forward to their results next week.

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 called 'The whisperer.' We will be using this book, which is based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, for our English work over the next few weeks. We have also been learning how to change verbs to the past tense. In maths, we have started a new chapter on volume, mass and weight. This week focusing on how to convert between kilograms and grams, adding weights and comparing weights. In humanities, we have started to research famous South American landmarks and written fact files on one which interests us. In science, we have continued to group and classify living things according to criteria, such as number of legs. In RHE, we have started to think about how we can use conflict management to resolve arguments with friends.

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

Year 5

It has been a great week in Year 5. In grammar, we have learnt how to identify determiners in sentences. Whilst in our writing lessons, we have focused on persuasive writing. The children have planned, drafted, edited and published a persuasive text on the title 'Who is your hero and why?' In maths, we have continued with our work on geometry. We have learnt how to describe the movement of 2-d shapes when reflected and how to reflect a shape more than once. We have also started to learn about length and how to convert between mm, cm and m. In history, we have been looking at events that occurred during the Ancient Greek era and have placed these chronologically on a timeline. Whilst in science, we have started to plan an investigation about friction, considering which variables to change and which ones to keep the same.

Year 5
It's writing competition time!



Using **no more than 500 words**, we are inviting you to write a short piece based on...

"Who is your hero and why?"

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

Year 6

Year 6 have welcomed Mr Payne back after his time on paternity leave and we would like to thank Mr Johnston for his support during that time. We are excited to have started our new geography topic about rivers, and we are writing an explanation text about the water cycle. Can your child explain the water cycle process to you? Now that SATs are over, we have been doing some problem-solving in maths by being crime scene investigators, solving maths problems to reveal clues about the suspects! In English, we are still reading Kensuke's Kingdom and have written non-chronological reports based on the country, Japan.

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

Reading

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.

With the weather becoming sunnier and warmer, there is plenty more time to be spending in gardens and outdoor environments. So this week, I'd like to recommend some books all themed around gardening and how easy it can be to garden at home.

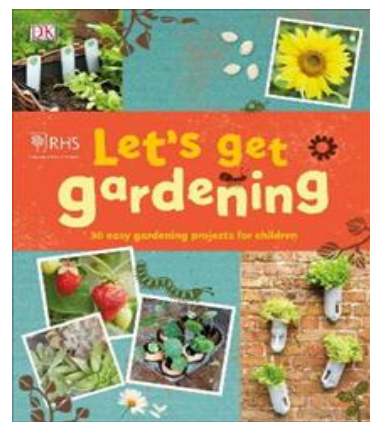
This easy-to-follow, step-by-step book is full of fun, eco-friendly ideas for gardening at home. Learn to grow your own vegetables and herbs, attract awesome wildlife such as butterflies and bees, and be a green gardener with lots of recycling tips. Whether you've got a big vegetable patch or just a windowsill, you can grow all sorts of plants with this colourful RHS book.

This beautiful kitchen-garden cookbook, produced in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, contains step-by-step guides to show how easy it is to grow peas, beans, potatoes, carrots and more in your garden, in patio containers or in window boxes or on an allotment. Then transform your home-grown produce into delicious meals and desserts by following easy, step-by-step recipes.



Happy Reading!

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



PE / Sports News

This week has been a busy week for our footballing stars across year 5 and 6. Wednesday morning our girls football team took part in the Year 5 and 6 Girls Festival. The girls played five games in total, winning two and losing three. Mr Parry and Mr Wilson were so impressed with the girls efforts and they played some really good football, passing and moving to create lots of chances on the oppositions goal. Kayla from 5G came away with 4 goals across the five games. The girls were a credit to the school and we are all so proud of them.

We also had a boys football game on Thursday afterschool. Mr Parry chose a squad of 10 players from both year 5 and 6. The game was against Christ the King Junior School (CTK) and our first game within the Coventry Primary School League Group B. We got off to a great start with a fantastic pass and move between Alias in 6B to Rohan in 5B who then crossed the ball in for Aarun in 5B to score. From then on it was a very even game with CTK scoring a goal late to finish the first half. The second half started the same with both team battling hard and some great saves from Tyler in 6B and some very brave defending from Harvey 6D and Jake in 6B. Unfortunately CTK were awarded a penalty which was scored and the game finished to 2-1 to CTK. For our first game against a very tough opponent the boys did really well, and showed great resilience against a very good team, well done to everyone who took part!



Attendance and Family Welfare Team



WEEKLY WINNERS (w/e 20/05/2022)

KS1 – 1Beta – 98.2%
KS2 – 5Gamma – 98.7%
Whole School – 93.1%



**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.

SEND / Thrive

Our strawberries 🍓 and sprouts are doing amazing, the children have also planted flowers in their little pots.



Attendance and Family Welfare Team

Social supermarkets

<https://letstalk.coventry.gov.uk/social-supermarkets>

Social Supermarkets, also known as Grub Hubs offer discounted food parcels, typically about £20 worth of food for a cost of a £4 membership per week. You do not need a foodbank voucher to access them but they may have some criteria to ensure they are helping those who need it most.

What will be in my bag? A large bag of shopping containing a variety of food with meat, dairy, pasta and bread is £4.00.

Each social supermarket has some criteria to ensure they are helping those who need it most. Customers don't need a foodbank voucher, or referral from their GP or local authority, and they are open to everyone. A free registration process involves an initial conversation, with users signing up to the supermarket's terms and conditions. They then become members and pay £4 a time to fill a shopping bag by choosing from a range of household staples.

Where are they based:

- Canley Community Centre Food Hub. Covers Canley, Cannon Park, Finham and Tile Hill. Open for walk ins and delivery on Friday. Email: foodhub@canleycommunitycentre.co.uk, Call: 07888 449 521, Facebook: @canleyfoodhub or use referral [form here](#).

Cheylesmore Community Centre Food Hub. Covers Cheylesmore, Earlsdon, Whitley and Stonehouse Estate. Delivery only on Saturday. Email: cheylesmorefoodhub@gmail.com, call: 07305154869, Facebook: @cheylesmorefoodhub or use referral form: forms.gle/oEmDJkR5hq9hDWJx6

Foleshill Social Supermarket. Covers all of Coventry. Friday and Saturday 10am-3pm for booked slots or 10am-12 noon for drop ins. Email: feedingcoventrycomms@gmail.com call: 07925 019 330 or Facebook: @FoleshillCommunityCentre

Henley Green Grub Hub. Covers Henley Green and Wood End. Open Wednesday 9am-12pm. Email: dianne@mhct.co.uk or carol@mhct.co.uk, call: 07548 635 081, Facebook: @MoatHouseCT

Aldermoor LIFE Centre social supermarket. Covers Stoke Aldermoor, Stoke Green, Pinley Gardens, Gosford Green, Stoke Park, Middle Stoke and Church End. Open on Mondays, delivery only. Call: 024 7645 4010, Facebook: @Aldermoorlifecentre.

Struggling with Finances: Coventry Independent Advice Service. <https://covadvice.org.uk/> they offer appointments directly with families at a variety of locations.

Their 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
- Giving basic advice and information about housing and other issues
- Helping you find other kinds of support such as applying for charity grants

If you are struggling due to raising energy bills: Power up organisation (attached) can support

How does it work? If you are struggling with your gas and electricity bills or have gas and electricity debts and need debt or benefits advice then we would like to hear from you. Are you on a low income, sick or disabled, elderly and/or rely on energy for your medical care, please contact us.

What can they do for you?

An experienced adviser can assist you with the following:

- Independent, impartial advice, no matter who supplies gas or electricity to your home
 - Benefits check – are you getting all that you're entitled to?
- Help applying for energy efficiency grants and help with gas, electricity and water debts via Trust funds
 - Gas and Electricity usage reduction, finding a better tariff or switching suppliers
- Offer advice on Eco schemes to support you to obtain a new boiler, cavity wall and /or loft insulation
- Offer advice on managing your money, any debts you may have and talk to those you owe money to and try to set up affordable repayments

As with all Citizens Advice services, our help is free, confidential, independent and impartial.

How do I get in contact?

Call them on 02476 253 190

Email them at WPD@coventrycab.org.uk

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**