



Message from Mrs Squires

Dear parents/carers,

This week in assembly, Mr Parry shared the fantastic news that Skills Academy will be starting after half term for Year 1-6 and will take place for half an hour every Friday afternoon. The children were excited to hear about the different opportunities to experience new activities and skills such as Origami, Yoga and Lego Club. The whole school had also been doing some learning around 'Mental Health Day' which has involved taking part in relaxing activities such as cloud drawing in Year 2 and creating worry monsters in Year 6. We are posting lots of the children's learning and our whole school events on Twitter so please follow us @whitmore_park. We look forward to seeing you in person for our Parents' Evening on Tuesday 18th October – please take a look at the displays in that hall and the books that the children have made to commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Finally, remember that Friday 21st October is a Teacher Day. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Health and Safety Notices



Important Reminder about Parking

We have received a number of complaints recently from local residents living in roads around school, including Rylston Avenue, Halford Lane and Sadler Road.

The issues are around people blocking driveways, blocking roads, parking on double yellow lines, parking on the school patrol area, parking irresponsibly and some reports of verbal abuse.

The school will be contacting the local police and 'Parking Services' at the Council to ask for them to come out and do spot checks and to look at any other measures which could be implemented to help resolve the issues.

It is really important for the safety of our children, other pedestrians, road users and our School Crossing Patrol, that people do not park on double yellow lines and in particular close to the school crossing area. Doing so significantly increases the risk of an accident happening. It also has a big impact on the visibility of the School Crossing Patrol person. There will be spot checks carried out by 'Parking Services' council staff and local police to monitor the situation and they may approach anyone in breach of parking restrictions.

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 to say that some cars are blocking driveways, parking on yellow lines or blocking the pavement. Many thanks for your co-operation.



Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery

This week Nursery have been practising using glue sticks. Firstly, the children used paper shapes to make a picture of their faces. The children had to count carefully how many eyes, ears and noses they needed. Later, they used all the left over shapes to create some very individual pictures. It can be quite a challenge to wind up the glue stick. The children were amazing and all of them persevered and worked independently.

It has been very cold this week. So we have also been practising finding our coats in the cloakroom and hanging them up again when we have finished playing in the garden.

Next week we will be learning about the celebration of Diwali. Have a lovely weekend.



Mrs McShane

Reception



This week in Reception we have created a story map to help us to retell the story of 'The Little Red Hen' in sequence. We used some actions and pictures to help us to remember the sentences. We also baked some bread just like the little red hen. We hope that the fresh bread tasted delicious! Can your child remember the ingredients that we used? In Numeracy we made a 'two' poster and found lots of things that showed 2. We also sorted objects into items that showed 2 and items that did NOT show 2. We had to explain our choices. We were helped to use the words 'more than 2' and 'fewer than 2'. We hope that you all have a brilliant weekend.

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

Year 1



Year 1 have started reading the story 'Journey'. There are no words in the book and the children have to tell the story themselves using the pictures. In Maths, the children have been learning how to find more and less and learning how to use a number line to help them. In Geography, the children looked outside of the school through the gates and used Google maps. They identified human features and physical features around our school. In Science this week, the children have learnt about the properties bendy and rigid.

Miss Skidmore (Year 1 Leader), Miss Allison and Mrs Corbett

Year 2

Year 2 have had another busy, yet fun-filled week this week! The children are thoroughly enjoying reading "Salty Dogs" in English. They took part in a conscience alley where the children had to give arguments for whether the salty dogs should swim and continue on their mission or whether they should sink and go home. In Maths, the children have been learning how to count in 2s, 5s and 10s. They enjoyed using 100 squares to complete missing number tracks. The children spotted patterns and were able to say which number didn't fit the patterns. In Arithmetic, the children used different methods to find $\frac{1}{2}$ of a number. In History, the children enjoyed creating their own comic strips about the story of Lady Godiva. They used picture prompts to help them retell the story.

It is lovely to hear that lots of the children are going into Coventry City Centre to visit the Lady Godiva statue. Please send class teachers a photo of this on class dojo as it would be lovely to show the other children. In Science, the children investigated which materials were absorbent. They found out that paper towel sucks up water and would be a good material to clean up spillages. Whereas wood and plastic were not absorbent. The children thoroughly enjoyed celebrating world mental health day this week. They spent some time outside and drew pictures of the clouds they could see. Lots of the children said it helped them to relax and it is something they would like to do at home!



Mrs Merkelbach, Mrs Gill (Year 2 Leader) and Mrs Nolan

Year 3

Year 3 have had a lovely week and have learnt lots of new things . We have read the first two chapters of our adventure book and the children have begun to plan a story of their own . They will be writing their own adventure stories next week using their own setting . We have taught them how to use adjectives and prepositions to add detail and interest to the story . In maths we have started our new topic of addition and subtraction and the children have been learning how to use their place value knowledge to add 100's , 10's and 1's. In science we have been learning about a famous palaeontologist called Mary Anning who discovered dinosaur fossils! In history the children have learnt about the Bell Beaker People who helped change stone age life and marked the beginning of the Bronze Age era . Thank you for the ongoing support of parents and carers . Can we please remind parents and carers to read with their child five times a week , complete homework , and continue to practice the 3 times table.

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

Year 4

In Year 4 this week, we have continued to read the book 'Everything Ancient Egypt.' We have learnt how use fronted adverbials and write a cohesive paragraph. In maths, we have moved onto addition and subtraction, this week concentrating on adding and subtracting one or two-digit numbers to numbers up to thousands. In history we have been learning about pyramids and writing instructions on how to mummify a body. In RHE, we have been talking about mental health and ways to keep your mind healthy. In science, we have learnt all about the water cycle.

Miss Bassi, Mrs Cox (Year 4 Leader) and Mrs Hussain

Year 5

This week in year 5, the children in 5Gamma have made some excellent progress in their swimming lessons. All members of staff have been amazed when seeing their capabilities when in the pool, so well done!

In English, we have started looking at the features of formal and informal writing. We are working towards writing a formal letter next week to Michael Morpurgo!

The children in 5Beta and 5Delta have worked hard at school in their afternoon lessons. In History they have been creating a timeline of World War II and in science they have been separating mixtures!

Mrs Hatton, Mr Maguire (Year 5 Leader) and Miss Wherly

Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about mental health this week because it was World Mental Health day on Monday! We read The Colour Monster and created our own worry monsters so that we could express what worries and concerns we have. In English, we have been writing a short description of a creepy setting to develop all of the skills we have been learning about creating tension in our writing. We looked at using a variety of sentences and then tried to apply those skills in our own writing. In science, we have been learning about how diet and exercise affect the human body and what we can do to keep ourselves healthy. In history, we have been learning about difference Maya buildings and their significance in the Maya civilization.

Mrs Sandhu (Assistant Head and Year 6 Leader), Mr Payne (Assistant Head and Year 6 Leader) and Miss Knowles

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.

The expectation is for children to be reading at least 5 times every week; reading diaries need to be signed by an adult to show how many times children have read.

YEAR 1 = 1 GAMMA
YEAR 2 = 2 GAMMA
YEAR 3 = 3 BETA
YEAR 4 = 4 BETA
YEAR 5 = 5 GAMMA
YEAR 6 = 6 BETA
KEEP READING!

Classes who had the highest amount of reads last week were:



The book fair is arriving in school and from Monday, you have the chance to buy books for your children!

When?

Monday 17 th October 2022	3.30 – 4.30pm
Tuesday 18 th October 2022	3.30pm – 6.00pm (Parents' Evening)
Wednesday 19 th October 2022	3.30pm – 6.00pm (Parents' Evening)
Thursday 20 th October 2022	3.30 – 4.00pm

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from and we will give all the children the opportunity to browse the books beforehand so that they can create their wish list.

Prices start from as little as £2.99 so there's sure to be a book for everyone.

If you can't make it to the Book Fair, try the gift vouchers available at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents. They're a great way to ensure that your child doesn't miss out.

Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get FREE BOOKS which we then use as rewards for children in school who show commitment and dedication to their reading.

We hope to see lots of you at the bookfair! **The English Team**

Attendance

Reporting Absence & Appointments

It is a parent/carer's responsibility to notify school by 9am if their child is absent. A clear reason must be provided on the day of absence. You can report your child's absence by leaving a voicemail on the school's absence line or message school via school gateway.

Please be sure to contact school everyday of absence. If we are not provided with a reason for an absence, this will be marked as unauthorised.



Our schools target for attendance is 96% or above.
This is for the whole school and every pupil.

Congratulations! Your class
will receive the Attendance
Trophy next week
PLUS you will be rewarded
with 5 dojos each!

KS1 – 2Gamma – 97.0%

KS2 – 6Delta – 98.2%

WEEKLY WINNERS!
(w/e 14/10/2022)



Punctuality

Registration is at **8:55am** for all classes. Gates are opened from **8.30am**. The gates will close at **8.55am** therefore, please ensure your child is in school before this time. If your child arrives after this time, then you **MUST** take your child to the Main Office to sign them in late. If you know your child is going to be late, please call school to inform us of this and a reason why.

Holidays in Term Time

Family holidays should be arranged outside of a school term. If you are planning to take a holiday during school time then a **Exceptional Leave of Absence** form must be completed and handed back into the main office.
Please note that holidays will **not** be authorised following Local Authority guidelines and a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) could be issued.

Children's Coats and School Uniform

You will have likely seen the Coats and Uniform rail in the office foyer this week. This has been so successful that we have decided to keep it there as a regular fixture and will be replenishing as needed. If you have any coats or school fleeces you would like to donate please hand over to the admin staff in the Office.

There is a poster in the foyer area for Clothing Coventry. This is a charity we are working with closely to support families access clothing and school uniform. There is a QR code on the poster which takes you straight to the referral page. Everyone is eligible to make a referral, for adults or children clothes and shoes. We are happy to make referrals on your behalf if there is anything you need.

Thank you so much to our families who have donated coats and uniform to school, we appreciate you supporting our school community.



Cost of Living

www.coventry.gov.uk/costofliving

[www. Clothingcoventry.org](http://www.Clothingcoventry.org)

www.bare-necessities.org.uk

Pathways Family Hub

Telephone 024 7697 8130

E-mail

PathwaysFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk

Health

Parent Advice Parents can call the School Nurses between 8.30am -4.30pm, 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 **07507329114** 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. If your child is unwell please call your GP or call 111. For medical emergencies ring 999.

www.healthforkids.co.uk offers a fun way for children to learn about health with games, activities and quizzes.



Finance

Coventry Independent Advice Service offers free advice, information and support to Coventry residents.
Call **024 7652 1100**

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Young Minds supports children and young people with mental health and well being
www.youngminds.org.uk

Childline available to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. **0800 1111** 9am to midnight every day

Samaritans provides a free 24-hour helpline for people who are upset, troubled or who are feeling suicidal. Call **116 123** at any time

SEND

Hi everyone,

WOW, Can we believe that we are almost at the end of the first half term? Welcome to all of the new children who have joined us so far in Nursery and all the way up the school. Thank you to all you parents / carers for supporting the children to achieve such a positive start to this academic year. There is so much going on in terms of support already including from external providers: SEMH&L, CCT, EP visits, NHS Speech and Language, Sensory Support Services (and more); as well as internally: Thrive, CBT, Buddying and so much more!

Nationally the number of SEN need is increasing and this is no different in Coventry. Inevitably this then also impacts on waiting lists. While we appreciate that this can be frustrating for parents, please be assured that we will do everything we can to meet the needs of your child with or without a formal diagnosis.

If you have any concerns about your child please in the first instance speak to your child's class teacher. The class teacher will then notify either myself or Mrs Heer about your concerns and we will discuss what the next appropriate steps could be. In most cases, it will be the class teacher who will report back to you.

Ms Morris and I will have a table at the Parents Evening next week should you wish to chat with us informally.

Miss Carney and Mrs Heer

Santa is coming to Coventry



This book normally retails at £4.99 each, as a special deal to Whitmore Park Primary School they cost £4.00 each.

If you wish to buy any copies, please could you send the money into school in a sealed envelope with your child's name/class/amount and number of books you wish to order.

Once we receive the books in school, we will get them sent home.