



Message from Mrs Squires

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term, I would like to thank all of the school community for their support for the children and their learning. It has been a very busy time and the children have demonstrated a fantastic determination to 'be the best they can be' in all areas of school life.

It was lovely to see so many of you in person at our Parents' Evenings this week and I hope that they were a useful experience for you through meeting and sharing information with your child's teacher.

Thank you for your support with the Book Fair; we sold over a £1000 worth of books and will receive lots of free books for our children.

I hope you have a lovely half-term holiday and we look forward to seeing the children all back in school on Monday 31st October. Happy Diwali to all of you who are celebrating this week.

Health and Safety Notices



On behalf of the school, we would like to express our thanks to the local police, staff from Council Parking Services and School Crossing Patrol staff, who attended on the morning of Wednesday 19th October to monitor drivers parking around the school site. The focus today was near the main school entrance, close to the school crossing area on Halford Lane. They reported that there were no incidents of people parking irresponsibly or illegally this morning. They will be coming out again after October half term to carry out more patrols including around the Rylston Avenue area too.

We are really pleased to say that their presence was well received by the school as well as by drivers and pedestrians in the area, and hopefully people living around the school site too. I would like to thank all drivers for continuing to make sure they continue to drive safely and park responsibly around school site going forwards so that we can keep everyone as safe as possible.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Class Teacher Messages...

Nursery



Last week on Friday we experienced quite a lot of rain, as you can see from the photograph the children in Nursery are still able to access the outdoors. If you would like to send a pair of wellies to school for your child to wear we do have facilities to store them at school. As always can I please ask that you write your child's name inside. This week in Nursery we have been learning about the celebration Diwali. We know that it is the Festival of Light and so we have all made a diya to bring home. We will also be making table decorations for home, mehndi patterns and colouring masks.

The best day this week will be Wednesday our celebration day. We are all wearing party clothes dancing to traditional music and sharing lots of sweet treats. I hope you all have a wonderful half term holiday.

Mrs McShane

Reception

We would like to say a big well done to all children for their first half term in Reception. They have settled into school life well and are trying so hard with their learning! It was lovely to welcome parents into school on Tuesday and Wednesday to talk about their learning. We hope that you enjoyed looking through their books. This week in Read, Write Inc we have learned the sounds f, e and l. In Numeracy, we have learned all about the number 3 with help from Thelma Three. We have been practising our subitising of small amounts and have explored the composition of the number 3. On Thursday we learned all about Diwali and created some beautiful Diya lamps. We hope that you all have a fantastic half-term. Send us some photos on Seesaw of your adventures! Please remember to practise the words that have been sent home with your child's reading book throughout the week if you can.



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

Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed the Journey story in English. They have enjoyed thinking of their own sentences to tell the story and worked hard with their handwriting. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning about number bonds. These are two numbers that can be added together to make a greater number. In Geography, they children have painted things that they have seen around the local area. In Science, the children have learnt about the properties transparent and opaque. Year 1 have been learning how to play some playground games as part of Thrive lessons.

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



Year 2

Year 2 have impressed their teachers this week with their instructions. The children were excited to receive a message from the Salty Dogs! They needed our help to help them find buried treasure. They wrote their own instructions on how to do this. They included lots of adjectives and bossy verbs. Some of the children even received head teacher's awards for their amazing effort. In Maths, we moved onto learning about addition and subtraction. We recapped number bonds to 10 and also learnt addition and subtraction facts for numbers up to 20. The children enjoyed using rekenreks to show and solve different number sentences. After the holidays, we will be learning our division facts for the 10 X tables. Please practise this at home in preparation for our weekly times tables tests. In Science, the children investigated which materials were opaque, transparent and translucent. They used torches to see which materials would let light pass through. It was also lovely to have the year group together to celebrate our awards assembly. The children received certificates for different awards. The teachers found it extremely difficult to choose! It has been a lovely first half term with the children. They have all worked extremely hard to keep up with the new expectations in Year 2. The Year 2 Team would like to wish you all a lovely holiday!



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

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great half term and are ready for a break next week. They children have completed a long piece of writing about an adventure story in English this week, and some children will be receiving Head teacher awards. Please keep an eye on twitter next week to see who! After the half term holidays, we will start our new English, writing and reading, topic about a story based on the three little pigs. In maths, we will continue to learn about addition and subtraction after the half term. In Science, we will be learning about light and in Geography we will learn about the UK and its cities. Please can we ask you remember to read with your child 5 times a week and help them with the 3 times tables over the holidays.

Thank you for your ongoing support and have a great holiday everybody.
Miss Kukathasan, Miss Khan (Year 3 Leader) and Miss Waddell

Year 4

In year 4 this week, we have written a non-chronological report about Ancient Egypt. In maths, we have learnt how to add and subtract numbers to 10,000. In science we have learnt about changing materials and in history we have learnt how and why the pyramids were built, and we have learnt all about Cleopatra, the last pharaoh. After half term, we will be starting a new geography topic – comparing Whitby to Coventry.

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

Year 5

WOW! Year 5 a huge thank you to you all for such an incredible start to our year together! You have all worked incredibly hard both in school and outside of school. We have been so impressed with your progress during your swimming lessons at the Alan Higgs centre, with your knowledge and understanding of place value and addition and subtraction in maths, your story writing and letter writing in English the list could just go on!

We have lots of exciting opportunities to look forward to as we head towards Christmas, so make sure to take the time to rest over half term and enjoy getting outside and having some fresh air!

Reminder about Action Tutoring - this will commence again in week 1 after half term. If your child does attend, a reminder that the sessions will now end at 4:30 and not 4:45.

Have a wonderful half term!

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

Year 6

We've reached the last week of half term and Year 6 have had an exciting week. In English we have been writing a story based on a short film clip of an eerie doll shop that lures its victims in before capturing them forever. In maths, we have been finishing off our work on the four operations and learning about BIDMAS which tells us the order of operations in a calculation. History has been particularly exciting this week as we have learnt how to play the Maya ball game of Pok-A-Tok. The Maya used to play this game where they weren't allowed to hit the ball with their hands, feet or head and had to get it through a hoop at the end of the court. It was really tricky so sometimes this game would last for days! In science, we have been investigating how our heart rate is affected by exercise. We measured our resting heart rate and then tested different exercises to see how it had changed. It's been a great half term with Year 6 and we hope everyone has a well-deserved break.

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

Would you like to be part of our 'Smart School Council?'



Get an application form from your class teacher - these are due back by Friday 11th November 2022!



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.

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

YEAR 1 = 1 GAMMA
YEAR 2 = 2 GAMMA
YEAR 3 = 3 DELTA
YEAR 4 = 4 GAMMA
YEAR 5 = 5 DELTA
YEAR 6 = 6 BETA
5 DOJO POINTS FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THESE CLASSES! KEEP READING!



Thank you to all our families who have supported the school and come to visit the bookfair this week. It's been brilliant to see all the children so enthused and excited when talking about the books that they have bought. We have also been able to purchase books for the children too and these will be used as prizes across the school.

Half term is upon us and we continue to ask that you read with the children at home. We would encourage all children to continue reading throughout it whether that is an e-book, a blog, a football analysis, Halloween stories, a magazine or brochure for a holiday, every reading experience counts and can develop your child as a reader. It could also be that whilst you are out and about, you ask your children to read local signs or maps to give directions, reading can be fun even in the holidays!

Thank you for your support.

The English Team

Attendance

New Attendance Guide

We have produced a new Attendance Guide for parents and carers. This will be sent home with your child on Thursday. Please take some time to read through the guide and contact the Attendance team if you have any questions. The Attendance Guide will also be available from the main school office. Please note there are two guides available, one for Reception parents and carers and one for years 1-6.

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 to all pupils that received a 100% Attendance badge for this term, well done!!

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

KS1 – ... – ...%

KS2 – ... – ...%

WEEKLY WINNERS!
(w/e 21/10/2022)



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

Cost of Living Support

Here is the link for the Coventry City Council page dedicated to cost of living support: <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/cost-living-wellbeing-support>

You can make referrals to Clothing Coventry (who can often deliver requested items to Whitmore Park) and find advice and support for a number of issues including health and financial support.

Names in Clothing

We have an enormous amount of un-named red school tops in our lost property. Please can you try to write your child's name in clothing over the half term break. This will hopefully reduce the amount of lost property which we currently have. If your child is missing a school top please contact the admin team.

Pathways Family Hub

Telephone 024 7697 8130

E-mail

PathwaysFamilyHub@coventry.gov.uk

Winter Coats/Fleeces donations

Thanks to all our families for the generous donations of school fleeces and coats. The clothing rail will remain in the foyer area for anyone to collect an item they might need. Please take any coats/fleeces donations to the admin office.

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