

# Whitby Heath Primary School Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> November 2022



*'Excellence in a Caring Community'*

Our Year 6 classes have had an absolutely amazing time on their residential trip to Robinwood this week. They did the school and parents/carers proud in how they behaved and took part in everything. It was a real adventure and the children threw themselves into everything! From zip wires, to escape rooms, caving to canoeing and climbing walls to blindfolded assault courses, the children challenged themselves to try it all. What was particularly impressive was the support they showed each other when one of their team mates had a few nerves and how determined they were to try new activities, even if out of their comfort zones. They proved themselves to be courageous, compassionate and determined and we are very proud of them!



Earlier this week, the children had an assembly to launch this year's shoebox appeal with the theme 'Love in a Box'. We are pleased to support the charity incentive in providing children and young people with a gift this Christmas, thinking of those most in need. Teams4U are hoping to send boxes to families based in Ukraine and Rwanda. Information has been sent out this week for any families wanting to put together a shoebox this year.

Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous trip to Weaver Hall on Wednesday. They learnt all about Anglo Saxons and had a great time discovering what life was like for the Viking invaders. They met a Viking called Olaf and had the chance to dress up as Vikings, ready for battle. They brought home game pieces made out of clay, which Vikings would have used to keep them entertained.



Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to join us on Wednesday morning for the KS1 phonics meeting. All resources discussed in the meeting, along with the PowerPoint are available on the phonics page on the school website.

Year 4 enjoyed a day dedicated to Ancient Greece on Thursday. The children arrived in school in some amazing costumes and learnt about the rivalries between the different city states in Greece over 2500 years ago and what life was like for girls and boys at that time. Our expert visitor provided the children with quizzes, jigsaws and even an opportunity to take part in their own Olympic Games.



Eight of our Year 6 footballers went to Vauxhall Motors Football Club and played 5 games in a league against other schools in the area. All of the team worked extremely hard and showcased excellent football skills and communication with each other. The team defended and attacked really well and grew more confident in their ability the more they played together. There were some excellent goals, saves and tackles too! Well done to all of them, we are extremely proud and are looking forward to the next one!



Well done to all of our Shining Superstars this week:

Oak Class - James C  
Elm Class - Pippa H  
Ash Class - Isabella-Rose G

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Beech Class - Jett W  
Fir Class - Bella L  
Cherry Class - Theo C  
Poplar Class - Kelan L  
Rowan Class - Evie C  
Cedar Class - Louie B  
Holly Class - Isaac T  
Sycamore Class - Robyn B-W  
Willow Class - Ashton W  
Birch Class - Whole Class  
Maple Class - Whole Class

Congratulations to you all!

This week's Top Three classes for attendance are:

First: Fir 99%  
Second: Cedar 98%  
Third: Sycamore 97%



Whole school attendance: 94%

We thank you for your continued support with attendance.

## Odd Socks Day

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November, we are taking part in Odd Socks Day in connection with Anti- Bullying Alliance. The day marks the start of Anti- Bullying Week across the UK. This year, Anti-Bullying week will run from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November and the theme is 'Reach Out'. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. The aim of this day is to start off the week on a positive note where children and adults will wear odd socks to school to celebrate what makes us all unique.



Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality! Please do not purposely go out and buy the latest fashion or feel any pressure to buy expensive socks. All your child needs to do to take part is wear odd socks to school, it couldn't be simpler!

Donations are not required for this day- the most important thing is the message of Odd Socks Day. To find out more information about this please visit <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2022-reach-out>

## Character Word Pledges

Well done to all the children who received either a Bronze, Silver or Gold sticker for last half term's character word pledges as well as earning points for both themselves and their classes!

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We are excited to reveal this half term's pledges below linked to Kindness and Generosity. We look forward to seeing the children work hard toward these.

KS1 and EYFS:

Kindness and Generosity - Autumn 2	
Bronze	Use good manners and be helpful to other.
Silver	Volunteer to help a teacher in class or to prepare a lesson
Gold	Help someone who is upset and could use a friend.

KS2:

Kindness and Generosity - Autumn 2	
Bronze	Help out a family member in doing chores around the house.
Silver	Volunteer your spare time to help a worthy cause (such as a litter pick)
Gold	Get sponsored for an activity that a charity will benefit from.

### Black and Orange Day

It was great to see the children dressed up in their Halloween outfits with our black and orange theme day on Monday. This day raised £205 for the Friends of Whitby Heath. This will go towards events, trips, resources and experiences for the children. Thank you for all of your donations!



### School Attendance, including Persistent Absences and Holidays during Term Time

The government has a persistence absence threshold of 10%. The absence threshold of 10% means that if a pupil is absent for 38 sessions (19 days) of school, they are classified as persistently absent. Schools are urged to inform parents of this threshold and to advise parents that fines will be made for persistent absence, unless there is evidence of a justifiable reason for such absence, for example, significant illness. Failure to make payment will result in legal action for failure to ensure regular attendance at school under Section 444 (1) Education Act 1996.

After the summer break we are eager to help children on the next steps to learning success. Guidance concerning holidays taken in school term time is clear - **holidays will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances** and both schools and Local Authorities are expected to ensure that such circumstances are not that holidays are cheaper during term time.

Timeline	Penalty Charges
Paid within 21 days	£60 per parent per child
After 21 days and before 28 days	£120 per parent per child
After 28 days	The parent will receive a summons to appear before the Magistrate's Court on the grounds of having failed to secure their child/ children's regular attendance

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As you are aware, school is unable to grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. An exceptional circumstance is usually a one-off, unique situation that is of significant emotional, educational or spiritual value which outweighs the loss of teaching time.

Therefore, in line with guidance, requests for holidays during term time will not usually be authorised.

It is my duty to strongly urge parents or carers to avoid booking holidays, appointments or visits overseas during term-time. In addition, it is important that I advise you that under the legislation there is an expectation that schools will issue a Penalty Notice to those parents who take their children on an unauthorised leave of absence in term time.

Please bear this guidance in mind when making bookings for any holidays.

### Library

Under 13s who borrow a book from any Cheshire West and Chester library before the World Cup starts on 20 November can ask to be entered into a free prize draw to win their very own white FIFA 2022 Qatar World Cup Size 5 Nemesis Football. Children will be asked to pick a country's name from a bag and if they're one of those whose team wins the Cup then they could win the ball!



It's free and easy to join the library and there are no late fees for Under 13s. If you can't get into a library, borrow an eBook via Borrowbox and let us know and we'll enter on your behalf. For more details on Cheshire West and Chester libraries:

[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries)



### Finally

Some of our Y6 children will be selling poppies next week. These will be available each day next week for children to purchase if they wish to do so.

*Mrs E Williams*