

Growing Today, Ready for Tomorrow

Headteacher: Mrs R Mobbs



Newsletter

December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the December Newsletter. It has been another jammed-packed half term, full of exciting activities and events.



Whitchurch News

Firstly, after many years working as a Midday Supervisor across the school Mrs Day is sadly leaving us at tomorrow to spend more time with her family. She is however, staying on to help out Mrs Sewter with WEB club in the mornings so we will still see her around. We wish Mrs Day all the best in her future endeavours.

Cold Weather

Please make sure that in the cold weather your child brings a coat, scarf, hat and gloves as appropriate. As usual these should all be named – it is amazing how many children do not recognise their own hat or gloves!



Bad Weather Conditions

As we are approaching the time when we have traditionally had some severe weather, I would like to remind you of our procedures. We will always endeavour to open if it is safe to do so.

If there is an extremely heavy snowfall, the decision to close the school will be made as soon as possible. Information will be posted on Bucks County website and you will be sent a text from school. However, if it is unclear if the roads will be impassable the night before, in the morning the staff will try to get to school and take a decision to open or close dependent on staffing ratios and safety of school grounds.

We do not take the decision to close the school lightly; however, the roads to the school can become very dangerous. I always consult with the Chair of Governors, Mrs Jo Dallas, before we decide to close the school.

Please regularly check the Bucks website on <https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/> which will tell you whether the school is open or closed. I suggest you add this to your favourites!

Please note that a message will not be sent to let you know the school is open. **The presumption is that school is always open** unless we have alerted parents via text message and the BC website.

Our provision for Remote Learning is detailed on our website using the following link:

<https://www.whitchurchcombined.co.uk/remote-learning/>



Arbor

Thank you to those parents that have logged into their Arbor account. Arbor will be replacing ParentMail as our primary means of communication in January. All WEB club bookings, trips, monies for residentials and any other letters will come via the Arbor portal. Please log in now if you haven't managed to do so via the 2nd Arbor email that was sent earlier this term.



Pantomime

On the third day back after half term, the children were delighted to see a performance of 'Peter Pan'. The children absolutely loved the amazing performances and the characters. The children left the hall with huge smiles on their faces!

A huge thank to the PTA who funded the pantomime again this year!

Curriculum Focus – D.T and History

Year 5 have been learning about bridges this half term as a part of their D.T. unit. They have made Spaghetti Truss bridges using spaghetti and masking tape. Finally they have also made wooden structures, with a bit of help from our caretaker, Mr Little. They have learnt how to use tenon saws and bench hooks to cut wood at 90 degree and 45 degree angles! They have had a brilliant time making them and learned lots of new woodworking skills!



Year 3 - Geography Walk around Whitchurch

Earlier in the term Year 3 enjoyed a walk around Whitchurch. The rain stopped just in time and the sun shone, giving us a lovely crisp Autumnal morning. In class they have been learning how to read OS maps. They used these skills to take it in turns to lead the class through an exciting route around the outside of the village. The teachers were very pleased that they didn't get the class lost once! They noticed the landmarks that they could see on the map as we went past them. It was also a great opportunity to talk about how we should treat the countryside.



LoveReading4kids

Thank you to everyone who has bought books using the [lovereadings4kids](https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk) website! We have had nearly 50 books purchased for the school and have raised nearly £80 in donations! Your generosity has been much appreciated by the staff and children alike! It makes such a difference to be able to have new copies or multiple copies of books for children to work from as opposed to photocopied versions. If you would still like to buy or purchase some books, then use the link below and navigate to the specific year group Wish lists at the bottom of the page.

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/school/36916>

Sports Events

Despite the soggy weather this time of year, we still love to get our sporting events completed!

Boys Football

The Year 5 & 6 football teams have been busy this half term with lots of football matches! The Year 6s played 2 league games. One against North Marston which they won 8-0! This followed a close defeat 5-3 at St Michael's School. They also narrowly lost a cup game against St Louis 2-4. Goal scorers this term have included Logan, Harvey, Louis, George T and Austin. The team always play with respect and resilience and show true sportsmanship whenever they play!

The Year 5 team (all 14 of them!) have been brilliant this term too. Despite playing games against mainly Year 6 teams, they have played with a real enthusiasm and skill. Defeats against Waddesdon and Brill have not dampened their spirits and they even scored their first ever goal through James. The boys also went to Kingsbrook School a couple of weeks ago and enjoyed a tournament against other local Primary schools. Thank you to Mrs Spring for stepping in last minute to take them in Mrs Hunt's absence!



The Whitchurch Kites

Mrs Spring has led the Year 5 and 6 girls in a number of footballing events this half term! Here is her report:

What a fantastic start to the new school year and girls' football with more than double the numbers on last year. The amount of you that would like to play is truly amazing and gives me such a huge smile.

We have also entered Year 5/6 into league and cup this year too which is very exciting. Unfortunately, our cup run ended in round 1 against a strong Thomas Hickman team. Despite drawing at half time (1-1) with a goal from Mollie, the girls lost 4-1. Our league run has so far been halted by the oppositions lack of players and then the snow!

The girls also enjoyed a football festival at Kingsbrook putting up a great fight, playing some lovely football and coming away smiling.

A special thank you again to Mr Hird who has come to help me, taking on Year 3/4 who have showed superb Whitchurch values under his wing. Also to Mrs Evans for being our general go to lady with any injuries or upsets! We won't be able to carry on with the numbers we have without them both. Onwards and upwards for the Kites in the New Year.



Horse Riding – Whitchurch regional show jumping Championships

Thank you to Mrs Taylor for this piece of fantastic news and report: Well done Team Whitchurch!

On Saturday 7th December the team of four from Whitchurch Combined School battled Storm Darragh and headed to Bury Farm Equestrian Centre to compete in the Regional Show Jumping Championships.

They had qualified only two weeks prior and were all very excited to have made it to the Championships. The team competing in this 40cm class, consisted of Bartie (Y4), Cassidy (Y3), Guy (Y3) and Margot (Y1). Guy set the standard in going out first and did an amazing round with a clear round, Cassidy followed to take clear round number two, Bartie was in 3rd for another clear round and to round it off Margot finished with our 4th clear round for the team! With such an amazing four rounds we were sure they would be placed but they did in fact **WIN** the Championships.

The competition was tough and there are some really big schools that compete in this. As far as we believe this is also the first time that Whitchurch have ever won a show jumping Championship which as Bartie said "has made history!"

Cassidy had also qualified as an individual and with her amazingly stylish round she also took the individual win in the Championship section which makes her Regional 40cm Champion!!

There was also an open section which Bartie, Margot and Guy were all in and they all cleaned up with Guy taking the win, Margot in 3rd and Bartie in 4th. Overall it was a hugely successful day, and the children are all so proud of themselves which they should be. They all won a sash and rosette too!



Trips

There have been so many trips for the children to enjoy and inspire their learning this term!

Year 1 – Warwick Castle

The Year 1 children enjoyed a trip to Warwick Castle as a part of their 'Towers and Turrets' topic. Mrs Compton led the Year 1s on an action-packed day of learning where the highlight was definitely climbing towards the top of a castle turret! Nearly all the children made the top and were really brave! Fletcher said, "The best bit was when we saw Oscar the owl being very hyper and flying everywhere. Everybody cheered!" Well done to them all!



Year 2 - Hazard Alley, Milton Keynes

The Year 2 children all had a fantastic day at Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes earlier on in the term. The children got to practice crossing roads and understand the dangers in places like the home, near railways and on streets. They even got to use an iPad to call the emergency services! In the afternoon the children enjoyed an e-safety talk together. Amelia said, "I really enjoyed going into a phone box and using the iPad to call different emergency services. We had practice telling the emergency services our names and what happened so that they would (pretend to) come! It was great fun!"



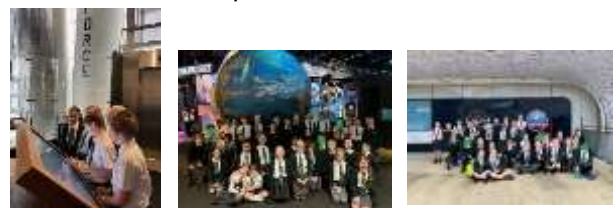
Year 4 – The Ashmolean, Oxford

Year 4 have had a fantastic time learning about the Egyptians this term that Miss Sisk took the children to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford to see some real-life exhibits! The children enjoyed a talk about the Egyptians and learnt about Shabtis and got to see an Egyptian tomb! In the afternoon the children enjoyed a guided tour of the museum. Issy said, "We enjoyed the guessing what was in the mystery Egyptian box. The Egyptian musical instrument, which was bit like a tambourine, was my favourite item in the box as it actually played music!"



Year 5 – The National Space Centre

On Friday 8th November, Year 5 went to the National Space Centre in Leicestershire. The children have been learning about Space in Science this term, so this trip was a great chance to consolidate some learning. The children enjoyed an amazing interactive planetarium show, a live science lesson involving rockets and they had the chance to try all the interactive exhibits around the museum including learning all about how astronauts survive in Space! Sienna said, "I loved seeing all the real-life rockets and going up and the down the lifts to see the different levels where we learnt about how man first travelled into space!"



Remembrance Assembly

On Friday 8th November Year 6 led a beautiful assembly about Remembrance Day. The children explained the importance of Armistice Day and talked about why we celebrate it. All classes laid a wreath at the cenotaph that was expertly made by Mrs Hutton, Mrs Evans, Mrs Bareham and Mrs Brentnall. A minute's silence was also impeccably observed by all the staff and children.



MP Visit – Laura Kykre-Smith - Christmas Cards

We had a visit from our new local MP Laura Kykre-Smith yesterday to congratulate Erin (Y5) and Amelia (Y2) for winning her competition to design Christmas cards to be sent out to her Aylesbury constituents! They both received a Houses of Parliament signed certificate and a signed card from Laura. Amelia received

Chocolate reindeer and Erin was given a Houses of Parliament notebook and pen! Well done to both girls.



Open afternoons

It was great to see so many of you at the 'Marvellous Monday' open afternoons for Years 1-6 on the 25th November. The children really enjoyed sharing their learning and their classrooms with you. I am delighted that so many of you were able to share in these moments with your child as well.



Safety Week

In the week of 18th November, all year groups looked at being safe in a range of different ways. The children learnt about E-safety, being safe around the home, being safe in school and road safety. Each year group practised crossing the road and learnt the importance of keeping yourself safe. The week finished with a be bright and be seen day where children could wear odd socks or anything bright!



Thank you to Mrs Carson for organising the week.



Christmas Tree

A big thankyou to the PTA for purchasing the beautiful Christmas tree that is in the hall! It looks wonderful! As is tradition at Whitchurch, the youngest and oldest members of the school turn on the Christmas tree lights in one of our assemblies. Well done to Freddie (YR) and Imogen (Y6) who turned on the lights this year!



Year 6 Christmas Mini Enterprise

Well done to Year 6, with the help from the adults in Year 6, who organised a Christmas mini-enterprise evening on Thursday 28th November to help raise monies for their trip to the theatre in Oxford to see Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat. The monies raised paid for the coach and meant the children can have a treat too! Year 6 would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that attended and supported the event after school.



KS1 Production

On Tuesday 10th December and Wednesday 11th December, Years 1 and 2 performed their production of The Lion King (Not). The children all performed magnificently, speaking clearly and loudly and making everyone who watched laugh and cry in equal amounts. My personal favourite was the dancing camels – they were fab!



Christmas Concert

It was great to see so many of you supporting the children at our Christmas Concert on Wednesday 18th December. The children absolutely love showcasing their amazing musical skills which range from drumming, guitars, piano to whole class recorder playing! Well done to everyone that performed and to Mrs Carson who worked tirelessly to ensure the show went smoothly!



Reception Festive Singing

We had a wonderful morning performing to parents and extended family. The children really enjoyed singing and signing to everyone. We even had some groovy dance moves. Thank you to everyone for coming, you have kicked off the festive season for us.



House singing competition

On Monday this week, Key Stage 2 battled it out in the KS2 House Singing Competition. Each house performed on the stage and Mrs Williams and Mrs Mobbs were left with the very hard job of judging. Ascott were declared the winners with their version of Brenda Lee's all time classic, Rockin' around the Christmas tree! Congratulations to everyone who took part.



Handwriting Competition

Mrs Hutton and Mrs Webster, our English Governor, had a really tough job judging the School Handwriting competition. Year 1 to Year 6 classes produced their best handwriting to write a selection of Winter Poems. They all did an amazing job showing a real high standard of presentation! Runners up were: Siena A, Sienna W and Rosie (Y1), Gracie and Eliza (Y2), Elsie and Tristan (Y3), Jamie, Ruby and Evie (Y4), Oscar and Annabelle (Y5) and Logan and Dasha (Y6). The winners were: Roman (Y1), Felicity (Y2), Felix (Y2), Anvitaa (Y4), Erin (Y5) and Arthur (Y6). Well done to Daniel in Year 6 for his special award for the amount of progress he has made in his handwriting since being at Whitchurch!



Christingle

We all walked down to the church in Whitchurch today for the Christingle Service. Reverend Janet Bayly talked to us about the meaning of the Christingle. The children all sang some Christmas hymns beautifully. We had singing, reading poems and playing the recorders. Each of the children made a Christingle, which they have taken home with them tonight. Thank you to the PTA for buying the Christingles.



Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to all the children that have been 'Pupils of the Week' this half term!



PTA Events

Christmas Fayre

Despite the last-minute decision to re-locate the Christmas fayre inside (when is a PTA event not sabotaged by the great British weather!), the Christmas Fayre was another success. Thank you to all of you who supported the event and enjoyed the activities and food on offer. A huge thank you also to the PTA and helpers who made the event possible. The PTA raised just over £1,400 in total for the Fayre. Well done to everyone involved!

The Whitchurch Santa Float

For the second year in a row, the PTA organised the Santa float to go round Whitchurch and spread some festive cheer earlier this week! This year all Santa's

volunteers received some hot chocolate, mulled wine and a mince pie before they started their trip around Whitchurch! Thank you to anyone who donated generously along the journey! We raised an amazing £800 for the school PTA.



Lunchtime rewards

We have continued this term with the golden tickets at lunchtime. The golden ticket means the children receive a dojo and also the ticket is entered into a lucky draw on a Friday assembly. Four tickets are pulled each week and the winners can choose a prize from my special box. All of the tickets were put back into the box and 20 tickets were pulled out in assembly. These children will join Mr Soar for a tea party after the Christmas holidays. Well done to James, Sebastian, Gabriella, Jessie, Taimoor, Remzi (YR); Layla, Advik, Sienna W, Matilda (Y1) Aron (Y2); Haider, Emily L-B, Esme (Y3) Olive, Oscar, Annabelle, Erin, Flint (Y5) and Dasha (Y6)



Thank you for all of your help and support this half term. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and we will see the children back at school on **Tuesday 7th January**.

Mrs R Mobbs & Mr M Soar

Here is a reminder of the dates for when we come back.

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 7th January	Back to School
9 th January	Year 6 to theatre to see 'Joseph'
20 th January	Young Voices O2
20 th January	Handball Y5/6 Kingsbrook
27 th January	Handball Y5/6 Kingsbrook
28 th January	PTA KS1 Movie Night
29 th January	PTA KS2 Movie Night
31 st January	PTA Bingo Evening
3 rd February	KS1 Writing Workshop
4 th February	Year 5 & 6 Writing Workshop
5 th February	Year 3 & 4 Writing Workshop
	Year 5 Football v Cuddington
6 th February	Year 3 & 4 Football - Royal Latin
10 th February	Energise rehearsal in Wycombe
11 th February	Year 2-Great fire of London Day
12 th February	PTA - 'Dare to be different' mufti
14 th February	HALF TERM



From all of us at Whitchurch!