

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



## April 2024 NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your diary

Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Leeds Lieder Opera – Year 4
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Class photos Drama workshop – Year 4 (First of 4)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Trust Dodgeball competition – Year 3
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Trust Hockey competition – Year 4
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>School Closed – Bank Holiday</b>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Visit to Ingleton Falls – Year 3 Mindmate – Sleep assembly – parents welcome – 2.40pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 KS2 SATs week
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Sound workshop – Year 4
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Year 2 Drum performance – parents welcome – 2.40pm Year 5/6 rugby competition (team of 6)
	<b>Break for half term</b>
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>School reopens for summer 2</b>

### School Term dates 2023/24

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Half term: 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct– 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Christmas: 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Half term: 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb -16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Easter: 29 <sup>th</sup> March– 12 <sup>th</sup> April
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Bank Holiday: 6 <sup>th</sup> May Half Term: 27 <sup>th</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	Summer begins: 24 <sup>th</sup> July

### Training Days:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July,  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

### Welcome back for the summer term!

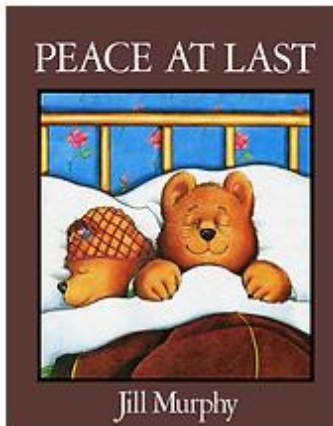
I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break – despite the weather. The children have all returned to school ready for learning and as always, we have lots to do this term.

Our Reading Ambassadors have been busy this week. Not only have they been reading with their year 1,2,3 buddies they have also introduced us all to our chosen author – Jill Murphy.



Jill has written and illustrated numerous books including The Worst Witch, A Quiet Night In and Peace at last.

We are hoping lots of children will choose to read some of her books –we have a selection to choose from on display in the corridor. I know lots of our older children have already read some of the Worst Witch books and we all love Peace at last!



Our Reading Ambassadors have also decided to set a story writing challenge for KS2. Children in years 3,4,5 & 6 voted for the genre– they chose 'Horror'!

Children can choose to write their own short story at home and hand it in to their class Reading Ambassador by 7<sup>th</sup> May.

The winning entry will receive a prize and the story will be read out in assembly.

The summer term is assessment time so it is always really busy – for the children and for the staff!

Our year 6 children have been working hard all year and are now almost ready for their SAT's tests in a few weeks' time. It is really important that they keep up with a really good bed-time/sleep routine so that they wide awake, fully fit and ready for hard work and good concentrating every day!

Year 4 will be completing the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) in June which is an online times tables test – 25 questions with 6 seconds per question testing all tables up to 12x12. Lots of TT rocks practice is essential so please encourage them to do at least 10 mins every day.

Year 1 will complete the Phonics Check in June – a mixture of 40 real and not-real words which test all the KS1 phonemes. The children are all making good progress in phonics and it

is now really important that they all continue to work hard to home to ensure they are reading their books and word cards every day and are becoming even more confident.

This year, for the first time, there will be no formal KS1 (yr2) SATs tests. These usually take place in May with the test scores and assessments reported to the DFE. This year the tests are optional and schools are not required to send assessments to the DFE. We will however, be using the optional tests to support our assessments and will complete these during June rather than in May.

Reception children will be assessed against the Early Years Profile – assessment judgements will be collated across all areas of learning to establish whether children have achieved GLD (Good Level of Development). These assessments are reported to the DFE and used as a baseline from which to progress as children move through school.

.....so early to bed for everyone this term!

### **Mindmate Sleep Assembly**

The Mindmate team, who have been working in school, will be leading an assembly about the importance of sleep. All parents are welcome and I am sure it will be useful and informative.

### **Attendance**

Thank you to all parents who work hard to ensure children are in school on time consistently. Thank you also to parents who remember to contact school and keep us fully informed of any absence. We know that children may be ill from time to time however the aim is for all children to be in school every day.



Please remember that all messages relating to attendance/absence should go directly to the school office and not to the class teacher. Please telephone 0113 2930280, text or email [john.barker@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk](mailto:john.barker@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk) or [Clare.ashmore@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk](mailto:Clare.ashmore@whitelaitheeds.sch.uk). Please remember that holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a fine.

## **News from the classes**

### **Early Years - Reception**

Our topic this half term is 'Growing and Minibeasts'. We have already begun to plant seeds in our outside area including beans and wild flowers - we are all looking forward to seeing the plants start to grow. The children know they need to make sure the plants are watered each day and once the rain has stopped, we will enjoy strengthening their gross motor skills to lift the watering cans!

This week we have also welcomed some caterpillars to our classroom. We have been carefully observing the caterpillars each day and hopefully if we take good care of them, they will eventually turn into beautiful butterflies! Exciting!

In English this half term we will be reading 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle, 'The Hungry Caterpillar' also by Eric Carle and 'Snail Trail' by Ruth Brown. The books will help us to write instruction sentences, labels and lists.

Our main focus this half term when writing sentences is to remember to use finger spaces, full stops and all of the words in the sentence. We all need to try really hard forming our letters too – lots of handwriting practise is happening. In Maths we will be looking at teen numbers in detail. We will look at how the numbers are represented in different ways. To help your child you could go on a teen number hunt and see which numbers you can spot.

We will also be exploring 3D shapes. In topic and craft sessions we will be painting sunflowers in the style of Georgia O'Keeffe, labelling the different parts of a plant, making a split pin caterpillar and doing line drawings of snails.

Please continue to read at home every day and write a comment in your child's diary as well as learning high frequency words and tricky words. Any questions, please ask. Thank you for your continued support.

### **Nile - Year 1**

Over the next few weeks we will be completing our Egyptians topic by learning a little more about Egyptologists and their findings. Then we will read 'Meerkat Mail' and complete lots of Science, English and Art work linked to this great book!

Then we will move onto our summer term topic 'Lighthouses, lifeboats and the seaside'. As part of this topic we will be going to Seaham to explore the geographical features there. We will also hunt for sea glass, paddle in the sea and make natural beach sculptures. Watch out for details of this fabulous trip in the next few days!

Our **Phonics Screening test** is fast approaching so please practice any phonics words that are sent home as often as you can and read with your child daily. Many of the children are nearly there and just lack a little bit of confidence so your help in the next few weeks is vital!

### **Yangtze – Year 2**

This half term our topic is 'Kings and Queens.' We will be finding out all about King Charles III and about what happens at a coronation. We will be looking at coronations from the past and how they are the same and different. We will talk about parliament and find out about the role of our prime minister. In Art, we will be painting crowns, portraits and will be creating stamps.

Our Science topic is 'Growing Plants.' We will be investigating the conditions that plants need to grow and we will be busy in our school garden.

In Maths we will be learning to divide numbers by 2, 5 and 10 and will be adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers. Your child knows their login details for TT Rockstars and can practise their 2,5 and 10 times tables on the computer/ tablet.

In English we will be reading Bog Baby and The Twits. We will be writing a diary entry, character descriptions, a book review and our own story. We are also writing a report about the human body.

Our MindMate topic is 'Being the same. Being different' and our PSHE topic is 'Friendship.'

In PE, we will be practising our agility and coordination skills and will be playing various ball games. On Fridays we will learn gymnastics skills with the Leeds Gymnastics Club coach. We will also be continuing our African drumming sessions this half term.

### **Danube - Year 3**

This term we will be learning all about what it's like in North America. We will be comparing some physical and human features there, with some landmarks in Yorkshire. We will be going to Ingleton Falls to enhance our learning experience and this also ties in with our science topic which is 'Rocks' and 'What's under our feet?'

In English we will be using our book 'Queen of the Falls' for our reading and grammar lessons and will write newspaper reports, poetry and leaflets.

In Maths we will continue to practice arithmetic using all 4 operations. We will also be learning about fractions (a whole divided into equal parts) followed by mass and capacity. We will also be practising 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables every day and key skills every week.

We will be playing dodgeball in PE sessions in preparation for a dodgeball competition. We will continue swimming on Wednesdays.

Our Mind Mate topic is 'Being the same and being different' Our PSHE is Mental health and emotional wellbeing - Strengths and challenges.

- Please ensure your child completes the homework tasks that are set on Mondays – these may include Mathletics, Rockstars, Reading, spelling practice and the independent task.

### **Zambezi -Year 4**

This half term we will be beginning our topic about The Romans. We will begin with some Geography linked to Ancient and modern Rome where we will locate it on a map, talk about the continent it is in and the seas and oceans that surround it. We will then look at historical aspects about the Romans including the invasion of Britain.

In English, we will be reading the story of Julius Caesar and having some drama sessions linked to the story.

In maths, we will be learning about fractions and decimals and Mrs Drinkall will be teaching shape in Maths on a Friday. We are doing lots of times table practice in preparation for the times tables check in June.

In Science, we are beginning to learn about teeth and the human digestive system.

In PE, we are currently practising our Hockey skills as we will be taking part in a tournament in a couple of weeks time.

### **Amazon – Year 5**

This half-term we will begin our topic 'What did we learn from the Ancient Civilisations?' - finding out about what a civilisation is and how ancient civilisations became successful. In art, we will be making clay canopic jars.

In science, we will be learning all about forces and how humans change and grow (linked to our RSE). We will also be doing lots of planting in our victory garden and in our competition box so that we can hopefully get through to the final of the Great Yorkshire Show.

In PSHE we will be studying MindMate (being different); Drug and Tobacco Education (who influences us?) and RSE (puberty-how our bodies and minds grow and change). In PE, we will be working on our creative and physical skills.

- Homework is set on Mondays and is based online. Pupils should complete: Mathematics (2 activities); Spelling shed spelling tasks (complete this week's spelling practise and a mastery zone activity) and ed shed grammar quiz
- Please encourage your child to read at home every night and write an 'I wonder...' statement.

### **Mississippi – Year 6**

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed the Easter holidays. The children have come back raring to go and are already working hard. This positive learning attitude needs to continue in the run up to our SATs.

To start the half term, we will be revising for our tests as well as doing some exciting learning about our new topic which is all about 'Coasts'. In Geography, we will be learning about key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers). We will then learn how to use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and keys. We will also be learning about Whitby, looking at the human and physical features of the seaside town and comparing it to Leeds.

In English, we will be reading and writing about Dracula before moving on to 'Room 13' which is a spooky Vampire story set in Whitby. We will begin by writing a newspaper report, then we will be writing our own Dracula stories, writing instructions and descriptions. In Maths, we will be revising what we have done so far this year and recapping things we find tricky.

In Science, we will be learning about microorganisms, evolution and the circulatory system.

In PSHE, our Mindmate lesson is on 'Being the same and being different' and we will continue with our topic on Healthy Minds. In PE, we will be doing REAL PE as well as continuing to practise our throwing/catching skills.

A few reminders:

- Homework will be sent on dojo- we will continue with our booklets so please keep an eye out for updates on when they will be handed out and when they need to be in
- The weather (as always) has been very unpredictable so please ensure your child has a coat in school
- Please ensure your child has brought their water bottle back to school

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Sheerin