

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



March 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

Monday 26 th February	Northern Ballet workshops – year 1 and 2 Leeds Rhinos coaching sessions year 3 and 4
Wednesday 28 th February	Parent Consultation Evening
Monday 4 th March	Leeds Rhinos coaching sessions year 3 and 4
Tuesday 5 th March	Northern Ballet workshop – year 1
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Mother's Day Lunch
Friday 8 th March	Mother's Day Daffodils at Tesco -year2
Tuesday 12 th March	Author visit -years 5,6
Wednesday 13 th March	Leeds Lieder Opera workshop -Year 4 Wetherby High school Transition meeting 3.20
Friday 15 th March	Celebration Assembly 2.40pm – All parents' welcome
Wednesday 20 th March	Halifax Dance competition – KS2 Dance club
Thursday 21 st March	Skipping Festival (Armley) – Year 4
Friday 22 nd March	Murton Park visit – year 5
Monday 25 th March	Viking Day – year 6 Spring Singing at Cross Gates – year 5 volunteers
Tuesday 26 th March	Spring Singing at Tesco – year 6 volunteers
Wednesday 27 th March	EYFS Kings & Queens picnic @2.40pm
Thursday 28th March	Easter singing assembly @2.40pm – all parents' welcome Break for Easter holiday (school closed on Friday)
Monday 15 th April	School reopens for Summer 1 term

School Term dates 2023/24

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

Monday 3 rd June 2024	Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	Summer begins: 24 th July
----------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Training Days:

Monday 4th September, Monday 6th November, Monday 29th January, Monday 22nd July, Tuesday 23rd July

Busy March!

March is always a busy month with lots of exciting things happening in school. At last, we've seen a few glimmers of sunshine, the daffodils are opening near the fitness trail and we can see the first white blossom on some of our trees – finally something cheery outside! The children have played well outside, despite the never-ending rain, but it will be a real treat when everything dries out and we can play with equipment without it blowing away or getting wet and muddy.....fingers crossed!

So, lots of things happening:

- Early Years are finding out about Kings and Queens this term and will end it by inviting parents to a Kings and Queens indoor picnic celebration (watch your Dojo messages for information)
- Year 1 and 2 will take part in workshops led by a dancer from the Northern Ballet and based on the story of the Ugly Ducking and little Red Riding Hood.
- Year 2 will be representing the school handing out daffodils in Tesco – always a highlight for the staff and shoppers in Tesco
- Year 3 and 4 will be taking part in 2 coaching sessions run by Leeds Rhinos. Year 4 will then follow this up with a skipping festival and an opera workshop led by professional opera singers!
- Year 5 and 6 will be dramatizing their history learning – year 6 will be taking part in a Viking workshop in school and year 5 will be thinking about life for evacuees in World War 2 during their visit to Murton Park
- I will be asking for year 5 and 6 volunteers to come fundraising in Cross Gates and Tesco – I know they'll be fantastic!
- KS2 Dance club will be competing in the Great British Dance-off at Halifax Victoria Theatre – always a really exciting event!

And finally, I'm really pleased that we have been able to arrange an author visit for KS2. Julia Edwards is the author of the Scar Gatherer series and she will be talking about her work and books with the children and then leading a writing workshop for year 6. There are seven books in the series and we've bought 2 signed sets for children in year 5 and 6 to read – I am looking forward to hearing what the children think of the stories!

Mother's Day lunch

We have had lots of requests to join us for lunch – there were 110 adults when I last checked the list so it's going to be busy! The busiest ever so please be patient!

The organisation last year ran smoothly and this was due mainly to the cheerful nature and patience of all the parents who attended. I am sure it will be the same again this year.

Please come to school at the time of your youngest child and we will ensure older siblings come to join you.

Arrival time:

- 11.40am Reception parents
- 11.55am Year 1 parents
- 12.10pm Year 2 parents
- 12.20 pm Year 3 and 4 parents
- 12.40pm year 5 and 6 parents

Parents who have been before will know what to expect but for anyone joining us for the first time; we will ask parents to wait in the main entrance and I'll check you off on my list before asking you to go into the hall to be served – this may take a while!

When you have finished your lunch, whilst it would be lovely to stay and chat, we do need you to leave straightaway so that we can make space in the hall.

We will bring all of Reception into the hall and serve them first – as we usually do – and then invite parents (and any siblings) to collect their own lunch and sit opposite your child. We will do the same with year 1 and 2 children. Children in year 3,4,5,6 will come in with their parents and finally KS2 children who do not have a parent attending will come in when we have spaces! Children in years 3,4,5,6 who have a packed lunch will eat lunch in class to give us a bit more room in the hall.

As I said – so long as we are patient it should work!

World Book Day

This year, World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. To celebrate this exciting day, we invite the children to dress up as a book character of their choice (if they wish).

You don't need to buy anything new, there are lots of ideas online of homemade outfits.

Throughout the day, we will be talking about our love of books, we will be swapping classes and reading with another year group, our reading ambassadors will be supporting Miss Brown with an assembly and our Year 6s will be performing a book reading at the end of the day.

It is going to be great fun! If you are coming for Mother's Day lunch that day, you will get to see all of the amazing costumes too!

Wetherby High School – Transition meeting

Wetherby High School Transition meeting - 13th March, 3.15pm at White Laith

This year, in addition to the usual transition meetings and visits to the high school, staff from Wetherby High school are planning to come into our school to meet with parents and children.

The meeting will be an opportunity for staff to share more information about transition arrangements, year 7 organisation and basically anything else parents want to know!

I think it is great that the high school staff are coming here. They explained to me that because these meetings will obviously be smaller than the main meetings held at the high school, they are hoping parents (and children) will take the chance to ask as many questions as they like in the hope that this will reduce any worries or anxiety at an early stage.

Please keep the date in your diary and please do attend if your child is allocated a place at Wetherby.

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@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk or Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk.

Please remember that holidays in term time cannot be authorised and may result in a fine.

News from the classes

Early Years

This half term our topic for Nursery and Reception is 'Kings, Queens and dragons.'. We will be talking and finding out about King Charles including what his job is and where he lives. We will be trying to create a collage portrait of the King and a crown. We will also be talking about castles and naming the different parts. We have set up a banquet in our role play area and everyone has enjoyed dressing up as someone royal and enjoying a meal fit for the King. Next week a 'dragon' will visit our classroom (pssst don't tell your children). We will be considering whether dragons are real and doing lots of craft linked to dragons including printing dragon scales and making a playdough dragon.

Nursery

Nursery are continuing to have their key focus time each day including key worker group and story times which is helping the children with their listening and communication skills. The children are enjoying using the construction area and making a range of different sized vehicles. We have also set up a fairy tale area and it is lovely to see the children using their imagination skills to set up an area for the fairies to live and play.

With Nursery we are working on their independence skills. This includes putting on their own coat and wellies. We are also encouraging children to do their zips. All these skills will help your child's confidence and fine motor skills which will help with their writing as they move through school. Please try support us and ask your child to try do the above themselves.

Reception

In English we will be reading different books linked to our topic including, 'The King's hat' and 'That Pesky Dragon.' We will be challenging the children to use their phonics learning to write simple phrases and sentences. We will also be doing some non-fiction writing about castles and dragons. This half term we are going to have a big focus on handwriting and forming the letters correctly. Please work on this at home with your child. During phonics lessons we are continuing to learn our phase 3 sounds with a focus on reading with fluency. We encourage everyone to read any words they know by sight and to re-read a sentence after they have segmented. In Maths we will be moving onto numbers beyond 5. We will also be looking at length and height and 3D shapes.

Please continue to read at home with your child daily including the book and any words they bring home. If you have any questions please send us a message on Dojo or speak to an adult on the door.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nile - Year 1

Year 1 have been enjoying learning about the explorers Captain Scott, Ernest Shackleton and Helen Skelton and I am excited to introduce our next learning! We will be learning all about Howard Carter and Tutankhamun - exciting!! We will be learning all about archaeologists and how they find out about the past.

We are delighted with the progress that children are making in their reading but it is really important that we practice every day so we maintain and develop our skills. We will be sending word packs home to some children in preparation for the Year 1 phonics test, it would really help the children if they read them everyday.

Having a bedtime story is also really beneficial both in preparing children to sleep and introducing them to new characters and worlds. If you want any advice choosing longer books to read, then just ask.

Yangtze – Year 2

This term we will be continuing our topic is 'Leeds and Beijing.' We will be finding out about Beijing in China and will be comparing it to Leeds. We will be finding out about landmarks in Beijing and will be making maps.

In English we will be reading 'The Magic Paintbrush' and will be writing character descriptions of the main characters. We will be reading 'Katie goes to London' and 'Katie goes to Scotland' and will be writing our own versions- 'Katie goes to Leeds and Beijing.' We will continue to work hard to learn our spellings each week on Spelling Shed.

In Art we will be creating cityscapes in the style of Paul Klee and will be painting blossom trees and dragons.

In Maths we will be learning to multiply and divide by 2, 5 and 10. Please practise counting on and back in 2s, 5s and 10s. We are enjoying our maths tests on Fridays and are working hard to beat our scores each week. Each week I will also set lessons to complete on Mathseeds.

Our Science topic is 'Animals, including humans.' We will find out about different animal groups and we will be writing explanation texts to describe animal life cycles. For Science Week we will be completing investigations about time and will be building marble runs.

Our MindMate topic is Strong Emotions and our PSHE topic is Friendship.

In PE we will be continuing to practise our skipping skills and will be developing our creative skills, balancing skills and ball skills. We will also be continuing our African drumming lessons.

Danube - Year 3

For the first half of the half term, our topic 'pushes, pulls and magnets' will continue and we will finish 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes.

We will then start our new topic 'North America'. We will learn about the countries that make up North America and study some of the physical features, cities and other landmarks comparing them to Yorkshire. We are hoping to have a class trip up to North Yorkshire as well.

We will be reading the book 'Kidnap on the California Comet' by M.G. Leonard & Sam Sedgman.

In Maths we will be learning about measuring distance and perimeter and then fractions. We will also be practicing 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables every day and key skills every week.

In PE we will continue swimming on Wednesdays and gymnastics on Fridays.

Our PSHE topic is 'Relationship's education - Families.

Our Mind Mate topic is 'Strong Emotions'. We will also be continuing the 'zones of regulation' lessons.

Please ensure your child reads every night and completes their reading diary. Homework will be set at the start of the week (spelling test on Mondays) Please continue to use your independent homework books.

Zambezi -Year 4

This half term we will be continuing our topic 'Did the Ancient Greeks change the world?' We will be finding out how the Ancient Greeks have influenced life today and about some important people and events including the Battle of Marathon and Alexander the Great. We will be reading the Ancient Greek story 'Antigone'.

In Maths, we will be learning to multiply using column multiplication and will be finding the area of shapes. We will continue to learn out times tables in preparation for the Year 4 times table test later in the year.

Our Science topic is 'Living things and their habitats'. We will be sorting vertebrates and invertebrates and will be producing classification keys. We will find out what all living things need to survive.

In PE, we are continuing to practice our skipping skills in preparation for our skipping competition at the end of March and we are having gymnastics sessions on a Friday morning.

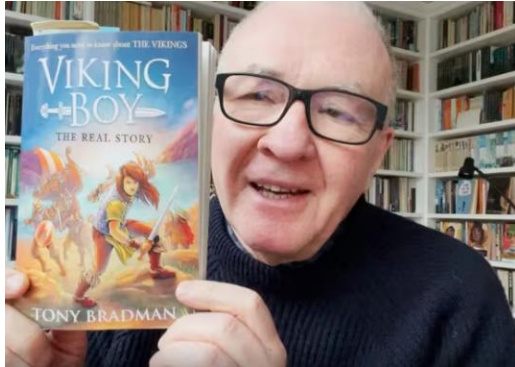
Amazon – Year 5

This half-term we are continuing our topic 'What was it like to live in Leeds during WW2?' including our exciting trip to Murton Park on 22nd March. In science, we will be learning about living things and how they reproduce. In RE, we will be learning about 'Whether or not you should forgive'. In PSHE we will be studying Mindmate (strong emotions) and moving on to Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco education and influences upon our choices. In PE, we will be working on our physical skills and linking movements together. Please encourage your child to read at home and write a question linked to their reading each night and write a comment in their diaries.

Homework is set on Mondays and children need to complete: spelling shed, grammar shed, TTRockstars and Maths

Mississippi – Year 6

WOW- we are half way through the Year already! Time certainly does fly when you're having fun...and working hard! This half term we will be continuing with our Vikings topic. We will soon be having our Viking Day- a letter will be sent out/dojo post soon with more details.



We will also be starting our new class novel 'Viking Boy' by Tony Bradman. We had a short zoom call with the author who introduced the book to us and even read some of it to us! After reading it, we are having a full hour zoom to discuss what we thought of the book and will have the opportunity to ask lots of questions. How exciting!

In English, we will be focussing on using lots of different grammar techniques in our writing in preparation for SATs. In Maths, we will start by looking at telling the time and time intervals then we will be learning about how to convert units of measure. We will also be revising lots of the things we have learnt already in preparation for SATs. In Science, we will continue to learn about Light and then move onto animals and plants. In PSHE, we will start with our Mindmate lesson on Strong Emotions, we will finish our drugs topic and then we will move onto our topic on Keeping safe and managing risk. In Spanish we will be continuing to learn how to have a conversation. In PE we will be focussing on our creative skills and learning how to play volleyball.

This is a really important half term for the children with it being the last full half term before SATs. I will be sending extra homework and the children will be given revision books for Grammar/spelling and Maths to complete. The children will be told which pages to do and it is expected that the children bring their booklets back in to school as we will be marking them in class.

I'm really pleased with the progress the children have made so far. They have worked hard! Let's keep it up!

Please practise these things at home:

- Times tables
- Telling the time
- Finding percentages when shopping (eg. 20% off)

Remember Mathletics, Spelling Shed, TTRS and keep reading!

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Sheerin