

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



## November 2023 NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your diary

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent Consultation meetings
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Victorian Workshop – Mississippi
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need – Wear something yellow/spotty
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Mindmate Workshop for parents – 4.30pm – 5.30pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Nursery closed all day</b> 10year Trust Anniversary visit to the theatre
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Christmas singing for parents – 2.30pm Light Night
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Singing at CrossGates
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Singing at CrossGates Christmas performance 2.00pm and 6.30pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Singing at Tesco Christmas performance 2.00pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Singing at Tesco Christmas Dinner Class Christmas Parties
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>School closes for Christmas Break</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens for Spring Term
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>School closed – training day</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
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### **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

Nursery and Reception – additional Training Days Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September

### **Welcome**

I do hope you all had an enjoyable half term break despite the miserable weather!

As always, we will try to get outside everyday even if it is raining. The children definitely need some fresh air at lunchtime and even though it sometimes looks a bit miserable it is much better than staying in side! With that in mind, please make sure children have coats with a hood or a hat. All children also need a spare pair of pumps/trainers to keep in their locker so that they can change into them if their feet get wet.

Lots of children have started to come in wellies which is a really good idea. However, wellies are uncomfortable to wear all day so please check with your child that they do have a spare pair of pumps/trainers in school.

Thankyou to all parents who attended parent consultation evening – I do hope you found the meetings useful and informative. Two of our Governors, Jenny Horton and Chantel Johnson, enjoyed chatting to parents in the hall and talking in particular about reading at home. All parents they spoke to said that their child/children really enjoyed books and reading and that they spent time together sharing books at home. I do hope you find the reading at home prompts useful – I will make sure these are available on the website – English page – for parents to refer to.

### **Children in Need.**

From Monday morning we will be selling wristbands (£1) and pin-badges (£1) in school next week. Year 6 children will visit each class during registration to sell the items. There is a limited supply so please don't be disappointed if you miss out.

On Friday, children are invited to wear something yellow or spotty and can bring a £1 donation if they wish to do so.

This year Jo Wicks has introduced a 'Bearpee's' challenge which some classes may try out on Friday too!

### **Mindmate Anxiety Workshop – (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm – 5.30pm)**

The Mindmate Support Team are delivering a workshop for parents /carers who want to know more about anxiety and worries.

The workshop will cover the key elements of anxiety and why children experience anxiety. It will also include practical strategies that you can use to support your child when they are worried.

If you would like to attend please message Miss Adamson or Mrs Sheerin to let us know.

### **10 year Trust Celebration Event – Theatre visit**

We are very excited about our planned visit to Leeds playhouse to see Oliver and the Enormous Crocodile.

All the teachers from our 5 Trust schools spent our Training Day last week working together with creative practitioners from Leeds Heritage theatres, Leeds Playhouse and Northern Ballet. The purpose of the training was to consider how we can include creative practice (drama and dance) across the curriculum. We also discussed the practicalities of bringing all our children to the playhouse on the same day – it has been planned like clockwork!

Nursery will be closed on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December to ensure we have enough staff in order to make the visit safe and smooth-running.

All children will eat lunch a little earlier than usual so that we are all ready to set off on time.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be leaving school at 12.20 – the Enormous Crocodile starts at 1.00pm. The performance is approximately one hour long and so the children will be back in time for the end of school as usual.

Coaches will be transporting the children and will be dropping and picking up in the designated coach turning circle so basically right outside the main door – there are no roads to cross.

Years 3,4,5,6 will be leaving school at 11.45am – Oliver starts at 12.30pm. The performance ends at 3.00pm so we will return to school at around 3.30/4.00. There will be a lot of children exiting the theatre at the same time so it could take a while for the coaches to fill and then leave. We'll have to be patient with this so please be aware that I can really only give an approximate time – it may be that we are later so please be prepared for that.

Thank you to all parents who have replied with consent and your contribution. If you haven't replied with consent please do that asap.

### **Parent Governor vacancy**

We still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor position on our Governing Body. If you are interested and would like to find out more about what this entails, please do get in touch with me or with Mr Barker and we can have a chat about it.

### **TIDDLERS – Wednesday's 9.00am-10.30am**

Thank you to Jessica Manir and Kylie Pell who are running our Tiddlers sessions this year. There is a lovely welcoming atmosphere for parents and lots of activities for our youngest children to explore.

If you have a child aged 0-3 and you would like to come along please just come through to B4A club via the green gate in the front carpark at 9.00am. There is no need to book.

There will be a signing in sheet and we ask that you add your contact details when you sign in. Ms Ashmore will use these details to set up a 'Tiddler' contact group so that if we were to cancel for any reason we could let you know.

## **FAMILY GAMES NIGHT**

Thankyou to everyone who came along to Family Games night and joined in so well – it's always more fun when everyone joins in!

The event raised approximately £400 which is great – we will certainly put the money to good use.

## **Attendance**

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](mailto:john.barker@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk) or [Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:Clare.ashmore@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk).

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

## **News from our classes**

### **EYFS – Nursery and Reception**

This half term our topic for Nursery and Reception is 'Celebrations'. We will be talking and finding out about different celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. We started this week with the Halloween – the children looked fantastic dressed in their costumes. We will be doing lots of activities including making diva pots, blow painting fireworks and making mince pies.

#### **Nursery**

Nursery will continue to do lots of activities to help develop their fine and gross motor skills- pre-skills for writing. They will also continue their key worker group each day where they will be developing their listening and taking turns skills and learning about their feelings. In singing we will be starting to learn our Christmas songs ready to share with our grown-ups in December.

All the staff and children are enjoying seeing the learning and activities the children are doing at home. Please continue to share these on Tapestry as the children really do enjoy talking about what they have been doing.

#### **Reception**

In English we will be reading different books linked to celebrations including, 'What's in the Witch's Kitchen' and 'Elmer'. We will then use these books to help us write lists and labels. During phonics lessons we will continue to learn new letter sounds and use these to help us segment and blend new words. I'm sure we will also have a few more visits from Tricky Troll, bringing us new tricky words to learn!

In Maths we will be finding out about 2D shapes and looking at how many sides they have. We will also look at the numbers 4 and 5 in more detail and we will be learning to use different language linked to time to help us order key events in our daily routines.

Keep an eye on Tapestry so you can see some of the challenges your children have been doing. Please share any activities you are doing at home too – we would love to see them! Please continue to read at home with your child daily and practise new tricky words. 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**

We are looking forward to an exciting second half to the Autumn Term. Our focus will remain developing basic reading, writing and maths skills through a range of exciting and interesting activities.

We will be reading *The Fox and the Star* by Coralie Bickford-Smith and this will stimulate our writing and artwork. (It is a beautiful book - do investigate it and share the story together at home!)

As part of our ongoing Science work we will be further developing our knowledge of woodland animals, plants and trees and be sorting them in different ways.

We hope to have a Woodland Survival Day in the school grounds at the end of November. We will build dens together, cook over a fire, cloud watch and generally have muddy fun outdoors!! I will contact you with more details nearer to the time.

In anticipation of our visit to the Leeds Playhouse, we will be sharing the story of the Enormous Crocodile and linking work to it.

Please keep reading at home as often as you can and encourage your child to develop their maths skills on Maths' Seeds.

Thanks again for your continued support

### **Yangtze – Year 2**

This half term our topic is 'Engineers and Inventors.' We will be learning about the history of flight. We will be finding out about the first aeroplanes, modern aeroplanes and famous aviators and aviatrices.

In English, we will be writing information texts, instructions and diaries. We will be reading texts about Amelia Earhart and the Wright Brothers and answering comprehension questions. We will be learning to extend our sentences using subordinating conjunctions such as when, if and because. We will also be using a range of adjectives in our writing to add detail.

In Maths, we will be adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers.

In Science, we will continue our learning about materials. In D and T, we will be designing, making and testing paper aeroplanes. In Art, we will be imagining the landscapes our famous aviators might have seen when looking down from above. We will paint landscapes in the style of David Hockney.

Our Mindmate topic is 'Friends and Family' and our PSHE topic is 'Keeping Safe and Managing Risk.' In PE we will be learning jumping, landing and balancing skills.

### **Danube – Year 3**

This half term we will be continuing our 'rainforest' topic and answering the question 'What was it like to live in the Rainforest long ago?' We will be learning all about the ancient Maya civilisation and what they contributed to the world we live in today. We will be reading the Maya Folktale 'The Chocolate Tree'.

In English we will be writing information texts, instructions and poetry. We will be working hard on our reading skills and learning new grammar and punctuation. We will have a short spelling lesson 3 days a week and a test on Mondays.

We will also be doing some activities linked to our exciting theatre trip to see 'Oliver'.

In Maths we will continue to work on our addition and subtraction fluency and we will then work on multiplication and division. We will also be practicing 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables every day and key skills every week.

Our Science topic this half term is 'Animals including Humans' - we will learn why animals and humans have bones and about nutrition.

In PE we will be working on our personal skills – thinking about our own bodies / control and trying to improve our own performance.

We will continue our Spanish lessons. We will practice greeting, how to ask someone their name, practice numbers 1 to 20 and learn to ask someone where they live.

Our PSHE topic is about how to recognise and respond to bullying.  
Our Mind Mate topic is 'Friends and family.'

- Homework will be set on Mondays
- Spellings will be sent for a test on the following Monday

### **Zambezi – Year 4**

This half term we will be continuing our 'Water' topic. We will be finding out about the water cycle and about flooding, drought and tsunamis. We will also find out about different climate zones and it affects rainfall and also how some countries have more access to water than others. We will be creating some water and wave artwork.

In Science, we will be continuing our learning about solids, liquids and gases. We will be investigating melting and freezing and how different materials have different melting points.

In maths we begin by working on adding and subtracting 4-digit numbers using column addition and subtraction. We will also continue to practise times tables daily.

We will be reading some picture books in class related water. We will write our own sentences to match the beautiful illustrations in 'The River' and we will be writing our own stories to the book 'Flood' which has no text in it.

We will have a spelling session in class every day and our test will be on Friday. At parents' request, I will start sending home a paper copy of the spellings so that you have them.  
In PSHE we will be learning about 'Playing Safe' and our MindMate topic is 'Friends and Family.'

In RE we will be learning about festivals of light and celebrations.

Mrs Drinkall will continue to teach Spanish on a Friday.

Zambezi will continue their swimming lessons on a Wednesday up until Christmas.

### **Amazon**

This half-term we will continue our topic 'How has trade changed in the UK and USA?'. We will move on to learn more about inspirational people who were linked to the abolition of the slave trade such as William Wilberforce and Harriet Tubman. In art and DT, we will be looking at 'underground railroad quilts' making quilt collages and also a class quilt.

In science, we will continue studying changing materials and their properties completing more experiments and presenting our findings in different ways. In RE, we will be studying 'the true meaning of Christmas'.

In PSHE we will be studying MindMate (family and friends- what are healthy and unhealthy relationships) and Keeping Safe and Managing Risk (when things go wrong).

In PE, we will be working on our social skills (co-operating, giving sensitive feedback and making sure everyone has a role)

- Homework is set on Mondays and is based online. Pupils should complete: Three Mathletics tasks; three Spelling Shed spelling tasks; one Edshed Grammar Quiz and three TTrackstars games.
- Please encourage your child to read at home every night and complete their 'I wonder' question about what they have read so far.

### **Mississippi**

This half term we will be continuing with our Victorians topic. We have our Victorian workshop in school next week which will help us to understand more about how the Victorians lived as well as finding out about life in the workhouse. We will also be looking at Victorian jobs for children, census information, the Industrial Revolution and how it changed Leeds, Victorian schools and then finding out about The Great Exhibition. We will finish by looking at how the Victorians celebrated Christmas.

In English, we will start reading Oliver Twist and then move onto Street Child. It is amazing that we will get to bring the story of Oliver to life when we go to the theatre! How exciting!! We will write descriptions, stories, persuasive letters and find out lots of information about famous Victorians such as Dr Barnardo and Charles Dickens.

In Maths, we are learning about multiplication and division methods followed by fraction calculations. Please support your child with their times tables as, without them knowing them well, they will find this half term tricky.

In Science, we will start by finishing off our electricity topic. Then we will be learning about Light and Shadows. We will carry out some exciting light investigations with Mr Sheerin in computing lessons.

In PE, we will have gymnastics and REAL PE.

In Spanish we will be revising greetings then move onto how to say numbers to 20. We will then learn to ask someone how old they are and how to respond as well as how to ask where someone lives.

In PSHE we will start with our Mindmate lesson on Friends and Family. We will also be completing our SRE lessons this half term.

Homework will continue to be handed out on a Monday, to be finished by the following Monday. If children do not complete their homework, they will be given some time to do it. Children must continue to read daily and write in their reading diary. Diaries are checked on Mondays.

**Thankyou for all your continued support**  
**Mrs Sheerin**