

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



## April 2019 NEWSLETTER

### Dates for your diary

#### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April

#### **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May

#### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

#### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

### School Term dates:

#### **School re-opens for Summer term!**

Wild Cats Girls Football Yr 1&2 lunchtime taster session

Easter Celebration Assembly 9.05

#### **School Closed – Easter**

#### **School Closed – Easter**

Wild Cats Girls Football Yr 3&4 lunchtime taster session

Foundation visit to Harrogate Flower Show

LitCraft Workshops – Amazon

Leeds Beckett Skipping Competition Finals - Zambezi

Foundation woodland walk with Leeds Ranger

Wild Cats Girls Football Yr 5&6 lunchtime taster session

#### **School Closed – May Bank Holiday**

Year 5 parents briefing 6.00pm- Ingleborough!

Year 6 SATS week

Danube visit to Stump Cross Caverns

Leeds Book Awards

Year 1 visit to Wildlife Park

Trust Sports Competition at Powerleague

Brownlee Triathlon at John Smeaton

#### **School Closes for half term**

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 3rd September 2018	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Half term: 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct– 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Christmas: 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec – 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Half term: 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb -24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	Spring: 30 <sup>th</sup> March – 14 <sup>th</sup> April
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Easter: 19 <sup>th</sup> April – 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2019	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019	May Bank Holiday: 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Half Term: 25 <sup>th</sup> May – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Summer begins: 25 <sup>th</sup> July

**Training Days:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July

### **School website**

Please remember that all the information you will need about school events etc. is on the school website. ALL LETTERS SENT HOME ARE LOADED ONTO THE PARENTS PAGE AND NEWSLETTER PAGE! Staff regularly update the school blogs and the **Parents** page has lots of useful links eg the parent e-safety page has lots of helpful information guides about how to set parental controls on different devices.



### **@WhiteLaithPS**

We now have a twitter page and are posting photos of our exciting learning, events, activities and learning. We hope parents will like it! We will also post some of our website blogs onto the twitter page.

If you want to follow us simply click the icon which is on the home page of our website.

### **Radio Aire – Cash for Kids Fund Raising – Thank you all!**

Thank you to all parents, children, staff and friends who worked so hard to make our fundraising a success. Special thanks to all parents who joined in with the Bubble Run and supported us by collecting sponsorship from family, friends and work colleagues. Our Family Games Night was a huge success – thanks especially to Mrs Elmes and Mrs Cawood for donating all the drinks and pizza and to parents who sent in cakes and biscuits. Thank you too to all parents who have bought raffle tickets, joined the auction or even bought tape to tape Mrs Driscoll to a board!

Thank you also to our fantastic year 4 singers who raised £1000 singing at Cross Gates and Tesco and our 'polite, charming and professional' year 6 bag-packers who raised £500 at Tesco!

In total we raised an amazing £5,216.60 plus an additional £2000 from Cash for Kids. We really didn't imagine that we would raise so much money.

We should also pass on a huge 'Thank you' to Zak's dad, Mr Stephenson, and all his team at Everlast who have so kindly donated materials including 2 new sheds, all the materials for our fencing and lots of materials we can recycle for our sensory path. They also provided and fitted the 'green roof' for the sheds – they are going to look fantastic when it starts to grow!

We have been very busy during the holidays clearing the overgrown wild-life area, installing the sheds and constructing the fencing for our Victory Garden. There is still lots to do – this is definitely a project that will evolve over the course of the next few years – but we've made a great start and we are looking forward to see our grounds blossom over the summer term.

### **Tesco Bags of Help – Blue Tokens**

Thank you all - I know lots of children have made every effort to ensure our box is full – we can't be beaten by the cats! Please keep donating – we have until the end of April.

### **Mothers Day Lunch**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Mother's Day Lunch. The atmosphere was great and the food was delicious!

### **Mother's Day Daffodils**

As always our Mother's Day Daffodil event was well received by shoppers at Tesco. We continue to do this every year because we believe that the children learn an important message doing it – a small act of kindness can make a big difference.

A member of Tesco Staff told us that an elderly lady had said, "If that's what the next generation are doing there's hope for us yet!"

I have also received lots of emails thanking us – here is one which I think sums them all up.  
*My name is Laura and today whilst doing my shopping a group of your staff and pupils was in Tesco's handing out flowers for Mother's Day. Now I have to say that this was one of the most thoughtful, kind and wonderful things I have seen in a while. Your staff was amazing, so pleasant and smiling and encouraging children to hand these flowers out. Your pupils was very excited to do this and so polite, you could literally see the joy in their eyes. I think this was an amazing idea and I have no doubt it put a smile on so many faces including my own, it really made my day. I just wanted to say what a credit the staff and pupils are to your school and thank you so much for this gesture of kindness.*

### **Reply Slips for trips, visits and events**

I am aware that there have been a lot of trips and visits recently so we have sent out more letters requiring replies than usual. Unfortunately we are spending longer and longer chasing slips and replies. Office staff always send reminder texts but this doesn't seem to be speeding the process up. Recently we have had to leave children behind at school and they have missed out simply because they didn't return the permission slip.

It is becoming quite frustrating and makes planning a visit difficult – chasing reply slips is the worst part of organising a visit!

Please do help by returning slips promptly and replying to any text messages – thank you.

### **Parking – Complaints from a resident**

Unfortunately I received a complaint from a resident of Naburn Drive complaining about inconsiderate and dangerous parking. She also complained about the attitude and manners of some of our parents. It is a while since I have received any complaints and I had hoped that we had resolved some of the ongoing parking issues. Please do take care when parking - thinking especially about the safety of all our children and parents. Please also, if approached by a resident, respond in a calm and polite manner.

### **Credit Union Savings Club**



Remember – collection day is Thursday – just bring your deposit to Ms Ashmore at playtime!

Ask at the office if you would like an application form.

### **Talking Tips**

Sing nursery rhymes and songs and do actions as you sing.

### **News from the Classes**

#### **Foundation**

This half term Foundation will be learning about 'Plants'. We will be planting and growing a wide variety of flowers, fruit, veg and herbs. Several things will be sent home for you to cultivate at home and share the results with us! We look forward to seeing photos of your growing at home. We will be reading lots of books about plants including: Jack and the Beanstalk, Jasper's Beanstalk, Oliver's Veg, Handa's Surprise and Supertato to name a few! Our artwork will be linked and includes Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers', William Morris Patterns and still life plant drawings.

Foundation 2 will be going on 3 trips (Harrogate Flower Show, Skelton Woods and Harlow Carr Gardens) - please look out for the separate information letter about these.

Foundation 2 - now is the time to really help your child to make their final steps of progress this year. Please increase the amount of times they read to you and ensure they always write a sentence in their homework. If you know your child struggles with handwriting then get them to practise writing one letter 20 times each day until they become confident - a, d, g and n, m are good ones to check on. Please ask if you have any questions.

### **Nile – Year 1**

This half term in Year 1, we will be continuing with our topic – ‘Why can’t a Meerkat live in the North Pole?’. In English we will be writing reports about Desert and Polar animals and recounts. In Maths we will be learning about multiplying and dividing and fractions. During Science lessons we will be naming different materials and finding out about their properties. In Art we will be looking at hot and cold colours and we will also be drawing Emperor Penguins in the style of Edward Wilson. In ICT we are going to be using ‘Pebble Go’ to learn more about polar animals which will help us to write our reports and we are going to be learning how to use flip cameras so that we can film our trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. We will also collect data from the class about our favourite Polar animals and then learn how to present this data on the computer. During Geography lessons we will find out where the places we are studying are on a world map and in History we will be finding out about the explorer, Scott of the Antarctic. In PSHE this half term, our mental health and emotional wellbeing topic will be ‘Feelings’ and our MindMate topic will be ‘Being the Same, Being Different’.

PE will continue to be on Monday and Tuesday. Children still need both indoor and outdoor PE kit in school at all times and trainers on PE days!

Please remember to keep reading every night and to practise the sound cards in your child’s sound packs daily. The Government Phonics Screening Test is fast approaching - Week beginning 10th June!

Our trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park will be on Tuesday 21st May. I will send more details about the trip nearer the time.

### **Yangtze**

This half term is a busy half term in Year 2. We will be taking our Year 2 SATs tests and will be showing what we have learnt in Key Stage 1. We will be starting our new topic ‘White Laith Wildlife.’

We will be exploring our wildlife garden and pond area. We will be hunting for mini-beasts and learning about their habitats. We will make our own ‘Bugs Hotels.’ We will be finding out about the life cycles of different mini-beasts and writing explanations. We will also be planting seeds and observing how they grow.

In maths we will be solving problems involving all four operations. We will be finding fractions of numbers and objects and will also be learning to tell the time.

In RE we will be thinking about the question ‘How and why do people pray?’ Our PSHE topic is Friendship and our MindMate topic is ‘Being the Same, being different’.

PE will be on Mondays and Tuesdays this half term. Your child needs PE kit for PE indoors and outdoors.

## **Danube**

This half term we will be finishing off our learning about India by tasting tea and other Indian food and making some delicious foods to try. We will continue to use 'The Jungle Book' for our reading, writing and grammar lessons. We will be writing descriptive pieces, recounts and persuasive texts and instructions.

In Maths we will continue to work on calculation with all 4 operations. We are learning about equivalent fractions, decimals and also adding and subtracting fractions. We will also be practicing 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables every day and key skills every week.

In science our question is 'What's beneath our feet?' (rocks, soils and fossils). We will find out more about this when we go underground ourselves at Stump Cross Caverns!

In PE we continue swimming lessons, on Wednesdays. We will also have a lesson with a gymnastic coach on Fridays.

Our R.E topic is 'How beliefs are expressed through art'. Our PSHE topic is S R E where we will be learning to recognise 'the strength we have and the challenges we face.' Our Mind Mate topic is 'Being the same and being different'.

We will also be singing and learning the songs for the Leeds Trinity University concert that we will be attending later on the summer term.

- Please ensure your child reads every night and completes their reading diary.
- Learning logs will be sent out on alternate Fridays to come back on Wednesday.
- Spellings will be sent home weekly to be learnt for a weekly test on Thursdays.

## **Zambezi**

This half term in Zambezi class we will be beginning our topic of Romans. Within our Roman topic, we will be asking the questions – Who was Julius Caesar? And Why did Hadrian build a wall? We will be finding out about how the Romans invaded many countries, what life was like as a Roman soldier, what the Romans invented that we still use today and creating our own Roman mosaics. We are hoping to have a visit to the Roman site 'Vindolanda' and Hadrian's wall at the end of the topic so look out for this letter. Last year we had a great time! In English and guided reading, we are reading the children's version of the Shakespeare play 'Julius Caesar' and we are lucky enough to have 4 drama workshops from the Blah's theatre company to go alongside this. Our writing this half term will link to the book and will include newspaper reports, discussion texts, persuasive writing and speeches from the book. In Maths we are continuing our work on fractions and decimals and beginning work on shape and angles.

In Science we will be finishing off our topic of humans and the digestive system by looking at types of teeth and how they help break down food in different ways before moving on to our next topic of sound. We will find out how sounds are made and how to change the pitch of sounds. We are also having a sound workshop in school where we will be shown all of these things practically with different materials and instruments.

In our PE sessions we will continue to practise our skipping skills and we have a session with the gymnastics coach on a Friday. Make sure you have full outdoor and indoor PE kit in school at all times.

In PSHE we will begin our SRE lessons where we will find out about how our bodies change as we get older and how to keep clean and healthy.

Another busy and exciting half term in Zambezi class. Keep working hard at home on your reading and make sure learning log homework is completed each week.

### **Amazon**

This half-term we are starting our topic 'What did we learn from the Ancient Egyptians'. We will be learning about who the Egyptians were; where they came from and what we learnt from them. As well as this we will be finding about tomb raiders and robbers; how to mummify and just how the Egyptians managed to move enormous pyramid stones. This links to our science topic which will be all about forces. In RE, we will be learning about 'what matter most to believers' and visiting a Mosque. In PSHE we will be studying Mindmate (stereotypes and being different) and borrowing and earning Money possibly with some visitors coming to talk to us from Lloyds bank. In PE, we will be working on our cognitive skills when playing the striking and fielding game of Cricket. We will also be attending a cricket competition at the end of the term.

- Please encourage your child to read at home and write a question linked to their reading each night
- Learning log homework is given on Fridays and should be back in school by Wednesday
- Spellings are given on Fridays and tested the following Friday
- PE is outdoor and indoor and will be on Tuesday and Wednesday.

### **Mississippi**

At the start of this half term we will continue revising for our SATs. The children have done an AMAZING job so far with their revision- I'm very proud of what they have achieved so far, as I'm sure you are too.

Our new topic 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 preparing for our end of year trip to Whitby by looking at the human and physical features of the seaside town.

In English, we will be reading and writing about Dracula. Our class novel will be 'Room 13' which is a spooky Vampire story. 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 learning about circles and how to use a compass. In Science, we will be learning about microorganisms, evolution and the circulatory system. In Spanish, we will continue to practise our numbers to 30 and will learn how to say dates. In PE we will have a cricket coach.

A few reminders:

- Please remember to read every night and remind your child to make a comment in their reading diary along with which pages they have read.
- Homework will be handed out on a Friday and is due in the following Wednesday. We will continue with our revision books until after SATs.
- We have PE on a Tuesday however this may change due to the weather so the children need to keep their PE kits in school

Many thanks for your continued support  
Mrs Sheerin