

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



May 2019 NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 1st May

Foundation woodland walk with Leeds Ranger
Wild Cats Girls Football Yr 5&6 lunchtime taster session

Monday 6th May

School Closed – May Bank Holiday

Wednesday 8th May

Year 5 parents briefing 6.00pm- Ingleborough!

Monday 13th May

Year 6 SATS week

Friday 17th May

Year 1 visit to Whinmoor library

Monday 20th May

Danube visit to Stump Cross Caverns

Tuesday 21st May

Leeds Book Awards

Wednesday 22nd May

Year 1 visit to Wildlife Park

Thursday 23rd May

Trust Sports Competition at Powerleague

Whole School Class photographs

Brownlee Triathlon at John Smeaton

Friday 24th May

School Closes for half term

Monday 3rd June

School re-opens for summer term

School Term dates:

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

Training Days: Monday 3rd September, Friday 16th November, Monday 22nd July, Tuesday 23rd July, Wednesday 24th 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.

A Note from the governors: Visit to year 4 Wednesday, 24th April.

I was privileged to spend time with Ms Potter and her class this Wednesday morning. As governors, we are encouraged to make visits around the priorities in the School Development Plan. My visit observed parts of **Priority 2**- embedding new approaches to reading and, improving the teaching of writing. During my visit, I also observed in relation to pupil well-being, which is **Priority 4** on our development plan, all children engaged enthusiastically at all stages in the lesson, working collaboratively with partners and their class group, listening attentively at all times, and being ready to respond to Ms Potter's questions. The children were obviously enjoying the child version of Julius Caesar they were reading, and, intrigued by Ms Potter saying they would be reading one speech in the original language of the book.

The classroom environment was child centred, uncluttered, well ordered and designed to promote learning by providing information and helpful prompts for the children. The learning walls were relevant to the areas of teaching/ learning being promoted currently, and the displays on them were clear and purposeful- they all had prompt questions to extend childrens' learning- eg the maths wall asking, 'How do you know you are right?, Is there another way of doing this?

The main part of the lesson was preparation for a piece of writing related to the class's new book, 'Julius Caesar.

It started with the children recounting parts of the story read yesterday. Careful listening to each other was evident from the fact that each child who contributed offered different aspects, thoughts about the story so far. The children were reminded of the kinds of questions that should be in their heads while reading - 'What questions', 'I wonder questions', 'It reminds me of... What to do if you break down and don't understand a part of it and to circle words not understood for work on later.

The children then shared with the class some of their I wonder questions eg I wonder why Julius Caesar is so grumpy because all the people have come out to cheer him?

Together with Ms Potter, the children then shared their observations about these questions. This was a good example of interpreting meanings in a text with evidence for your thinking, without there being right or wrong answers. The class then went on to share 'It reminds me of thoughts. . .' eg 'It reminds me of Antigone, there's an old man in that.' 'When I first saw the picture of Julius Caesar, Mr Twit came into my head.'

Words circled were then shared with the children being encouraged to draw on what they already know to work out possible meanings.

The childrens' attention was then drawn to a scroll on their tables. This was a letter from Amulus to his friend saying that he could not attend Caesar's procession into Rome, and

After School Clubs

Our After-School Clubs for this term are now up-and-running – my thanks to all the staff who give up their time to run them.

There was a lot of demand for some of the clubs which meant that some children did not get a place at the club they wanted. For this reason, it is really important that children who were given a place attend ALL the sessions – it is not fair if the children who did get a place then don't attend. Sticking at something is also a valuable life skill! Please put the dates on your calendar at home and remind your child each week.

Attendance – Thank you!

Well done Foundation! Our Reception class this year has the highest level of attendance we have ever recorded – brilliant. 98% for the year so far.

Our overall attendance is also on-track to meet our set target of 96.7% so thank you to all parents who are working hard to make sure your children are in school, on-time, every day. Please do keep it up during the summer term.

Foodbank Vouchers – Leeds East Food Bank

School has been regulated to distribute food bank vouchers since 2014 to families in need. Should you feel that you could make use of this service please contact the school office.

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

Encourage your child to take turns and wait for their turn. Play 'stop and go' games to develop attention and listening.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Sheerin