

A challenging and rewarding educational experience



November 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dates for your diary

Monday 6 th November	Book Week – Book Fair in school
Wednesday 8 th November	Whinmoor Library Lego Activities 4.00 – 5.00pm
Thursday 9 th November	Parents Consultation Evening 3.30pm – 7.00pm
Friday 10 th November	Dan-Ingham Brown – author visit to school
Tuesday 14 th November	Michael Rosen – author visit (Yr 1 and 4 -Cross Gates primary)
Wednesday 15 th November	Zambezi visit to Water Treatment Centre
Thursday 16 th November	Flu vaccinations – year 1,2,3,4
Friday 17 th November	World of Work Day – Amazon
Monday 20 th November	Sconce visit – Nile
Tuesday 28 th November	Grand Theatre visit and workshop – Mississippi
Friday 1 st December	Children in Need – Non Uniform school council to arrange
Wednesday 6 th December	Recycling Clothes Swap – Hall – 2.30 -3.30
Monday 11 th December	Yangtze visit to Railway museum
Tuesday 12 th December	Bags2school collection
Friday 15th December	Thackray Medical Museum – Mississippi
Tuesday 2nd January	Non-uniform – Bring-a-bottle
	Colour Fair – 5pm-6.30pm
	Christmas Performance 6.30pm-7.30pm
	Christmas Performance 2.00-m – 3.00pm and 6.30pm-7.30pm
	Assembly 'Round the Tree' 9.00am
	School Closes for Christmas break
	School Re-opens

School Term dates:

Schools open	Schools Close	Holiday
Monday 4 th September 2017	Friday 20 th October	Half term: 21st Oct– 29 th Oct
Monday 30 th October 2017	Friday 15 th December	Christmas: 16 th Dec – 1 st Jan
Tuesday 2 nd January 2018	Friday 9 th February	Half term: 10 th Feb -18 th Feb
Monday 19 th February 2018	Thursday 29 th March	Easter: 30 th March – 15 th April
Monday 16 th April 2018	Friday 4 th May	May Bank: 5 th May – 7 th May
Tuesday 8 th May 2018	Friday 25 th May	Half Term: 26 th May – 3 rd June
Monday 4 th June 2018	Wednesday 25 th July	Summer begins: 26 th July

Training Days : Monday 4th September, Monday 30th October, Monday 23rd July, Tuesday 24th July, Wednesday 25th July

Trust Big Book Week 6th – 10th November

BIG BOOK WEEK – READING DISPLAY – ‘Take Turns’ reading photos

To celebrate book week we would like to create a display of photos on the corridor (and on our website) of our children reading at home with adults.

You can be as creative as you like but we'd like photos of either:

- Child reading to adult
- Adult reading to child
- Adult and child reading together

Please send your photo to: headteacher@whitelaith.leeds.sch.uk

.....and then keep reading together at home every day! Many thanks

BIG BOOK WEEK – Library Activities

Mark, the librarian at Whinmoor library, is organising two special Library Lego events for us:

Monday 6th November – Whinmoor Library – 4pm-5pm

Tuesday 7th November – Seacroft Library – 4pm-5pm

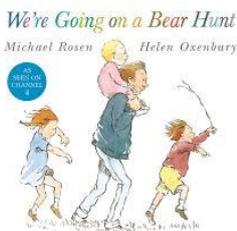
Put your master-builder skills to the test in a brand new set of Lego challenges. Design book covers, build scenes from your favourite stories and maybe even invent a Lego tale of your own!

BIG BOOK WEEK - Author Visits



'The writing is rich with atmosphere. Fans of Narnia books and Inkheart will love this read.'

And....



We are very excited about our Trust book week which we have planned with colleagues in our Trust.

I am really pleased to announce that on Thursday 9th November we have 2 authors visiting!

Dan Ingham-Brown

- author of the Firebird series will be visiting school to speak to KS2 children and selling and signing copies of his books.

MICHAEL ROSEN

-award-winning author of 'We're Going a Bear Hunt.'

Year 1 and Year 4 will be going to Cross Gates primary to meet Michael Rosen listen to a performance of We're Going on a Bear Hunt (yr 1) and some of his poetry (year 4).

Children will also be able to buy signed copies of his books

BIG BOOK WEEK – Book Fair 6th – 10th November

The Book Fair will be in school all week – just pop into the Hall at the end of the day to have a look at the books. The Book Fair will also be open during Parent Consultation evening on Wednesday.

Governor Update - Interview for EYFS second teacher 11th October 2017

I was privileged to be part of this recruitment process, which involved agreeing the advert, reading the application forms, and then with Mrs Sheerin and Mrs Driscoll drawing up a short list of candidates. Appointing staff to our school is one of the most important jobs we do, because in order to maintain and further develop the quality of our teaching and learning, and provide our children with the best possible start in life, we need first quality staff. In the end, we interviewed 4 candidates for this important post.

Each of the four candidates, first undertook a 15 minute phonic teaching session, with different groups of our reception age children. One candidate provided us with her lesson plan, which helped me understand her thinking around her lesson, its different stages and the way in which she planned its progression. It was interesting to see the different ways in which the candidates established a rapport with their group of children, the extent to which, and ways in which they involved the children in their activities, their questioning of the children and the quality of their feedback to them.

The children were all well behaved, and gave each candidate every opportunity to demonstrate their skills. In fact, all the candidates remarked on how well behaved they thought our children were, and how well they participated in their learning.

Each candidate was then interviewed with questions ranging across all key responsibilities of their prospective role- working as part of a team comprising Mrs Driscoll as the leader, and two nursery nurses plus TAs from within school; how they would help maintain the calm, purposeful teaching/ learning environment in EYFS; engage with parent/ carers to involve them in their childrens' learning; how they would assess learning and plan for next steps filling any gaps in a child's understanding or experience, work with a child exhibiting challenging behaviours; respond to a situation where a child had become unusually quiet but, quick to become upset or angry ; what each candidate would be expecting of the school and their colleagues were they to be successful etc

They were each also asked to reflect on their lesson, what they felt had gone well, what less well and what the next steps might be to progress the childrens' learning.

After careful discussion and consideration, a successful candidate was chosen, and, I look forward to welcoming her to our staff team.

Jenny Horton (School Governor)

Harvest Assembly – I can!

Thank you very much for all your kind donations. All items were gratefully received by St George's Crypt.

School Disco

Thank you to all children and parents who attended our school disco – thanks especially to parents who joined in the dancing. We raised £120 which will be used in our school fund to subsidise the cost of visits. My thanks to all the staff who worked hard to ensure it was a success.

Poppy Appeal and Children in Need

Next week (6th – 10th November) the school council will be selling Remembrance Day merchandise (50p or £1) with all proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal.

During the following week (13th – 17th November) the school council will be selling Children in Need wristbands (£1) – all proceeds to Children in Need.

Members of the school council will visit all classes during morning work time so if children wish to purchase any items they just need to bring their money into class in the morning. We have a limited number of items which will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis.

Parents Facebook Page

You may be aware that some parents are members of a Facebook page which they use to share information with each other. Some parents say that they find this useful. This is not a page set up by school and we do not have access to or control over the site.

Whilst we have no control or influence over the content I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about the appropriate use of the site and I have already had a discussion with the parent who manages the site to share my concerns.

Please be aware that lots of our children have access to Facebook and this term children have come to speak to me about the site– they have been upset and worried about some of the comments posted. The children asked if I could shut down the site! It is not appropriate to name children within this forum – please do not do it. I will be seeking legal advice if this continues.

Remember too – all the information you need is on our school website – look at the diary page, letters home, parents page or class pages.

Parents Consultation Evening – Wednesday 8th November

You should by now have received a letter about Parents evening - if you didn't it's on the website (letters home page). Please do make every effort to attend as it is a valuable opportunity to meet your child's teacher, look through books and talk about your child's progress and targets. As always there will be informative displays in the hall, the Book Fair, B4A bun sale and members of the Governing Body will be asking for feedback from you about our website and about the PSHE/SRE scheme we introduced last year. We look forward to seeing you then.

Year 2 parents have already met with Miss Presley so do not need to attend however you are more than welcome to pop into the hall to meet governors and visit the Book Fair.

We love Times Tables Rock Stars and Mathletics



Remember to keep using TTRocks and Mathletics at home every day.

Children need to be FAST and ACCURATE.

Check that you know your child's password and challenge them – you could even play against them! Are they faster than you?

Talking Tips

Talk to your child about actions (ie verbs), what things look like, feel like, taste like and sound like.

News from our classes

Foundation – Aire

This half term we are learning about 'Celebrations'. We have had a great week sharing the ways our families celebrate Halloween and bonfire night. We will be reading 'Funnybones' next week and doing themed craft and English activities. Over the coming weeks we will be learning about Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas. We will look at the ways families celebrate these special occasions, the food they eat, how they prepare for events and find out about customs. Look on our class page on the school website every couple of weeks for photos and updates of our learning!

Please keep reading with your child every night - now is a critical time to get all the children blending words. Remember to send in any observations of your child taking part in family occasions so we can add them to your child's learning profile.

Nile

This half term in Year one, we are continuing our 'What would Little Red Riding Hood find in the woods?' topic. We will be focusing on learning about different woodland animals and birds and being able to label the different parts of the animals/birds bodies. During our Literacy lessons we will be writing traditional stories and information texts about woodland animals. Our class novel this half term is going to be 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl. During Maths lessons we will be focusing on addition and subtraction, shape and place value to twenty. In Design Technology we are going to be baking biscuits for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her Grandma and we will also be selling them at the Christmas Colour Fair. In Art we will be creating woodland animals made out of clay and we will be looking at the art work of Andy Goldsworthy. Our topic in PSHE this half term is Keeping Safe and Managing Risk: Feeling Safe.

PE will be on Monday (Gymnastics) and Tuesday this half term. **Could you please make sure that your child has indoor AND outdoor PE kit in school at all times and trainers on Monday and Tuesday!**

Please keep reading at home every night and practising the words and sounds in your child's word/sound pack.

Yangtze

This half term we will be answering the question 'How did George Stephenson change lives?' We will be visiting The National Railway Museum where we will look at different types of trains and how they have changed through time. In Science we will continue to investigate different materials and their properties, which will lead us onto our Design Technology focus to make a train. In English we will continue to improve our skills when writing non-chronological reports and begin to write short narratives linked to a variety of books. We will be looking at lots of non-fiction books and also reading 'The Polar Express' in the lead up to Christmas.

In Maths we will be focusing on addition and subtraction which will include lots of challenges to strengthen our skills. We will continue to use our number bonds to help us calculate. We will also be looking at measure, which will include lots of practical activities to help our understanding. Our RE topic is how can we make good choices? In Art we will be painting our own trains and adding as much detail as we can. Our PSHE topic is 'Getting on and falling out.' The weekly spelling test will take place on Thursdays. Children will also complete a Grammar Hammer challenge each week. PE will be on Tuesdays with a focus on games skills.

Danube

I hope you all had a wonderful break. This half term we will continue our topic on rainforests, this time thinking about the history of the rainforest and the people who live there with a focus on the Mayans. In English, we will be looking at the work of Anthony Browne the author. We will read many of his books and then will write our own e-book version of Anthony's book 'Voices in the Park'. In Science, this half term we will be looking at the life-cycle of plants and discovering how Mrs. Sheerin's raspberries grew from seeds! Thank you for your continued support we had a fantastic first half-term!

- Please remember to read every night and remind your child to make a comment in their reading diary each night. Once a week children need to complete one of the activities listed on the right hand side of their reading diary. Well done to the children who have done this every week so far! Learning log homework is given on a Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. Spelling tests are on Fridays.
- Please remember to bring a coat and jumper to school each day as well as outdoor and indoor PE kits for Wednesday and Thursday.
- Don't forget you can also log onto athletics, tt rock stars and purple mash to support you in your maths learning.
- Keep an eye on our class page on the website to see what we've been up to.

Zambezi

This half term we will continue our topic of 'Water'. Our focus will change to how access to water is different in other countries and look at some geographical aspects such as flooding and drought and considering the advantages and disadvantages of building a settlement near to a river. We will be continuing to link this to our science topic of 'Solids, Liquids and Gases' where we will be experimenting how these can change state through heating and cooling and finding out about the

water cycle. We will be visiting the Headingley water treatment centre to find out how water is cleaned and gets to our homes.

In maths we are learning to use written methods for addition and subtraction and using these strategies to solve a range of problems. We will also be learning to find the perimeter and area of a shape and then developing our multiplication and division skills. In our times tables rock stars sessions in class we will continue to work on our 3, 4 and 8 times table so focus on these ones at home. Please also continue to use Mathletics at home to practise your skills too! Zambezi are currently the top of the leader board in school because we have used it the most- we intend to keep it that way!

In Literacy and guided reading we will be reading texts linked to our water topic. We have just finished reading 'The water tower' and we really enjoyed it. Our next texts are 'A thirst for Home' and 'Lila and the secret of the rain'. We will develop our writing skills by writing our own descriptions, reports, stories, diary entries and newspaper articles. We will have a spelling session in class every day and our test will be on a Friday, look out for the spellings to practise, they will be stuck in reading diaries.

Zambezi will continue their swimming lessons on a Wednesday up until Christmas – we have increased the session-time to an hour and our aim is to have every child in class achieving at least 25 metres! We can do it! Our other PE day will be Monday. Please make sure that both indoor and outdoor PE kits are in school for the whole week.

In PSHE we are just finishing our topic of 'Democracy' where we have been finding out about how our county is run. We will soon be moving on to our next topic of 'Drug, alcohol and tobacco education'. We will be finding out about the effects of alcohol and smoking on the body and considering why some people would choose to take these drugs.

Amazon

This half term we are continuing our exciting topic 'Ancient Egypt'. We will learn all about the 'Pyramid of power' (the people who supported the Pharaoh), the gods and we will be making our own Canopic jars. We will be celebrating the end of our topic with an 'Egyptian day' where we will dress as an Egyptian and sample some Egyptian food.

In guided reading, we are reading the classic novel 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis and this book will inspire our writing. We will be writing biographies, descriptive pieces, diary entries, persuasive letters and adverts. We will continue to work on grammar and punctuation. We will have a short spelling lesson every day.

In numeracy we will be working on statistics (graphs tables and charts) multiplication and division and calculating area and perimeter. We will continue to improve our speed and accuracy with times tables. In PE we will be doing gymnastics with a coach on Fridays. Please ensure you have your kit in school at all times so we can be flexible with a second lesson and take advantage of good weather. In science our topic continues to be 'Properties and changes of materials', we will be conducting lots of practical investigations to enhance our understanding of scientific concepts. In music we will be practising our singing for our exciting trip to Young Voices in January.

Our PSHE topic is "identity, society and equality" we will talk about stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice (including tackling homophobia)

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

Mississippi

This half term we will be continuing with our Victorians topic. After our trip to the Thackray Museum, we will start by looking at Victorian inventions. Then we will go on to find out about the jobs that the Victorians did, in particular children. We will finish by looking at how the Victorians celebrated

Christmas and will continue to look at the work of William Morris. I will post some of our printing masterpieces on our class page so please do keep looking!

In English, we will finish Oliver Twist where we will write a description of one of the main characters. When we finish reading Oliver, we will start Street Child. We will write newspaper reports, stories and find out lots of information about famous Victorians such as Dr Barnardo.

In Maths we will start with long division. Then, as we become more confident, we will move onto fractions. 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 be learning about Light and Shadows.

In PE, we will have a coach to teach us gymnastics.

Learning logs will be handed out on a Friday and will be collected in on a Wednesday. I will send home extra maths/grammar/spellings homework.

Please make sure that your child reads every night and please ask them about what they have read.

Many thanks for your continued support

Mrs Sheerin
Head teacher