



Whittonstall and Broomley First Schools
Weekly Newsletter
11th February 2022



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Our overall attendance this week was

91.82%

Well done everyone for a much improved attendance figure!

HEAD TEACHER'S MESSAGE: We have had a wonderful computing week in school this week, around online safety and in connection with Safer Internet Day 2022. We all know how hard it is to keep our children safe in the online world, but there are things we can do to help and ways we can empower the children to make sensible choices of their own. As parents our job is getting harder, the rise in availability of devices, development of apps and the increase in accessibility of the online world, feels like it builds on a daily basis. Mr Moore, our Computing lead, has put some helpful notes and websites into this newsletter that will help you to support the message about staying safe online at home. He is planning to run some workshops for parents in the summer term too, so we would love some feedback through our online survey to see what you feel would be most beneficial for you and your child.

On a different note this week has also been Children's Mental Health week, a hugely important week where we have talked to the children about their well being and discussed ways to support both ourselves and each other. The children have done lots of work around feelings and recognising that a range of feelings are perfectly normal for all humans, it's how we process and recognise those feelings that is the key sometimes! Mrs Howe, our deputy head, is currently training as a Mental Health Lead through the government's Designated Senior Mental Health Lead Programme and has updated our website with a page of useful websites, top tips and help lines that are available for you as parents and for the children. More information can be found below.

Next week is the final week of the half term and we have lots of lovely things planned, - look out for your child bringing home their world book day t-shirt to decorate over the holidays too! Do have a lovely weekend, and we are looking forward to seeing many of the children tonight for our Valentine's disco to end the school week in style.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK:



Kid Awesome - Stars of the Week:

Nursery Bucket Filler of the Week: Bertie Anderson Scott for being a fab story writer this week!

Reception: Harvey Stokoe for being a helpful friend to others.

Class 2: Alba Moore-Quigley for awesome independent writing in English - a fantastic space story!!

Class 3: Henry Forster for excellent creative writing

Sophie Elliot for a huge improvement in maths - well done!

SCHOOL UPDATES



Parental Workshops: Over the summer term we are hoping to run some fun workshops for parents and carers around the curriculum, wellbeing and child development. In order for us to make this as successful as possible we would really appreciate your input. There is a link below to a google form with a few simple questions, it should only take 5 minutes to complete and your help is very much appreciated, thank you in advance.

<https://forms.gle/rorYEQiezQ9bwu5f9>



Children's Mental Health Week:

This week has been a national Children's Mental Health Week for children across the country. In our school we have talked about how important it is to look after ourselves, by getting a good night's sleep, eating well and talking about our feelings and how to deal with them. In school we teach the children that anger, anxiety and happiness are

all normal human feelings, but it's sometimes how we respond to those feelings that becomes a bit tricky! Our website has been updated this week with a new section under Key Information, called Supporting Children and Families Emotional Wellbeing. On this page there are key links and websites for you as a family to explore that provide some great information around supporting your child at home, and also supporting yourself as a parent.

We plan on developing our provision further over the rest of the year and welcome all ideas - so please do get in touch if you have any ideas or questions.

Design Your Own Crown Competition:

We are pleased to announce the winners of the crown competition, thank you to all of you who took part. There were so many fantastic creations. -



Nursery- Ellie Davie-Trigg

Reception- Holly Blackley

Year 1- Sonny Barker

Year 2- Ben Clarke

Year 3- Jenson Bewley

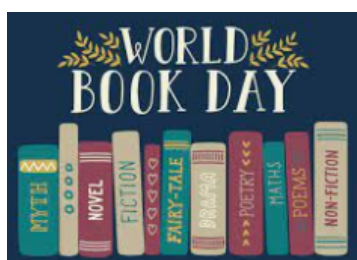
Year 4- Dacey- Faith Jenkins



Cake Stall: Wow!- We raised a fantastic £168.00 from our cake stall for the charity Epilepsy Support. Thanks to all of you for donating the delicious cakes and to those of you who bought them to support this very worthwhile charity.



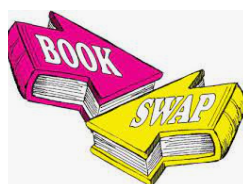
VALENTINE'S DISCO: The children are all very excited for their disco tonight after school- just a reminder that pick up time is 5.00pm from the main school entrance.



WORLD BOOK DAY - FRIDAY 4th MARCH:

We are doing something a little bit different this world book day. Instead of asking the children to come dressed in fancy dress costumes, each child will be provided with a plain white T-Shirt which they will bring home and which we would like them to decorate using the theme of 'My Favourite Book'. This might take the

form of drawing the front cover of the book or a scene or character from it. They can decorate the t-shirt using whatever medium they would like - pens, paint, material etc. We are hoping to send the T-shirts home before half term so that you have plenty of time to get the creative juices flowing!



We would also like to have a book swap on the day. Children will be encouraged to bring in a book from home that they have enjoyed and which they would now like to donate to their friends. Each child will receive another book in place of the one they have given. Books can be sent into school from Monday 28th February - please send

just one book per child.

To round off the day, we will be having a buddy story telling afternoon including a buddy book quiz.

SCHOOL WEBSITE PHOTOS: We have a photographer coming to school next week to take some images for our school website. If you would not like your child to be in these images please let the school office know. The school website is <https://whittonstall.eschools.co.uk/web> if you would like to visit it over the next few weeks to see the new images of our school.



SAFER INTERNET DAY:

This week, all classes have spent some time discussing staying safe online. Tuesday was Safer Internet Day and at Broomley and Whittonstall we began the day with a whole school assembly, focusing on the games some of us play online and how we interact with others. The theme of this year's SID was "All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online." With this in mind I would like to share two helpful websites with you -

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/> - this website is useful for checking age-related advice for games, films and tv programmes. It's a quick and easy way of ensuring your children are seeing age-appropriate content.

<https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/parental-controls-and-filtering> - although this information is from Vodafone it covers many aspects of parental guidance and controls across a range of devices and platforms. Very helpful as a quick guide when you want to ensure the tablet/computer your child is using has the correct restrictions for their age group.

If you do want to start a conversation with your child about staying safe online and knowing what to do if something goes wrong, please do get in touch with school and I will happily meet with you to discuss ideas.

Mr Moore (Computing lead)

THINGS TO DO IN HALF TERM:

Half Term Family Bike Rides 21 – 25 Feb

As much as we love teaching children to cycle with confidence, it doesn't stop there. If families don't cycle, children don't cycle. We are proud to be delivering Family cycle training for free with funding from our partners Cycle UK.

You will receive a 3 hour package split down to a 1 hour session when we look at your skills and how to shepherd and snake. We will look at very basic mechanics to make sure the bike is serviceable and safe to ride on. Then we will take you on short journey around Cramlington using the various cycle trails and minor roads. This should last about 2 hours but your in charge and if the adults have had enough and get tired we can shorten the journey and get you back to the start in no time at all.

Cramlington Learning Village 0900 – 1200 or 1245 – 3.45

Each session has 1 instructor to a family of up to 6 Cost - FREE



To book a session contact us on marc@thecyclepartnership.co.uk or look at the website www.thecyclepartnership.co.uk

All instructors are fully DBS and First Aid Trained and fully insured

DIARY DATES

- Friday 11th February Valentine's disco 5 pm pick up from main entrance
- Friday 18th February School Closes for half term
- Monday 28th February School reopens for Spring term 2
- Friday 4th March World Book Day
- W/C 7th March STEM Week - more information to follow
- W/C 7th March Parents' Evenings - class dates and times to be confirmed and more information to follow shortly about booking appointment slots
- Friday 18th March Comic Relief Red Nose Day - more information to follow. We will be selling red noses in the run up to red nose day
- Mon 21st - Fri 27th March Neurodiversity Week - celebrating learning differences and the strengths and talents that come from thinking and perceiving the world differently
- Friday 8th April School closes for Easter holidays
- Monday 25th April School reopens for Summer term

On behalf of staff and governors may I wish you all a lovely weekend, take care and stay safe.

Mrs Barker

Executive Head Teacher