



November Newsletter

Friday 25th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a really positive start to the new term and we have already celebrated learning in two wonderful assemblies; Year 6 led a Remembrance Day assembly on 11th November and the children in Year 4 gave a very confident performance when showcasing their learning about Romans in an assembly too.

Thank you to all the parents who supported the children with learning their lines and to those who managed to attend: it was really lovely to see you all.

As we whizz towards Christmas, we will be looking forward to the Reception children performing their Nativity (always a highlight), Christmas Carols and Christmas dinner.

The children are working hard in class and showing huge progress with their learning. Year group learning updates and pictures are below.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Louise Moretta
Headteacher



Dates for the Diary

Christmas Lunch: 14th December 2022

Christmas Jumper Day: 14th December 2022

Reception Nativity: 12th December at 2:15am and 13th December 9:15am

Last Day of Term: Friday 16th December (Finish at 1:15pm)

Spring Term: Children to return on Wednesday 4th January 2023



Positive Playtimes

As many parents are aware, since returning to school in November, we have been trialling a different playtime schedule for the children in Key Stage 2. After observing some challenges during the first term, we have been trialling separate playtimes and lunchtimes for the children in years 3 and 4 to those in years 5 and 6. We have also reduced the lunchtime to 45 minutes, from one hour, as we observed many children struggling make positive choices for such a long period of unstructured play.

We have spoken to both staff and children and this is working well; there are fewer incidences of poor behaviour and the reduced number of children on the playground means staff can provide a wider range of games and equipment.

I would like to reassure you that children all have as much time as they need to eat their lunch before going out to play.

Staffing

From January 2023 there will be a couple of staffing changes. Mrs Blewett will be leaving Whipton Barton to begin another teaching position. Mrs Blewett has worked at Whipton for 20 years and has been an integral part of the team. As she embraces this next adventure we would like to take the opportunity to wish her well with her new job.

We will also be saying goodbye to our SENCo, Miss Hirst as she moves on to her next adventure. Mrs Williams, our Assistant Headteacher will be taking on the role of SENCo from January and is already working with Miss Hirst to ensure a smooth transition for our children and families.

A message from Miss Hirst is below:



"I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to your children who have been a joy to work with. The past 5 years at the school has given me many memories that I will treasure. Whipton is a very rewarding community to work in and I will miss being part of it. I leave in the knowledge that the SENCo post is in safe hands and Mrs. Williams and myself are currently working on the handover to ensure your children continue to have a bright future."

House Points and Positive Behaviour Policy

This academic year we have made some small changes to our Positive Behaviour Policy to provide more clarity and ensure there is a higher level of consistency.

New this year, is the introduction of 'Houses' – it will have already been communicated whether your child is in Saxon House (Yellow), Roman House (Blue), Viking House (Red) or Victorian House Green). If you are not sure, please pop into reception and ask.

Children will continue to earn Dojo's for their academic learning and will receive house points for positive behaviour, great teamwork, excellent manners, etc.

If you would like to view our updated policy, please click [here](#).

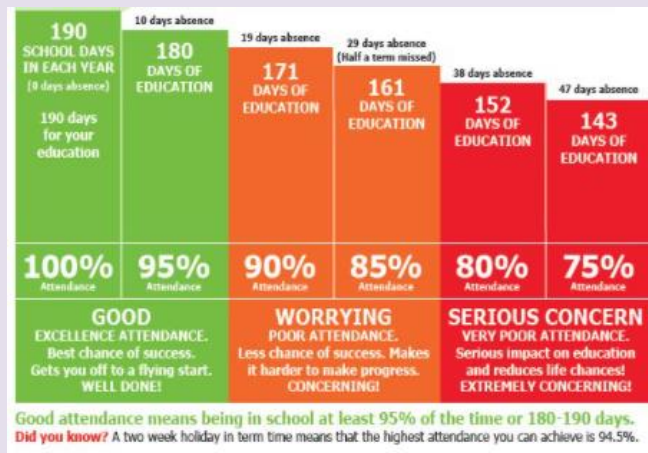


Attendance

We really look forward to seeing your child at school every day and have the highest ambitions for them to achieve and be successful. We know that children with higher attendance are more likely to do better academically and have the best possible start in life.

Children attend school for 190 days each year which means there are **175 days** of the year where children do not attend school. We strongly encourage parents to book routine appointments and holidays during that time to ensure children are getting the best possible education. We are unable to authorise holidays or some appointments during school term time.

If you are struggling and would like extra support, please do get in touch with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or our Attendance Officer (Natasha Begam).



SEND Corner

Speech and Language is one of the greatest areas of Special Educational need (SEN) we see in children at Whipton. Supporting children to learn early language is so important and begins as soon as a baby is born. This image below from 'I Can,' the Speech and Language charity, gives some top tips for developing children's language at home.

At Whipton Barton we assess every child's Speech and Language as they enter our Nursery, Pre-school and Reception classes. Teachers will talk to you if they are concerned about your child's speech and language development and they may suggest a referral for a Speech and Language assessment by a qualified S&L therapist.

If you are concerned about your child's speech, language or understanding please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance and we will work with you to provide them with support.

i can helps children communicate

First words

Talk to your child using the language you would naturally use at home. If your child is not doing what is shown for their age, look for help: talk to your health visitor, GP or contact your local speech and language therapist directly. For advice and further information, visit: www.talkingpoint.org.uk

6 months	1 year	18 months	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Baby watches your face when you talk to them close up- They are playing with sounds. You hear noises like, "baabab"- Startling to understand words that you use a lot, such as "Bye bye" and "Milk"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Baby will be using simple words anytime now- The new words they use will not sound like adult words yet- They can do what you ask them when you use simple sentences, "Give it to mummy."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Toddlers will now start to join words together, "Teddy gone"- They can find things that you ask for - pictures in books or toys in the room- When your toddler looks to you, help them by reflecting back what you understand. Them: "Cat." You: "Yes, the cat's sleeping"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Children now understand longer sentences, "Your shoes are upstairs"- Starting to use lists of single words (up to 200), building short 2 to 4 word sentences- They are using and understanding new words every day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sentences used get longer and more complicated, "I'm going to Nana's and I'm gonna get a toy car"- Children still find some word sounds difficult (e, r, w, l, y, t, th, s, sh, ch, j)- Children may stumble over their words and sentences. This is expected at this age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- People who haven't met your child before will be able to understand their words- Children are asking lots of questions, especially "Why?" questions- They can talk about things they have done and will do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Children can now easily turn their attention to you, even if they are playing- They will understand longer and more complicated sentences, "Find the orange and black pens"- Most adult word sounds are now used
<p>Top Tip Talk to Baby when doing things together - changing nappies, feeding or taking them out</p>	<p>Top Tip Help Baby to listen by turning off the TV when you talk and play with them</p>	<p>Top Tip If your toddler is not using any words or if they don't seem to understand you, look for help</p>	<p>Top Tip Help to develop word sounds by repeating your child's words back. Them: "Dad." You: "Yes, it's a dog"</p>	<p>Top Tip Give your child plenty of time to speak. Don't draw their attention to any difficulties they seem to have</p>	<p>Top Tip Comment on what your child is doing rather than asking them lots of questions</p>	<p>Top Tip Look for help if people cannot understand your child, or if your child understands or uses only simple words and sentences</p>

Online Safety

As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online.

You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. There is plenty of advice and resources to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

Tablets are a common device used by adults and children of all ages. Follow the tips below to support your child with staying safe whilst enjoying their tablet.



Talk with your child about responsible use of their tablet

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use it for and look at the possible risks. Tell your child what they should do if something goes wrong while using it. This could be to turn off the screen and tell an adult.



Think about the location of the tablet

Will it be in a shared family space or in a bedroom? Where will the tablet charge overnight? Think about: setting time limits; reminding your child about the risks of communicating online with people that they do not know; and encouraging them to come to you with any worries.



Explore parental controls

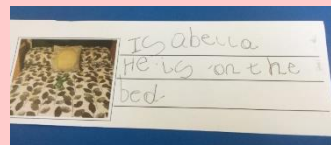
Take a look at the controls available both on the tablet itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.



Nursery: This half term Picasso class have been learning about celebrations. We have been thinking about how people celebrate Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas. The children have enjoyed sensory experiences such as scooping out pumpkins and cooking/eating them. The children really enjoyed making pretend potions for Halloween and we heard many children making use of story language from one of our class books, 'Room on the Broom,' when in the witches' roleplay! In maths children have been learning about shapes and we have been focusing on triangles and circles. The children have enjoyed going on shape hunts to spot these shapes in our environment.



Reception: We have been looking at our 'Super Heroes' topic through books such as Super Daisy, Super Duck and Zippo the Super Hippo. This has inspired some great artwork where the children have learnt to draw Super Daisy and hippos. We have also made kites like Super Duck had in his story. In PE we have been learning a variety of balances and continuing to explore the outside area. Fred is still helping us to learn new sounds and we are now starting to write our own words and sentences too.



We have also talked about Remembrance Day and the importance of fundraising for Children in Need and this led to some independent artwork.



Year 1: In Science we have been learning all about who we are, we have explored the 5 senses – this even involved smelling some strange things and tasting food.



In Music we have been learning about Pulse and Rhythm, we have been listening to a variety of music and have used instruments to keep the beat of the music. We had to listen really carefully to identify the drums and 'clicking' in some of the songs to make sure we were in time. In PE, we have been so lucky to have the Exeter Chiefs teaching us tag rugby. We have learnt lots of different skills; we are learning to work as a team and are having loads of fun whilst doing it!



Year 2 have been busy developing their extended writing using a fantasy story theme. We have



worked with the book 'Daisy Doodles' to write a story about an imaginary world full of drawings and doodles and their stories are full of amazing and awesome alliterations. We have also had fun exploring simple sliding mechanisms in Design and Technology as we work towards designing and making a Christmas card with a simple mechanism. In Science, we have been exploring micro-habitats and the mini worlds beneath our feet as well as discussing things that are living, once lived but are now dead, and things that have never lived. Our Geography learning has been taking the children around the seven continents and the five oceans of the world so test your child's knowledge on this topic.

Year 3: Children have been practising multiplying by 3 in Maths; in Geography they are comparing a village and a town in East Devon (Exmouth and Otterton) and they are designing and making their own pneumatic system in DT.



Year 4 have been working towards creating a piece of writing about a journey through different landscapes, using prepositional phrases and powerful verbs. First, they explored a journey on a river and then through a forest, where they produced some amazing pieces of writing. Towards the end of this week, we began to plan a very exciting train journey that will carry us through various landscapes throughout the UK. In Maths, we have just finished addition and subtraction and the children have worked so hard to perfect their formal method! Well done Year 4.



Year 5 have been super busy already this term. Highlights so far have been: designing and creating prototypes for water filters in D&T; in geography we are studying 'Slums'; we are delving into debates around how our world was created (science Vs genesis) in RE and enjoying curriculum enrichment

opportunities such as a trip to another of our Trust Primary Schools, Marine Academy in Plymouth. Children were lucky enough to listen to Professor Lee Elliot Major's inspirational views on how to be our best and most successful selves. "No matter who or where you come from, you can be whoever you set your mind to be."

Year 6 - over the past few weeks we have been studying the historical tale of Beowulf. We have used this to create our own narratives based on this exciting adventure. Alongside this, we have been delving into the world of fractions; adding, and subtracting mixed numbers and using these skills for problem solving. Starting our Science unit of "Classifying Critters" we have learnt about microbes and how they can be both good and bad – even learning about how the small pox vaccination was created! Year 6 worked hard on creating and delivering their Remembrance Assembly, which gave them valuable insight into the brave and selfless work our Armed Forces have done for us over the years.

