



Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we are now at the end of the Autumn Term, it has flown by! We would like to thank you all for your support this term – working together not only makes our school community a better place but it also helps our children to become active citizens that show empathy, tolerance and respect to others.

This week we have seen our Reception children perform their Nativity. They were so confident and sang their songs so beautifully – this is always a highlight of our school year! We have also celebrated our subject 'super stars' in an assembly this week and finished the term with class DVD treats.

Please keep reading to see the learning updates from your child's year group below.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Wednesday 4th January**.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Louise Moretta  
Headteacher

## NOTICES

- Please can I remind parents that smoking and vaping is prohibited on the school site and at the entrance to the school.
- School is open from 8:30am and bagels are available in the Junior hall for any child that would like them. Even if your child does not want a bagel, they are welcome to arrive from 8:30am.
- Football and other ball games are not allowed on the playground before school – we have lots of young children on site and they can get hurt if children are playing football at this time. Thank you very much for supporting us with keeping our school community safe.



### School Review

At the end of November, we had a school review which was led by a qualified Ofsted inspector and a range of senior leaders from other schools.

We were delighted that they recognised the high-quality curriculum offer that is in place for the children at Whipton Barton Federation. They reported that the behaviour was much improved across the school and that the children feel safe and happy. They observed teaching in Maths, Reading, Geography, Science and PSHE and spoke to children from these lessons as well as looking at their work.

Reviewers reported that the children are accessing a curriculum that is challenging, ambitious and enriching. There were strengths in the early years, the teaching of reading, Maths and our PSHE curriculum which we were delighted to see highlighted as we have been working hard to develop teaching and learning in these areas. They also recognised the fantastic manners shown by our children – we are so proud of the way our pupils present themselves to visitors!



As we move into the Spring Term, our focus is to continue improving our curriculum to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and ensure they are making excellent progress. We will continue to update you with the progress we are making on our school improvement priorities.

### **Staffing**

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Blewett and Ms Hirst as they move on to their next challenges. We would also like to wish Mrs Bomby the very best of luck as she begins her maternity leave – we look forward to hearing her baby news very soon!

### **Mrs Rose**

We would like to welcome Mrs Hannah Rose to our Leadership Team as an Associate Senior Leader. Mrs Rose will be joining us over the next two terms whilst Mrs Bomby is on maternity leave, and as a qualified SENDCo she will also be working alongside Mrs Williams to develop our provision in school for children with special educational needs.

### **Miss Bamford**

We would also like to welcome Miss Bamford to Year 6. This is Miss Bamford's fourth year working within the Ted Wragg Trust and she an experienced Key Stage 2 Teacher.

### **Uniform Policy**

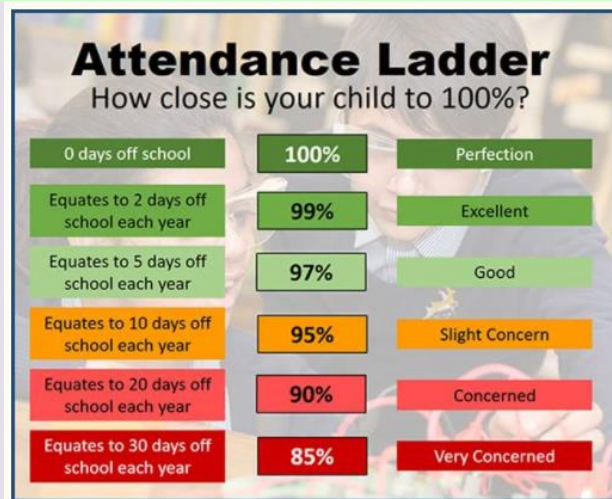
As your children continue to grow rapidly, please ensure any uniform is replaced with one that adheres to the uniform policy.

Children should wear grey skirts, trousers, culottes or dresses, a white polo shirt and a blue sweatshirt with a Whipton logo. Please note that leggings are not permitted. We understand that many people have bought jumpers without a logo for this academic year and will not ask for these to be replaced – we are currently looking at ways to financially support families with replacing jumpers and hope to communicate this in the new year. For PE, children should wear a plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms.



All hair that is shoulder length and below must be tied back and headbands should be plain.

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



In Reception and Year 1, children learn a new sound every day in phonics. If your child is absent for a week, they will have lost out on a significant part of their phonics teaching and will take longer to progress with their reading. This impacts all of their learning in other curriculum subjects too. It is

important that children don't miss out on their learning so please send them into school, even with a cold – children often 'perk up' when in school and we will always call you if they are unwell.

### SEND Corner



I'm really excited to be introducing myself in my new role as SENDCo and Inclusion Lead. I've worked at Whipton Barton for 6 years as Early Years Lead and Assistant Head and am passionate about providing all children with an excellent education that will allow them to have a range of life choices. I am keen to work collaboratively with our families and staff to support children with SEND to be successful and to make the most of their talents and interests.

Over the next term, I am aiming to get to know all of our children with SEND. I will spend time with them in class, read all of their paperwork and meet with families to gain a better understanding of how we can work together effectively. I will be contacting parents of children with SEND in the new year to arrange an initial meeting.



Please be patient with me as I get to grips with my new role and learn everything there is to know about your children! I am available via email at [sendco@whiptonbarton.org](mailto:sendco@whiptonbarton.org) and I will get back to you as soon as I possibly can.

### Online Safety

Many children will be receiving new electronics and consoles and/or spending more time online over the holiday. Please don't forget to discuss some simple rules with your child to help them stay safe online – we also urge you to discuss how to play kindly with friends online as we often find children will behave in a way that is uncharacteristic when they are not visible on screen. Online bullying causes the same level of emotional harm as it does in person.



**Our eSafety Top Tips!**

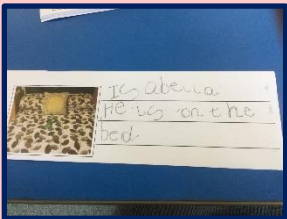
- 1** People you don't know are strangers. They're not always who they say they are. 
- 2** Be nice to people like you would on the playground. 
- 3** Keep your personal information private. 
- 4** If you ever get that 'uh oh' feeling, tell a grown-up you trust. 



**Nursery:** Picasso Class - In the last few weeks we have been fascinated to discover which objects float and which objects sink. We also made some boats in the hope these would float and most of them did! In art we have been inspired by Herni Matisse's artwork of "The Snail" and thought ripping up different coloured pieces of paper to create our own pictures was lots of fun. In Maths we are becoming more confident with subitising to three (using our eyes to say how many are in the group without counting them) and enjoyed drawing around the counters to practise our skills.



**Reception:** The second half of the Autumn term has been busy in Reception with more Super Heroes and preparation for the Christmas nativity. To finish our Super Heroes topic we enjoyed the 'Supertato' stories and met Evil Pea who had been busy freezing things! We learnt about freezing and melting to help rescue the vegetables!



We can now make our own books too using treasury tags and the hole punches. This is great fun and we persevered even when it was quite fiddly and we got there! We have also been learning the Christmas Story.



The local vicar came in to visit us too; we asked him all our questions to find out more about Jesus and the meaning of Christmas. In Maths we have been learning about number bonds to 5, continuing with our 1 more and 1 less and using positional language to describe where objects are. It has been a busy term but we have worked hard and enjoyed performing 'Christmas Eve in the Toy Shop' to everyone in school, and our grown-ups too!



In **Year 1** we have been exploring many ways we can catch Santa and have written letters to share these ideas. We suggested rolling him in wrapping paper, luring him with candy canes and scattering sparkly baubles. In Geography, we finished our topic off by following a map of the Infant school, this led us to finding 9 reindeer in various places around the school.



**Year 2** have been very busy! In English, we've been learning about animals in order to develop our non-fiction research skills and by the end of this week we'll have written a fun-filled fact file.

In Maths, we have been working hard on exploring the properties of both 2D and 3D shapes. We have been learning about the Jewish faith in RE and designing a mezuzah themed 'special box.' A mezuzah is a small box that is placed on the right doorpost of Jewish homes. Inside the box is a parchment scroll with verses from the Torah inscribed on it.

Recently, we had a special visit from Mr Gillard (St. Luke's teacher) where we had a wonderful Maths based PE lesson.



**Year 3** have loved using all of the gymnastic apparatus in their final lesson this week to play 'The floor is lava!' They retrieved treasure from the equipment in teams to earn points without putting their feet on the floor!

Design and Technology lessons have been spent completing their moving monsters, which look amazing now that they are finished.



As inspiration for the setting of our story in English, we went out on a frosty walk into our forest area to record things that we could see, hear, smell, touch and feel. We look forward to reading their amazing stories at the end of the week!



**Year 4** have been busy going on many metaphorical journeys in English, this has included a river, through a forest, a train to the highlands and now finally a trip all the way to the Arctic. They have been using their knowledge of sentence structure to beautifully describe all of the locations they have visited and what they have seen along the way.

The Legend of Spud Murphy has been our reading for part of this term where the children have been learning about the mean librarian Mrs 'Spud' Murphy; they have been practicing their fluency and expression while reading and using this knowledge of the book to answer questions.

Children have been learning about mechanisms used to slide and move objects. They have designed themselves on a backdrop of their favourite place in Design and Technology and within their silhouette they have drawn and written all the things they love, activities they do, their favourite food amongst many other things. They have then drawn a second silhouette to cover this up and this moves by a slide mechanism to reveal everything they love.



We have been learning all about vertebrates and invertebrates in science, exploring the forest area of the school searching for invertebrates and different types of flowering plants. Children have been using our fabulous outdoor space and using their maths skills to 'tally' their findings. In Music body percussion has been our main focus and the children have managed to create wonderful 'rainscapes' using only their bodies – this has been a thrilling unit in music that has shown how you don't even need an instrument to create music! We are really looking forward to what next term will bring.

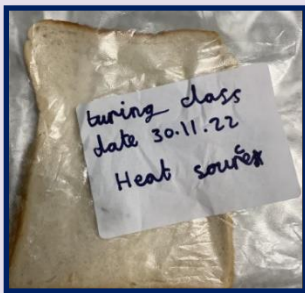
**Year 5** have been busy continuing learning about informal settlements, the issues which arise here and how best to challenge these. One of these issues is a lack of clean drinking water, which we have used as our inspiration been to create water filters in Design Technology.



The children have also been debating philosophical questions between religion and science in RE, and in English, our text this term has been 'Secrets of Stonehenge' which the children enjoyed learning and acting out. We have since gone on to write our own book, titled 'Secrets of Whipton Barton' where the children learnt about the perils of Victorian schooling...!

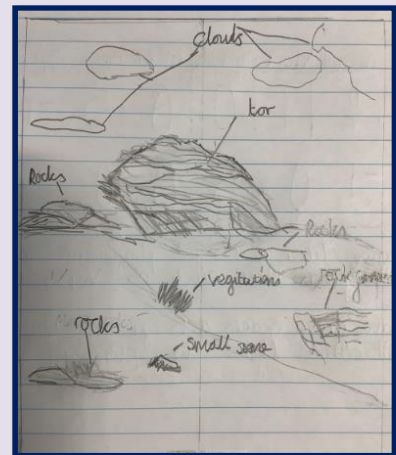


### Year 6



In the last few weeks, in science, Year 6 have been investigating mould growth on white bread – by placing slices of bread in various locations around the school! – and learning how to use branching keys to identify different species. In Geography, we have been developing fieldwork skills that have

included field sketches and surveys of the school grounds. We are coming to the end of our fraction units in Maths, with work on finding a fraction of a whole.



### Premier Education



**Did you know we have a variety of excellent, high quality curriculum enrichment running after school, either in our wrap around care or our after school sports clubs? If you would like to find out more, please contact reception.**

PE: Year 3 extended their knowledge in gymnastics by combining movements together with their jumping from the previous week to create a sequence. They used lots of different types of equipment to achieve this, at different heights and angles, to give them different challenges depending on their ability and confidence. There were a few children in the group that were slightly nervous about negotiating the taller and more challenging stations, but with some encouragement and guidance, everyone was really engaged and involved in the whole lesson.

Year 2 have engaged in a 'combination to create a sequence' lesson. They had the task of performing a safe jump and landing, followed by a roll of their choice that they learnt in the previous lesson. These were; log rolls, teddy bear rolls, dish rolls, and egg rolls. The whole class were jumping and landing safely and enjoying their lesson. They were excellent and even had a game at the end to finish the lesson.

Year 5 worked on teamwork and showing respect to others before, during and after the games. They have been previously working on 'attack v defence' so implemented that into an indoor team game of bench ball. Children were able to give examples of how they demonstrated respect and fair play and explain why it was important.

**After School Clubs and Premier Wrap around Care:** Josh has been working with the children in gymnastics, the group worked on their sequence creations to showcase what they had learned in previous weeks. This was their, balancing, jumping, landing and travelling. The sequences looked really good and shows how well they have been working this half term.

At 'Wrap Around Care', the book this week was 'Tiddler the Fish'. The children really enjoyed this book and absolutely loved making and creating different bits of art. They have created mermaids tails with sequins, octopi with paper plates and pipe cleaners and have learned all about fiddlers tales!