

OCTOBER 2023

20.10.23



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Fortnightly Flyer

This first half-term has been a whirlwind of excitement and activity: from the autumn fair, the MacMillan Coffee Morning and the harvest service in church to trips to Roman Chester, the Blue Planet Aquarium and, of course, Vale Royal Abbey, everyone in school has been very busy! As usual, the children have wowed us with their enthusiasm and effort every day and we can confidently say, on behalf of all of the staff, that we are delighted and proud of the efforts both in and out of the classroom. Our new starters in Acorns have settled into school life very well and their little faces and voices are quickly becoming familiar to us all. We look forward to welcoming them into Collective Worship from the first Friday back when they will be sat with their Oak buddies.

Imagining Eternity

Over the week, Cedar, Willow and Oak have had the opportunity to think philosophically through taking part in 'Exploring Eternity'. The wonderful team at St John's Hartford led us through the story of how the world was made perfect but ruined by humanities sin. We then were able to reflect on the joy that is set before us through the possibility of eternal life in a place free from all the anxiety, pain, tears, hate, anger and sadness.

If you would like to Explore Eternity for yourself, it is open on Saturday 21st 10am-12noon and 2-4pm. You are also welcome to St John's on Sunday at 10.30.

A number of children have asked for a link to the song we listened to as well: the beautiful song I Can Only Imagine by MercyMe. Find the link below and enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGxvZMyYMns&ab_channel=TheHigherPower

Conversations About School

As a school, we celebrate the diversity of talent and character that makes Whitegate such a special place. We do our best to highlight and promote the best of what our children achieve and do. We welcome support from all member of our school community in encouraging this, especially from parents. As an inclusive school, some members of our community may have hidden needs that might not be visible or easily understood by others. We would ask that in conversations at home with children that parents and family members focus on the positives of all members of our school community. Some of the conversations children have been having at home with parents have made the school day difficult to manage and we would ask that everyone plays their part in helping to support Whitegate's caring and inclusive ethos.

Autumn Fair

Well done to our fabulous Year Sixes for their efforts in raising money at this year's Autumn Fair. As with the MacMillan Coffee Morning, they showed a huge amount of maturity, responsibility and independence with their efforts. We are delighted to report that we raised a school record of £722! This would not, of course, have been possible without all of the incredibly kind donations and help from volunteers. The charity we were raising money for, The Food Project Trust, will be able to put the money towards supporting the education of children for whom school would otherwise have been an impossible dream. Thank you to everyone who has been involved.

Ear Piercings

A polite reminder that new piercings should be done at the beginning of the summer holidays. Piercings often take six weeks to heal and during this time children are not able to participate fully in PE. So that they do not miss out on this important element of the curriculum, please wait until the six week break before having ears pierced. Thank you.

Supervision Outside of School Time

It has been brought to our attention that some of the Y6 children have been spending time in Winsford town centre and town park without the supervision of an adult; this is a safeguarding concern. A number of incidents have occurred, including friendship issues and incidents of unkind behaviour, that we have then had to sort out back in school. This has demonstrated that children of this age must be supervised. Over the half-term break, we urge you to not allow your children into town without an adult present.

Toast and Clubs

These are set up on ParentMail. Please order by 9:30am on the 31st October. As previously communicated, there are limited clubs running next half-term due to the staff focusing on preparations for the Christmas productions. The Ark will still be cooking on Mondays and doing arts and crafts on Tuesdays.

Parents' Evenings

These take place on Wednesday 8th November (please note, if you follow the school calendar on our school website, this date has changed) and Tuesday 14th November in the school hall. You only need to attend on one of the evenings. Bookings are now open and are available through School Spider.

Online Behaviour and Safety Monitoring

Over the break, as a way to stay in touch with their friends, we understand that some children may use online messaging apps to communicate with each other. Please remember that there are age limits on certain popular apps like Messenger (ages 13+) and WhatsApp (16+). This is an area which can be a challenge to navigate for both children and parents so it is important that we make you aware of updates from the statutory guidance. Where children are engaged in online activities and communication, it is your legal responsibility to monitor their activity and ensure their safety. According to official guidance, in the event of children coming to harm through their or others' use of social media, it may be possible that a crime has been committed which will result in police involvement. Therefore, we would ask that you continue to be vigilant about your child's use of social media and online messaging.

If you are considering allowing your child to use an online messaging app, an app called Kinzoo has been recommended by some of our Whitegate parents. Kinzoo allows children to communicate with family and friends online in a safe and completely controlled environment. Alerts are sent every time it is used and no data is saved. Additionally, it complies with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). If you have any questions about helping your child to stay safe online, please contact our E-Safety Lead, Mr Thomas.

Read All About It Book Recommendations

Please keep an eye out for the latest edition of our 'Read All About It!' book recommendation newsletter. This edition has been written by children in Oak class and contains some cracking reads. If any children or parents (or other family members!) would like to send in their recommendations, please do so. We hope you find your new favourite book in there!

Pyjama Day!

Many thanks to Issaacc in Beech who suggested that we have a pyjama day in school! We are holding this on Friday 17th November. In order to wear your pyjamas for the day, we ask that a teddy donation is brought in to school in preparation for our Christmas Fair.

We break up today for our half-term break and return to school on Tuesday 31st October. We wish you all a lovely week. Let's hope that weather improves and we can enjoy some autumn sunshine.

Every blessing,

C Mackenzie and M Thomas

Dates

Thursday 2nd November	6pm	Music Evening in the hall
Sunday 5th November	9:30am	Family Service in St Mary's
Wednesday 8th November	4pm—7:30pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 14th November	4pm—7:30pm	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 15th November	1:30pm	Gripping Yarns drama presentation in school
Friday 17th November	All day	Wear pyjamas to school day (+ bring a teddy to donate!)
Thursday 23rd November	7pm	FOWs Wreath Making
Friday 1st December	1:30pm	Christmas Fair
Saturday 2nd December	5:15pm	Village Christmas lights switch on