

DECEMBER 2023

8.12.23



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Fortnightly Flyer

What a busy, festive time we are having in school. It is lovely seeing everyone in their Christmas jumpers today. My day started with lots of very excited Acorns children showing me what they were wearing! We are also very much looking forward to Christmas dinner ... and Christmas music ... at lunch time today. Thank you to Miss Byrne for the hard work that goes into this meal.

In Collective Worship, we have been thinking about advent and this time of preparation. For Christians, it is the opportunity to reflect on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for the arrival of Jesus in the world as it is today.

School vision

With thankful hearts, we trust in God as we grow in his love which shines through us. We aim to live our faith and grow in wisdom.

Our school vision is underpinned by two verses from the Bible. We have recently altered one of these so that it truly reflects our aim in encouraging each other to be like Jesus. We believe that the verse from Luke 2:52 sums this up:

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and people. (Luke 2:52)

Like Jesus, we want to enable the children to grow mentally (in wisdom), physically (in stature), spiritually (in favour with God) and socially (in favour with people).

Our second Bible verse describes what it means to grow in wisdom, which goes far beyond academia.

But the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly; it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds; it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy.

(James 3:17)

Being peaceful, gentle, friendly and full of compassion are just some of the Christian values that we expect all members of our school community to exhibit. Here at Whitegate, we pride ourselves in the positive relationships that we establish. As it says in our Relationships Policy (formally our Behaviour Policy) our school is a place where everyone should be able to flourish in a loving and hospitable community. Let us continue to treat each other with kindness and respect.

Christmas Productions

This week we have seen the wonderful production of The Donkey Seller. The children in KS1 blew us away with their singing, dancing and acting. There were many moments when I had a tear in my eye. It is amazing to think of the journey that the Y2 children have been on from when they first started with us only two years ago. There were children on the stage who two years ago, we couldn't have imaged that they would have been able to perform and with such confidence too! Many thanks to all of the children and the staff who made this possible. And thank you too for your support in helping the children to learn their lines.

Next week, the children in KS2 will be performing The Keymaster. Performances take place on Tuesday afternoon (1:30pm start) and Wednesday evening (6pm start). Please ensure that the children return to school at 5:30pm so that there is enough time to change into costumes.

The afternoon performance is suited to pre-school children. We ask that they are not brought to the evening performance. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Remember to also bring some change. Cast photographs will be available to order - £1 a print - and there will be the opportunity to make a donation which will go towards future productions.

A special thank you to Mrs Metcalf's sister-in-law, who provided the fabric for the KS2 backdrop; to Mr Ireson who has provided the stage lighting; and to Mr Walker who has hung the scenery.

Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to our amazing FOWS team for putting on a very successful Christmas Fair. It was great to see the whole school community coming together. It was also very special to have Jack Pickering with us (an ex-Whitegater) who performed for us. Thank you for all of your support: we raised an incredible £2100. This will also be significantly boosted with £2000 from match-funding! All monies raised will be going towards the new build which will replace the old mobile classrooms. Work is starting in the summer.

Anti-bullying

We held the anti-bullying meeting for parents at the end of November - thank you to those who attended. Very few parents came to this, which hopefully means that there are no concerns around this issue. Our anti-bullying policy has been revised (with a few things added as a result of the parents meeting). This can be found on the school website, along with our updated Relationships Policy.

Water bottles

After the Christmas break, the children will not need to bring water bottles into school (unless they have one as part of a packed lunch). All children will be provided with a plastic cup instead.

Lost Property

Once more, our lost property basket is overflowing with unnamed uniform. If your child has lost an item, please come and have a look for it. Any unclaimed uniform will be given to FOWS for the second-hand uniform shop.

PE kits

We have listened and responded to parents concerns about PE tops. White t-shirts and children definitely do not mix! We have sourced a blue sports top from our uniform provider which will come complete with the school logo. I have asked a number of parents and children, presenting them with an example, and have only received positive feedback. The new shirt will be phased in from Easter. Even better, every child will be given one ready for after the Easter break. Many thanks to FOWS who are funding this. I am communicating this with you now so that if you were planning on replacing any PE tops over the Christmas break, you can hold off and wait for the new t-shirts.

Governor News

Currently we are looking for individuals who have a background in business and have experience of developing a strategy, identifying risks and evaluating impact. We have received two nominations - Mr Pickering and Mr Ireson. This week, the children brought home the ballot sheets. Please can you return the sheets to the school office by 12 noon Friday 15th December.

We have a new foundation governor, Rev. Margaret Byrne. Rev. Byrne has already been into school on a number of occasions and has led Collective Worship a couple of times this term, so she is already getting to know the children. We are looking forward to working more closely with her as she settles into her governor role.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend. I am going to brave the Christmas markets in Manchester!

Every blessing,

C Mackenzie

Dates

Tuesday 12th December	1:30pm	KS2 performance of The Keymaster
Wednesday 13th December	6pm	KS2 performance of The Keymaster
Thursday 14th December	Afternoon	Whole school visit to the pantomime
Friday 15th December	10am	Carol Service in St. Mary's (Willow leading)
Friday 15th December	1:30pm	Break up for Christmas
Tuesday 2nd January	All day	INSET Day
Wednesday 3rd January	8:50am	School opens
Wednesday 10th January	am	Cedar start swimming
Tuesday 9th January	All day	Whole school visit to Chester Zoo
Wednesday 10th January	am	Willow Class start Forest School
Monday 22nd January	All day	Y6 visit to Safety Central