

FEBRUARY 2024

16.2.24



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Fortnightly Flyer

The half-term break is now upon us and Christmas seems like a distant memory! What a lot we have crammed into the past six weeks: our whole school visit to the zoo; the Y6 visit to Safety Central; Willow's American Diner; netball, hockey and athletics tournaments; the return of our annual Sharing Assemblies for parents and friends; and the first of what will hopefully be many ... Bonkers Bingos!

We are all ready for a good rest next week, especially as next half-term promises to be just as exciting, with Elm visiting Blists Hill; Beech visiting Manchester airport (sadly not to go on holiday); the continuation of our Sharing Assemblies; the FOWS family ceilidh; Science Week; the return of after-school enrichment clubs; and of course ... we are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of baby Heathcote!

This Fortnightly Flyer consists of three pages so make sure that you keep reading to the end.

World Book Day

A reminder that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024 by dressing up as characters from a favourite story. (No football strips please.) We ask that the children bring a copy of the book that they have based their character on with them. The half-term break may be a good opportunity to organise/make costumes.

Staffing

To allow Y6 to prepare for their upcoming SATS, Mrs Shapland will be spending more time in Oak class after the half-term break. I am very much looking forward to teaching Beech class for two afternoons a week. I really enjoy being in the classroom and cannot wait to get stuck in again!

Parents' Evenings

This term, we are trialing new timings for Parents' Evenings - in fact due to the new timings, we will be calling these 'Parent Consultation Appointments'. On Wednesday 6th March, appointments will start at 3pm and will run until 6:30pm, with a break in the middle. On Thursday 14th March, appointments will run from 2pm and will finish at 5:30pm, again with a break in the middle. These times will help with my staff's work-life balance, resulting in them being ready to teach the following day. Parent Consultations can be booked via School Spider as usual.

Toast

A reminder to ensure that toast is ordered by 9:30am on the first Monday back. Please do make the time to do this over the break: a number of parents miss the cut off date and time for toast. We do have to be strict about the deadline as each day, the office staff would need to check to see if any new names have been added to the system; new toast lists then have to be produced and distributed and we may have to alter our food order. Who would have thought that toast was such a complicated business! We have recently received some feedback asking if bagels could be an alternative on Fridays. We are hoping to action this after half-term.

Reading

We have listened to parent voice and after half-term, we ask that, in line with KS2, the children in EYFS/KS1 read a minimum of four times a week. Thank you for your continuing support in teaching your children to read.

Attendance

In response to some of the phone calls that we receive from parents debating if they should bring their child to school when they are feeling under the weather, I sent out a handy document from the NHS, 'Is my child too ill for school'. This can also be found on the new 'Attendance' page on the school website under the 'Office' tab. A reminder that if your child is absent from school, please use the ParentMail App, or telephone the school office, to inform us.

Communication

Please ensure that you use the appropriate channels to send messages to school staff, including those who are also parents of children at school. It is not appropriate to send messages at the weekend or in the evenings relating to school issues, through social networking sites, such as Messenger and WhatsApp. Thank you.

Safety in General

A reminder that children of primary school age must be supervised when in the local parks and out and about around the town centre. Over the half-term break, please ensure that you know where your children are, who they are with and what they are up to.

FOWS Bonkers Bingo

What an amazing evening we had last Friday at FOWS Bonkers Bingo! It really was bonkers with the excitement of bingo and the energy of a disco, along with wacky prizes such as an inflatable cow costume (modelled by Mr Fowles and Mrs Savage -not at the same time!), a talking toy donkey and a mechanical sweet-grabber machine. There was lots of fun and laughter. If you haven't seen the video footage on X (Twitter), then check it out! Thank you to our wonderful FOWS team for organising such a successful event. We hope that you will all be able to join us on the 22nd March for the family ceilidh.

E-Safety

With half-term here and the weather looking likely to remain glum, some of our children may be spending more time than usual online. Attached with this newsletter is 'A Parent's Guide to Internet Controls' which explains three easy ways to ensure your child is safe online:

- * router filtering controls
- * parental software controls and
- * ISP filtering controls

Each approach has its pros and cons which are explained quickly and clearly. If you do not already have parental controls set up for your children when they are online, it is vital that you do so as soon as possible for their own safety.

Please remember that there are age limits on certain popular apps like Messenger (ages 13+) and WhatsApp (16+). 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.

Clubs

The following clubs are taking place after the half-term break. For those not taking place at The Ark, please sign up on Parent-Mail, apart from Mr Parish's clubs. For those, you will need to book directly with the Sports Coaching Group - please refer to the separate flyer. If your child would like to attend a club taking place at The Ark, please book directly with The Ark for the slot until 4:15pm. Thank you

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
KS1	Science (Mrs Ross and Mrs Corcoran) (£15)	Football (Mr Parish) (£25) Craft (Mrs Finney) (£5)		Board Games Café Miss Daniels and Mrs Turner) (£15)	
KS2	Kapla (Mrs Rowland) (£15)	Football (Mr Fowles) (£25)		Try Something New (Mr Parish) (£25) Art (Mrs Savage) (£15)	
The Ark	Cooking	Forest School activities	Craft or baking	Outdoor games	Movie Night (with popcorn and fizz!)



News from the Governors - a message from Ian Johnson, parent governor

This week I wanted to send a reminder about the school's Trust Appeal Fund (the Trust). The Trust provides our school with a small but important source of funding for resources that all pupils benefit from. In the past Trust funds have been used for iPads, laptops and most recently, the new reading scheme books – all of which have had a great benefit across the school. The current need is for more reading books to complement the scheme as we do not have enough at the moment. Future needs include projects such as artificial grass so we can utilise the area that will be left once the new building is completed this summer.

The Trust is funded by voluntary donations by parents/ carers/ grandparents/ teachers and is separate from the school's own funds. On behalf of the governors, I'd like to thank all past and present donors to the Trust and would like to encourage everyone to consider what they can give either as a regular or one-off donation, or to increase an existing regular donation.

Attached to this newsletter is information on how to give into the Trust which is also part of the GiftAid scheme. If you are a taxpayer, then please do complete the GiftAid form as we can reclaim an additional 25% on your donations from the Government.

Many thanks,

Ian

Have a wonderful half-term break. We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 26th February.

C Mackenzie

Dates

Friday 16th February	3:15pm	Break up for half term
Monday 26th February	8:50am	School re-opens
Wednesday 6th March	TBC	Parents' Evening
Friday 8th March	9:10am	Cedar's Sharing Assembly
W/B 11th March	All week	Science Week
Thursday 14th March	TBC	Parents' Evening
Friday 15th March	9:10am	Beech's Sharing Assembly
Friday 22nd March	9:10am	Elm's Sharing Assembly
Friday 22nd March	6pm	FOWS Family Ceilidh
Thursday 28th March	10am	Easter Service
Thursday 28th March	3:15pm	Break up for Easter

Contact Numbers/Websites

Need support to keep your child safe online? Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Phone: 0808 800 5000

Visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Need support from our local Foodbank? Contact either of the following:

Cheshire West & Chester Council Help Team – 0808 175 3599 (9am – 5pm)

Citizens Advice Northwich / Winsford – 0808 278 7806

Citizens Advice Help Through Hardship - 0808 208 2138 208

