

MARCH 2024

11.03.24



This half-term is already flying by and Easter will soon be upon us. Finally, we are beginning to see signs of spring and the lighter nights are certainly most welcome!

Apologies that this flyer is coming out today rather than last Friday.

#### **Baby Heathcote**

Congratulations to the Heathcote family who welcomed Josiah Hosea Peter into the world on Friday evening. We are all thrilled for you and are looking forward to meeting the new addition. We pray that God will greatly bless you all as you settle Josiah into the family.



This week is Science Week, but as Mr Heathcote is away from school, Willow Class will celebrate this next week.

#### **World Book Day**



Last Thursday, the whole school was transformed into a magical fantasy-land as characters from different stories appeared in every classroom. From modern favourites like Harry Potter to classics like Wind in the Willows, every story and character imaginable made an appearance. Reading is at the heart of Whitegate's curriculum and it was wonderful to see how engaged and excited the children were not just with their costumes but with the stories they represented.

In a whole-school assembly, Mr. Thomas gave out book tokens for the children to use in bookshops to choose their World Book Day book. We take every opportunity to encourage a love of reading in our children so to help continue the excitement after World Book Day has finished, we would love for children to bring the book(s) they chose into school to compare, share and recommend which stories caught their interest. Any pictures of children with their new book(s) on Twitter and tagged to classes would also be happily received!

#### **Parent/Carer Consultations**

Thank you to those parents who attended appointments last Wednesday. It is always lovely to see you all; and I enjoy catching up with you as you come into the hall. If you have not booked an appointment, the office team are contacting you to arrange a time. Children make the best progress when school and home work in close partnership, therefore it is vital that you attend every Parents' Evening appointment in order to keep you informed about the academic and social progress that your child is making in school.

The meetings are also an opportunity for you to see and celebrate the effort and pride your child has put into their work over the year so far.

#### **Sharing Assemblies**

What a great time we are having on Friday mornings as each class share their learning with us through our annual sharing assemblies. Thank you to Oak, Willow and Cedar who have shared so far. The children have done an amazing job and have made us all very proud. So far, we have seen wonderful dances; heard great singing and instrument playing; enjoyed listening to well-crafted writing; and have marvelled at the sheer amount of work and the activities that the children have been engaged in so far this year. This Friday we are looking forward to Beech's, with Elm's assembly the following week. All parents, grandparents, friends etc. are invited. Acorns' assembly takes place at the end of the school year.

#### **Attendance**

Children are expected to have at least 95% attendance - our whole school attendance percentage has dipped below this level. Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. For those children who have less than 90% attendance, they are referred to as 'persistent absentees' and there are a number of actions that I must take. Let us all work together to ensure good attendance as the higher a child's attendance, the more they will learn, leading to greater life chances.

#### **FOWS Ceilidh**

Our next event promises to be just as exciting as the last! Put your dancing shoes on (or feel free to just soak up the atmosphere) and get ready to be spun around the dance floor! On the 22nd March, the hall will be transformed and the stage will be set to welcome the Flaxmere Ceilidh Band - also known as Mr and Mrs Cotterill - and even known as 'Bear' to many of the children! As well as music, there will be a fully licensed bar and food, including homemade curry and chips. We had great reviews last year, so make sure you get your tickets via the Classlist app.

## Collective Worship

This half-term we are focusing on the Christian value of 'Love'. So far, we have looked at the Bible verse in Mark's gospel:

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*



This was Jesus' response to the question, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

We have explored what Jesus meant by 'love your neighbour' and how we can do this. We have also thought about the end of this verse where Jesus tells us the importance of loving ourselves. We have looked at the 'Mental Health Foundation' and what good mental health looks like. The children have been able to suggest lots of ways to look after themselves mentally, including less screen time and more time out in the fresh air.

## May Fair

This year's fair takes place on Saturday 18th May in the afternoon. Please make a note of this in your diaries as all children will be taking part in this event either by dancing around the maypole or taking part in the parade.

## Walkathon

This weekend, Mrs Ross and I took Buddy and Reggie, along with Mr Ross and Mr Mackenzie on a local walk to plan our next 'Walkathon'. Those of you who have older children will remember that the last time we did this was in 2019 when we took coaches to Oakmere Cricket Ground and walked 10K back to school raising £6,500. This time, we have planned a circular walk from school. Our next 'Walkathon' is taking place on Friday 7th June during 'Healthy Week'. Sponsor forms will be coming home after the Easter break and once again we challenge each child to raise £50 in sponsorship. Monies raised will be going towards the newbuild and the area surrounding this once the build is finished, resulting in improvements to our outdoor space and consequently playtimes.

*Thank you for your continuing support.*

*I look forward to welcoming you in to school for the various different events that are taking place over the next few weeks.*

*C Mackenzie*

## Dates

W/B 11th March	All week	Science Week
Thursday 14th March	2pm onwards	Parent/Carer Consultations
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
Tuesday 26th March	Am	Y5s visiting Hartford CofE High School to watch their production of Beauty and the Beast.
Thursday 28th March	10am	Easter Service in church
Thursday 28th March	3:15pm	Break up for Easter
Wednesday 17th March	Two days	Beech's residential visit to Llandudno
Wednesday 1st May	pm	Willow + Oak's Y5s taking part in Northwich Sings
Wednesday 8th May	Three days	Cedar's residential visit to Cloverley Hall
Monday 13th May	All week	Y6 SATs Week

