

NOVEMBER 2024

15.11.24



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Newsletter

Thank you for all of those who have sent well wishes, cards, chocolate and biscuits this week due to our Ofsted inspection, and also, to so many of you who had a friendly smile or word on the playground on Tuesday and Wednesday - the days that our inspection took place. Needless to say, it has been a very tiring week and we are all looking forward to the weekend.

Thank you to those who completed the parent survey. The inspector shared many wonderful comments with me which of course made me cry! It is so lovely to hear how the team is so much appreciated.

The inspection provided the opportunity to showcase many of the amazing things that we do in school. It takes a few weeks for the report to be published and we will share this with you in due course.

Inter-Faith Week

This week we have marked Inter-Faith Week with each class studying a different world faith. Acorns visited church on Monday as part of their focus on Christianity. Today, Ann Angel, an Orthodox Jew visited Rowan and spent the morning exploring her faith. Birch had a visit from Mr Goricha who told the children his experiences of growing up in a Hindu household. Elder have learnt all about Sikhism and Hawthorn have found out about life as a Buddhist. Finally, the children in Oak have been exploring Islam - we will be organising a visit to a mosque in the new year.

Hawthorn's Visit to Manchester

Hawthorn had an enriching experience on Thursday. The day began with a visit to the Buddhist temple located in Manchester's Northern Quarter, offering insight into Buddhist traditions and practices. Following this, we proceeded to the Arndale, where we enjoyed lunch and explored Manchester's rich history through its diverse buildings and architectural layers.

The visit concluded at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, fondly known as the 'Hidden Gem.' This remarkable church, one of the few structures in the vicinity to survive the Blitz, provided a serene and breath-taking setting. Its tranquillity was the perfect way to conclude such a meaningful and reflective week.

Elder's Visit

Elder's first visit was to the Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurdwara in Manchester where they were greeted by Mr. Hardev Singh. The children were very excited to put on traditional headscarves before heading upstairs to the Diwan Hall where they were transfixed by the entire talk. Everyone loved seeing the various artefacts and, as usual, asked many insightful questions. The opportunity to see all of the learning we had done in school in action was invaluable. As well as joining in with some meditation, we also enjoyed Isaac's excellent drumming as he accompanied Mr. Singh's playing and singing. Before we left, there was time for a quick lunch in the langar hall which set the scene for some of our future learning back in school.

After a brisk walk through an unusually sunny Manchester, Elder headed into Manchester Museum where we marvelled at the incredible range of ancient artefacts. Elder showed off how well they'd committed their learning to their long-term memories as they spotted items and information that linked to what they'd learned in school. The children also loved seeing the live animals and whetted their appetites for our summer term theme about the Ancient Egyptians!

Parents/Carers Consultations

Due to the inspection, I made the decision to postpone Thursday's parent consultation appointments. We could barely string a sentence together yesterday and so it would not have been worthwhile for these appointments to go ahead. This will now take place on Thursday 28th November. The office staff have transferred any appointments booked for this Thursday, to the 28th at the times originally booked. There are some slots still available on both days should you wish to rearrange.

Parent Governor Role

As previously communicated, we are looking for a new parent governor. Primarily elected by the parents/carers of our school, they are a key part of the governing board that provide a parental perspective, but do not represent the parents. Parent governors work with the rest of the board in a strategic role ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and direction for the school. It involves time, energy and a willingness to become involved in the life of the school on a regular basis. Currently, we are looking for individuals who have a background in business and have experience of developing a strategy, identifying risks and evaluating impact. If you would be willing to carry out this rewarding role, please get in touch by next Friday, the 22nd November, using the email: contact@whitegate.cheshire.sch.uk.

Christmas

I am sorry to mention the C word so soon! We are already into the throes of rehearsals for our Christmas Productions. This year our children in Acorns, Rowan and Birch will perform 'Prickly Hay'. Children in Elder, Hawthorn and Oak will be presenting 'Wind in the Willows'. There will be two performances for each production and, as usual, it is very important that all children attend the evening performance. When a child does not return to school, it causes problems and confusion for the other cast members.

As part of our Christmas celebrations, the children in Acorns will visit Wheelock Farm on the 4th December. As part of this visit, the children will choose our school's Christmas tree. This has become a wonderful Whitegate tradition with the children fondly telling the inspector all about it. This is always a favourite memory for the Y6 children as part of their leavers' service.

As usual, we will finish at 1:30pm on the day that we break up for Christmas; this year, this is the 20th December. We have made the decision not to visit the pantomime this year. We do so many wonderful activities in school to celebrate Christmas and this visit often puts further financial strain on families that is not welcomed at this time of year.

FOWS News

Many thanks to the FOWS team who organised a disco for the whole school just before we finished for the week's break. What a great way this was to end last half term! The children, as always, were great fun to be around and I certainly enjoyed a few dances with them! Thank you also to the catering team also who put together a lovely meal for the children before the event.

Wreath making takes place in the school hall on Monday 2nd December, starting at 7pm. This was a great event last year with lots of positive feedback from those who joined us.

The FOWS Christmas Fair takes place straight after school on Friday 6th December. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Dates

Wednesday 20th November	2pm—5pm	Parent/carer consultation appointments
Thursday 28th November	4pm—7:30pm	Parent/carer consultation appointments
Monday 2nd December	7pm	FOWS Wreath Making Workshop
Wednesday 4th December	All Day	Acorns educational visit to Wheelock Farm
Friday 6th December	3:30pm—5pm	FOWS Christmas Fair
Saturday 7th December	5pm	Christmas Light Switch On
Tuesday 10th December	2pm	EY/KS1 Performance of 'Prickly Hay'
Wednesday 11th December	5:30pm	EY/KS1 Performance of 'Prickly Hay'
Friday 13th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13th December	12noon	Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 17th December	1:30pm	KS2 Performance of 'Wind in the Willows'
Wednesday 18th December	6pm	KS2 Performance of 'Wind in the Willows'
Friday 20th December	10am	Carol Service in church
Friday 20th December	1:30pm	Finish for the Christmas break

*Have a lovely weekend.
Every blessing,
C Mackenzie*