

This has been a very busy half term for us at Whitmore, which has flown by so quickly. It's hard to believe that another academic year has almost finished.

Your children continue to work hard in all aspects of school life – representing the school at events, their behaviour in school and their learning. I am sure you are just as proud of them as we are.

Last weekend was one such occasion where several children represented the school in the Netball and Football Rally at Lee Chapel Primary School. It was a great day and the children showed real team spirit and resilience throughout. They were extremely good ambassadors for fair play which is so wonderful to see.

On Wednesday 6 children from Y3,4 & 5 Emma G, Lucy P, Sam H, Jez H, Sonya B & Maria O-D went to Merrylands to take part in a debating competition. The children held their own against some tough competition and were crowned winners! Excellent job, well done.

A big thank you to all year 2 parents for their amazing donations towards the Year 2 end of SATS party.

The 'Spread a Bit of Happiness' Event today was a huge success. A big well done to our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for their excellent ideas and hard work. They have helped in different classes, made hundreds of Slushies and put together a hugely successful Teddy Tombola. What superstars!

All the children in school had a lot of fun and made each other smile with their positive messages and comments.

We are trying to organise more clubs for next year and would appreciate your thoughts on this.

There is a short survey attached for you to complete and return to the office.

Our next Coffee Morning will be on Tuesday 4th June at 9:00am where we can get together and discuss this and the up-coming Summer Enterprise event. Please let the office know if you are attending so we know how many to cater for.

Have a lovely half term

Mrs N Kemp

Headteacher

Diary Dates:

May

Inset Day—24th May 2019

June

3rd—return to school

3rd—Year 1 Phonics screening test meeting with parents @ 3.10pm in KS1 Hall

4th—Pupil Voice meeting @ Whitmore (Head boy & girl)

5th—Anti-bullying Ambassador training (selected children)

7th—Nursery—Farm visit in school

7th—Year 4 Colchester Zoo visit

10th—Year 3 visit to Colchester Zoo

11th—KS1 Sports Day 9.30-11.30am

12th—KS2 Sports Day 9.30-11.30am

13th—Nursery Sports days (11-12—AM) & (2-3—PM)

14th—NSPCC Assemblies & Worskshops (selected year groups)

Attendance and Punctuality

It is vitally important that children arrive at school on time and ready to learn. We would like to bring to your attention that **children arriving after 9.05am will now be marked down as an unauthorised absence** which can result in a referral to Essex County Council and a possible fine. We would really appreciate your help in making sure children attend school on time and we will be contacting parents for persistent lateness.

The classes with the best attendance this half term are —KS1 Orchid Class with 98.1% and KS2 Sycamore and Elm Class with 97.2% , therefore these children have a none uniform day on the first day back—3rd June 2019.

On Wednesday 23rd may, six children took part in the trust's annual debating competition.

Two children from years 3,4 and 5 represented the school to debate about why we should be doing more to stop plastic pollution. Each of the children, Jez H, Sonja B, Lucy P Samuel H, Maria O-D and Ema G, all offered some very valid points about why we should be doing more to protect our planet. Each of the children spoke with clarity and were respectful towards their competitors. We were then given the opportunity to debate about a different topic, this time about whether we should be allowed to have more options other than fruit at snack time. The children researched the topic well and worked incredibly hard as a team to convey their points with integrity and respect. After a fantastic morning of debating, the judges finally announced their winners. As the winners were announced, Whitmore jumped up with joy as the children were presented with their gold medals and the winning trophy!

The children worked incredibly hard during the day, and weeks previously, to prepare their debate and were a real credit to themselves and to the school.



Thorpe Park Fun

On Friday, the year 6s travelled to the famous theme park, Thorpe Park. After a delayed start, we finally arrived by coach at the park at around 10. We split off into our groups and began to queue to enter, excited and slightly terrified. Every group took different routes around the theme park. During our time there, we managed to go on a variety of exhilarating, thrilling and jaw-dropping rides, such as: the Stealth, Colossus and Tidal Wave. Our favourite was Colossus because of the endless loops and twists. It was a memorable time of being thrown around and having fun! What a great way to relieve ourselves from the stress of SATs!

By Darcie, Ellie and Ronnie (Year 6)

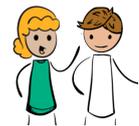


Talk it topics

Talk it topics are an opportunity for children to discuss and issue or idea throughout the week, at play or lunchtime, during the daily mile etc. It encourages children's communication skills as well as debating skills and is fun. We will be covering a different topic in school each week.

This weeks topic will be—

If a genie gave you one wish, who would you choose to be?.....



On Saturday we competed in the annual Lee Chapel football tournament. It start in the morning with the year 5 and 6 teams. We had 2 teams who both performed really well. Whitmore 1 captained by Dylan B won 2 of their games, drew 2 of their games and lost 1 of their games. Unfortunately the came 2nd in their group and didn't qualify for the semi finals. Whitmore 2 captained by Hayden T played magnificently, they won 3 games and lost 2 games and also came 2nd in their group. In the afternoon it was the year 3s and 4s. The first year 3 and 4 team performed exceptionally winning all their group games and advancing through to the semi finals, where they unfortunately lost to Lee Chapel in extra time. The second year 3 and 4 team performed well in their group but unfortunately didn't make it out of their group.

We had 2 teams represent the school in the netball tournament on the same day, with year 5 children representing the school in the morning and the year 6 team in the afternoon. Both teams played their best against some very good teams but unfortunately did not make it through to any of the finals.

All players behaved exceptionally well and put in all their effort and we couldn't be prouder of them. Lots of positives to take from the tournament and all the players did Whitmore proud!



Reading Sessions

Each year group will be holding a reading session: 2.40-3.00 for Early Years and KS1 and 2.50-3.15 for KS2.

This session will be for you to share a story with your child- they can read to you or you can read to them. The class teacher will be sharing example questions we ask when we read with the children, some reading activities, games or some phonics tips, games and pronunciation (if that is appropriate to your child's year group).

Please enter through your child's class door.

It would be lovely to see as many families as possible and we hope that you can take the time to come and join in on the dates below.

Year Group	Date	Time
Nursery AM	Thursday 6 th June	TIME TBC
Nursery PM	Thursday 6 th June	TIME TBC
Reception	Wednesday 26 th June	2.40-3.00
Year 1	Friday 17 th June	2.40-3.00
Year 2	Friday 7 th June	2.40-3.00
Year 3	Wednesday 5 th June	2.50-3.15
Year 4	Monday 3 rd June	2.50-3.15
Year 5	Friday 14 th June	2.50-3.15
Year 6	Monday 10 th June	2.50-3.15

**Survey to determine the need after-school clubs at
Whitmore Primary School & Nursery**

Do you already use after school clubs?

No

Yes

Which after school clubs do you use?

To enable us to offer more after school clubs in September we are considering charging £1 per club, per week. Let us know your thoughts:

I would not be interested in paying for an after school club

I would be interested in paying for an after school club

I would use an after-school club on these days:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Number of children who would attend Age(s) of child(ren)

Please indicate which after school clubs you would like to see running at the school

Do you have any other comments?

Please return this form by Friday 7th June

THANK YOU