

Message from Mrs Branton

Wow – how is it Friday already?! This week has flown by! Things have continued to move at pace and the children are certainly being kept busy in class with lots of good learning and new topics. A reminder, a knowledge planner of key information regarding the learning that will be happening in your child's class this term was sent to you on the 11th January. I would encourage you to take a look if you haven't yet had the chance to do so.

The children in Oak class got to enjoy a very stimulating classroom environment on Wednesday all around their new topic of 'Chocolate'. The anticipation started when each child was given a sealed envelope to take home on Tuesday. The children were then allowed to open their envelopes on Wednesday morning before coming to school, with each of them finding a Golden Ticket inside. There were some very excited Oak class children (and their parents!) at the gates, keen to get into class. As you will see from the photos below, their classroom became a very exciting chocolate factory, increasing the children's motivation to learn and enthusiasm to investigate their new topic.



The children from Beech, Whitebeam, Chestnut and Pine classes all took part in a Circus-themed drama workshop yesterday, provided by Katherine from 'Perform'. The children and staff all got very involved in the thrilling improvisation immersing themselves in the colourful world of 'The Circus'. The children learnt to communicate via mime and project their voices, all whilst helping the Clown with the Frown to understand his emotions as they tried to cheer him up and save the circus!



On Thursday afternoon, the whole school enjoyed an assembly taken by a representative from Essex Wildlife Trust whose aim is to protect wildlife and inspire a lifelong love of nature. The children found out all about the amazing work Essex Wildlife Trust does and how we can help their nature campaigns in Essex.

As you may have seen from the diary dates we will be holding parents' evenings this term on the 7th and 9th February, plus an additional date of the 8th February for EYFS and Year 6 only. Parent teacher meetings are a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and discuss their progress, further developing the relationship that exists between teacher, parent and child. The parents evening booking system will go live on Monday 23rd January and will close on Thursday 26th January. A separate communication was sent out to you yesterday with a reminder on how to book your appointments. SEND One Plan meetings will take place later this term therefore, you do not need to book a parent evening slot if your child has a One Plan meeting.

Just a reminder for Beech, Whitebeam and Chestnut class parents, Miss Cox will be holding a Reading Workshop for you next Thursday 26th January, to provide you with a deeper understanding of how reading is taught in school. If you would like to attend but have not yet returned your slip, please can I ask you to do so by 4:30pm today. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend. Mrs Clare Branton, Headteacher.



Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th January 2023



Science in the News

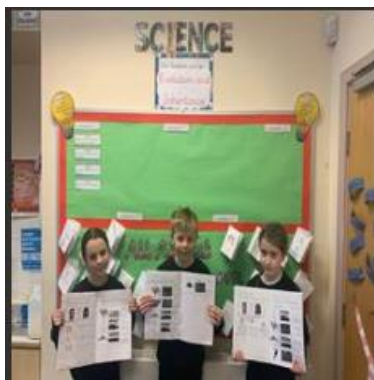
A brilliant week of science at Willowbrook Primary School. Find below what Whitebeam and Hawthorn have learnt. Well done, superstars!



Mrs Cirdei - Science Co-ordinator



As part of our Science topic on 'Animals, including humans,' Whitebeam Class have been learning all about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We pretended to be different animals and then sorted animals into the correct groups.



Hawthorn class have started a new unit called 'Evolution and Inheritance.' This is a brand-new topic which is not covered in previous years but will continue into secondary school science. We discussed inheritance and explored how offspring inherit physical features from their parent through their genes. We then moved on to discussing adaptation and identifying the adaptive traits of different living things.

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This week's Headteacher superstars are:

May, Melody, Abigail, Cleo and Emelia



Well done

Word of the week

'Wonderful words of the week'

Key Stage 1

howl

Key Stage 2

strategy



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WE STILL NEED LOTS MORE VOLUNTEERS TO GET 3PR BACK UP AND RUNNING



Dear Parents and Carers,

Pre Covid, with the help of our regular parent and child volunteers we were able to run a '3PR Parking Scheme'. Some of you may have seen the large green 3PR alien mascot that sits in the school office.

By following the 3PR 3 parking rules we are able to create a 3PR Zone in Rosen Crescent, which in turn reduces the traffic and congestion, which unfortunately builds up at drop off and pick up times.

We encourage the children to enter the 3PR zone by foot and in doing so they are rewarded with a token that they collect from a bucket each morning. The token is then taken to their class and put in a collection box. Each half term we have a count up of the tokens to see which class is our 3PR winners. They will be presented with the 3PR cup by the Alien himself in assembly.

How do we create the 3PR Zone?

This is where our regular team of parent/carer 3PR volunteers come in.

There are several ways in which we can achieve this: -

- Asking our families to walk, cycle or scoot to school.
- Our volunteers will be visible in their high viz tabard and present at the start and end of the school day to encourage anyone parking in the zone to move on and find a parking spot away from the zone.
- Then finally, we would like to be able to go back to offering a drop off point. The drop off point would be available each morning from 8.35am. Parents can drive to the allocated point in Rosen crescent, where one of our volunteers will help your child/children out of the car, leaving you free to drive off and not have to worry about finding a parking spot. Your child/children would then be walked safely down to their classrooms with one of the volunteers.

The 3PR team of volunteers seems to have worked best when we were able to have lots of volunteers covering one morning or afternoon session each. During the morning session your own child/children will be able to be part of the team by holding the buckets from which the children collect their tokens.

Morning volunteers will be required from 8.40am until 9am and afternoon volunteers from 3pm to 3.15pm.

Please contact the school office if you are able to volunteer and together let's work on making a safer environment with less traffic and congestion for the children.

Thank you for your support

Mrs Branton

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Children's lunch menu

| WK 1 | Monday Chinese New Year | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| Week commencing 23 rd January 2023 | | | | | |
| Main Meal RED | Chicken & Vegetable Chow Mein (Noodles) | Mild Chicken & Vegetable Curry with Steamed Rice | Honey Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes & Gravy | Beef Bolognaise with Spaghetti | Fish Fingers with Oven Baked Chips |
| Main Vegetarian GREEN | Sweet & Sour Vegetables with Steamed Rice (Ve) | Thai Vegetable Green Curry with Steamed Rice (Ve) | BBQ Roast Sweet Potato & Bean Loaf with Roast Potatoes & Gravy (Ve) | Homemade Vegan Burger in a Bun (Ve) | Vegetable Burrito Wrap (Ve) |
| Alternative YELLOW | Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) or Cheese (V) | Jacket Potato with Baked Beans (Ve) | Wholegrain Pasta with Tomato Sauce (Ve) | Jacket Potato with Cheese (V) | Pasta with Tomato Sauce (Ve) |
| Accompaniments | Sticky Honey & Soy Broccoli (V) | Cauliflower & Green Beans (Ve) | Seasonal Greens & Carrots (Ve) | Broccoli & Sweetcorn (Ve) | Peas & Baked Beans (Ve) |
| Cold Option | Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich | Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich | Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich | Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich | Cheese, Tuna or Ham Sandwich |
| Dessert | Mandarin Jelly (Ve) Fresh Fruit (Ve) | Fruit Burst Jelly (Ve) Fresh Fruit (Ve) | Apple & Oaty Topped Crumble (Ve) with Custard (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve) | Chocolate & Beetroot Brownie (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve) | Maryland Cookie (V) Fresh Fruit (Ve) |
| (V) suitable for vegetarians (Ve) suitable for vegans & vegetarians Salad Bar available daily | | | | | |



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Diary Dates

Please note dates and times are subject to change, please check the weekly newsletter and the website for updates. Thank you.

| SPRING TERM 2023 | |
|---|---|
| 22nd January | Chinese New Year begins |
| 26th January | KS1 reading workshop with Miss Cox 9am – 10:30am in the school hall |
| 27th January | KS1 Author visit from Eva Wong Nava – all about her book “I love Chinese New Year” |
| 2nd February | Parent coffee morning- online safety and educational apps |
| 6th February (week of) | Parents evening week – further information to follow |
| 6th - 12th February | Children’s mental health week |
| 7th February | Year 5 to St Martins to see production of Grease |
| 10th February | Oak Class Bikeability |
| 13th to 17th February | Half term week |
| 20th February | Back to school |
| 28th February | Bedtime story activities EYFS and Whitebeam class children are to come into school wearing pyjamas – as Chestnut class are swimming they will need to bring their pyjamas to change into – a reminder will be sent nearer the time |
| 2nd March | World book day – dress up as your favourite book character |
| 2nd and 3rd March | One Plan Meetings |
| 9 th and 10 th March | One Plan Meetings |
| 10 th to 19 th March | British science week |
| 15 th March | Young Carers Action Day – Theme for 2023 is Make Time for Young Carers |
| 15 th March | Parent Coffee Morning |
| 16 th and 17 th March | One Plan Meetings |
| 17 th March | Mother’s Day assembly for Beech, Whitebeam and Chestnut class parents at 9:15am in the school hall |
| 30 th March | Easter hat and Easter egg assembly |
| 1 st April to 16 th April | Easter Holidays |
| 17 th April | Back to school |

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Parent Coffee Morning!



Thursday 2nd February 08:50-10:00am
To be held in the school hall

You are warmly invited to join us in the hall from 08:50 onwards for free tea/ coffee and biscuits.

It is a chance to have a catch-up with fellow parents from across the school. There will be a play area for your younger children whilst you have a cup of tea and a chat!

Mrs Walby will be dropping in to help with setting parental controls on phones and social media apps- feel free to bring your devices with you. She'll also share educational apps that you can use with your children at home.

Feel free to join us and leave at any time between 08:50 and 10am.

The PTFA will have Southend Adventure Island tickets and second-hand school uniform on sale. There will also be a chocolate tombola stall.

Every adult who joins us will enter a raffle to win a prize!

