



Whitehorse Manor Junior School

Newsletter Friday 5th January 2018



Happy New Year! It was so lovely to see the children looking smart and 'school ready' for 2018 this week. We are all looking forward to a great term of learning. I include below a list of spring and summer dates. This is NOT a definitive list as staff are still firming up dates for visitors and visits and Year Group leaders will send dates out on their newsletters, but I hope that it helps you with some forward planning. I apologise in advance if any dates change for reasons beyond our control and any changes will be communicated to you as soon as possible (on the website, in newsletters, by text if we have a correct mobile number for you). Welcome back.

Reading: We have totally over-hauled our approach to reading and teachers attended training on these changes on our first day back. Rather than a 'guided reading' approach, we will now follow a 'skills development' approach. We hope that this will give our children a deeper understanding of what they are reading and the ability to express this understanding. We still need our children to work on their reading 'fluency' - the speed at which they can sight read. This is where you come in. We have updated the reading diary to make it easier for the children to record their reading and we ask that you encourage your child to read for at least 15 minutes every night and get them to read to you aloud whenever possible. Help them break down and sound out the tricky words; ask them questions but, most importantly, please just get them reading regularly! Research suggests that children who read for 15 minutes per evening, and children who have stories read to them, do better at school in the long term and we all want our children to be the best that they can be.

Date	Event	Details
Mon 8th Jan	Year 5 lantern art project	Working with artist. Bring in clear plastic bottles.
Tues 9th Jan	Year 4 lantern art project	Working with artist. Bring in clear plastic bottles.
Tues 9th Jan	Yr 6 Buddhist Society visitor	RE curriculum linked visit.
Fri 12th Jan	3M (Shetland) to local library	Local area trip.
Fri 12th Jan	4B (Connemara) class assembly	11.00-11.15 am. All welcome
Mon 15th Jan	3N (Exmoor) to local library	Local area trip.
Fri 19th Jan	3S (New Forest) to local library	Local area trip.
Fri 19th Jan	5C (Percheron) class assembly	11.00-11.15am. All welcome.
Fri 26th Jan	3P (Elm) to local library	Local area trip.
Fri 26th Jan	3M (Shetland) class assembly	11.00-11.15am. All welcome.
WB 29th Jan	Thematic Week	Classwork and activities related to thematic work.
Fri 2nd Feb	Museum Day	Visit the school to see your child's thematic work.
Weds 7th Feb	Yr 6 to British Museum	Focus on Egyptian artefacts and Rosetta stone.
Fri 9th Feb	4R (Camargue) class assembly	11.00-11.15 am. All welcome.
Fri 9th Feb	Half term	Children return to school on Monday 19th Feb
Weds 21st Feb	Yr 6 to Natural History Museum	Evolution workshop.
Fri 23rd Feb	5D (Lipizzan) class assembly	11.00-11.15am. All welcome
WB 26th Feb	Book Week	Look out for the book tokens!
Thurs 1st Mar	4R (Camargue) to Museum of London	Anglo Saxon workshop
Tues 6th Mar	Parents' Evening	Appointment letter and details to follow.
Weds 7th Mar	Parents' Evening	Appointment letter and details to follow.
Thurs 15th Mar	Year 4 to British Wildlife Centre	4R, 4M, 4B. Wear jeans and trainers/wellies.
Fri 23rd Mar	Sports Relief	Watch this space for charity events
Thurs 29th Mar	Last day of term	Children return to school on Monday 16th April