



Whitecross Primary School and Nursery



Aspiring - Honest - Kind

Interim Headteacher: Mrs Donna Kilpatrick
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Newsletter: March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I can't believe it is nearly our Easter Holidays! We have had another exciting month in school and nursery. Our pupils continue to amaze me with their hard work and kindness that they display through our school values. We are still trying to support all families and pupils around attendance, please let us know if you require any support as we know that things can be challenging at times and we are here to help and support.

Nursery



In our Nursery our pupils have really embedded SIMOA, who is our elephant who helps our children to remember to be safe. We use this principle (safe, inspect, monitor, observe and act) as practitioners when we are facilitating outdoor learning or transitioning around the school. Can we please ask all families when collecting to support us by getting their child to hold their hand to walk out of the nursery/school grounds safely? It would be good to create a consistent approach so that we give the same messages to all our children about being safe.

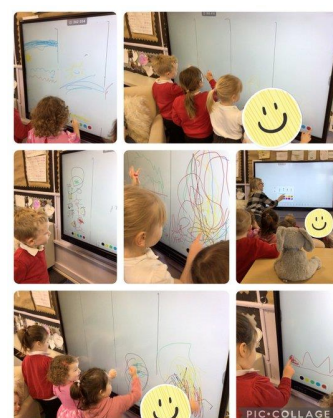


We have been looking at the end of our nursery day and what it looks like for our wee ones. After consultation with our wee ones and discussion with the staff team we are trailing a test of change around the end of the day. We do not want to interrupt their play to tidy up as we want to ensure our wee people are settled, happy and supported during transitions. Our families are now invited in from 2.45-3.00pm each day to collect their child. Our children will be in their play environment and families can collect their child as normal. We are opening the door earlier to help anyone who may be tight for time or has other commitments around this time but there is no obligation to collect earlier than you normally do. We are welcoming any feedback on this so please just let us know. If anyone has any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Partnerships with our families is so important to us, we have been very lucky to have one of our Mum's come into Nursery to share a family recipe with our children. Please let us know if you have any special interest or would like to be able to come in to share a skill with our children.

We have recently purchased a smart panel for our Nursery, our smartboard had stopped working. All of our children have been enjoying mark making, drawing pictures on it, playing games, listening to stories and doing Yoga!

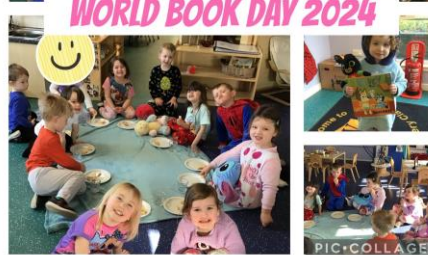


Whitcross Reads

Mrs Heggie, Mrs Duncan and the reading group have been working so hard to develop reading opportunities in our school and community. As part of World Book Day they organised activities for all classes. One of my favourite things to see was the hidden books in our community and the excitement and happiness this brings to others.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

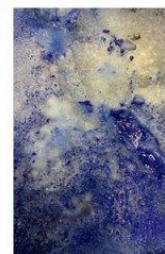
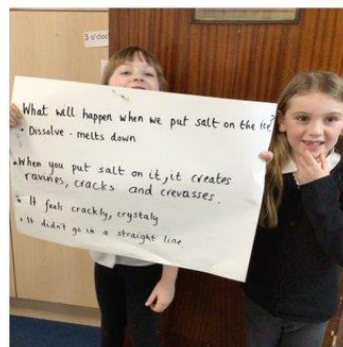


Read!

P3/2/1

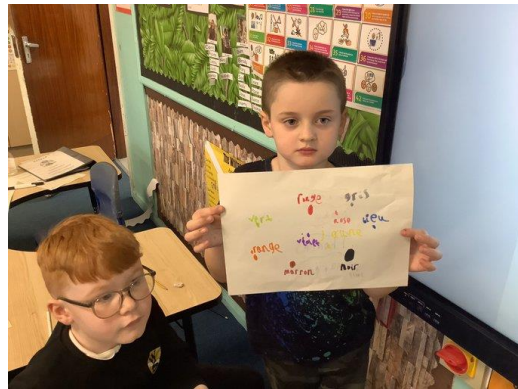
Look at the amazing experiments we have been carrying out!

What excellent discoveries we made!



PIC-COLLAGES

Play Pedagogy in P3/2/1



We love facilitating our children's learning through the wide variety of play experiences we plan. This allows all children to develop their own learning, knowledge and skills through their interests!

P5/4

Lots of creativity
being explored in
P5/4!



We have been exploring
pointillism and creating
designs in line with the
theme of spring.

We have also been
exploring Pop Art with
P7/6.

We took part in lots of book related activities for world book day 📖. We designed new covers for books, played book bingo, explored our library and spent some time reading our chosen books!

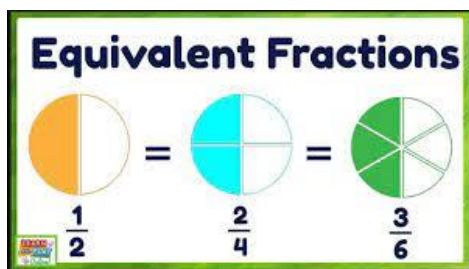


P7/6

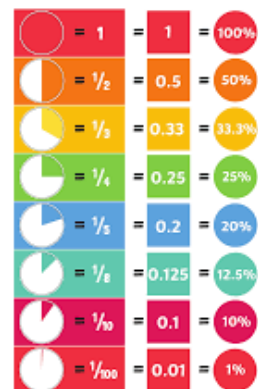
P7/6 have been very busy the last few weeks. They have been doing lots of research on French speaking countries for their Francophonie project!



Lots of active learning to develop our knowledge of equivalent fractions.



We are working so hard, learning the link between fractions, decimals and percentages!



Easter Bingo Fundraising Event

A huge thank you to everyone who made donations or came along to support us at our recent prize bingo event. We raised over £700! This is an incredible amount of money which is going towards our new playground equipment and resources.



Dress Down Day

On the last Friday of the month we will be encouraging pupils to dress down for a £1! The money raised will be going to our Parent Council for our Playground Project! This will start after Easter Holidays. Pupils do not have to participate, this is optional and Pupils can choose to come to school in their uniform. Pupils can dress down this Thursday as it's our last day this month. Please remember no football colours! The dates will be:-

Thursday 28th March

Friday 26th April

Friday 31st May

Friday 28th June



GLEE

We are so incredibly proud of all our pupils who recently participated in the GLEE challenge. Due to its great success we are continuing to run our club and new permission forms will be sent out after Easter holidays for any pupils wanting to take part.





Dates for your Diary:

Dress Down day – Thursday 28th March

Easter Holidays – Friday 29th March to 14th April – pupils start back to school Monday 15th April

Dress Down Day – Friday 26th April

Staff Development Day (school and nursery closed to pupils) – Friday 3rd May

Local Holiday school closed – Monday 6th May

Parent Council Sponsored Event – Silly Sports Day – Friday 17th May

Dress Down Day – Friday 31st May

Parents Surgery – Tuesday 11th June

P7 Leavers Assembly – Thursday 20th June (All P7 Parents invited)

Parent Council Shorts and Shades Disco – Friday 21st June

P7 Fun day – Thursday 27th June (More Info to be sent out)

Dress Down Day – Friday 28th June

Staffing Updates

We are welcoming Emma Wilson back to our Nursery. We have missed Emma and look forward to our children and families getting to know her.



Attendance

Please keep us updated if your child is unwell and not able to come to school. We know there have been some unpleasant bugs going about. Remember if your child is sick to keep them at home for 48 hours. We have been working very hard to ensure that all pupils are in school and want to continue to celebrate our success with this – please remember that family holidays are unauthorised absences.





Cash For Kids Grant



We are very excited to share that we have been successful in our grant application to Cash For Kids and have been awarded £4000 towards developing our quiet playground area.



After School Clubs



Please encourage your child if they have signed up for an activity to attend. Recently we have had lots of children pulling out last minute or asking us to make phone calls home to cancel coming. We are often in class or teaching groups so it isn't always possible for us to do this. We have also been very lucky to secure a dance teacher who is volunteering to provide us with this experience. Full attendance is expected as we do not want to lose this opportunity for our children.



Big Winter Walk for WWF



A huge thank you to Mrs Heggie and the Green Ambassadors for organising our Big Winter Walk. It was great to see so many families participate in this event! We raised £34.38 for WWF! Mrs Heggie's Panda biscuits were delicious!



Green Ambassadors



I am so proud of our Pupil Leadership in our school. Our Green Ambassadors have been very busy with Mrs Heggie planting our potatoes and getting our vegetables prepared for growing in our garden. The pupils led their own assembly highlighting the importance of Earth Hour. I hope that you were able to join in on Saturday! Our Green Ambassadors made beautiful candle holders and we switched off the school lights and power on Friday for Fun 31! All classes organised activities around Earth Hour which pupils enjoyed participating in. Well Done to Our Green Ambassadors!

A huge thank you to all our Parents, families and pupils for all your support this month. We may be a small community but your amazing efforts are going to make a big difference. We look forward to supporting our pupils to pick things for the playground and can't wait to share with you what we manage to purchase. We have installed new smart panels into every classroom and the nursery which make a huge difference to the quality of IT we have resulting in high quality teaching and effective learning. Next month we are focusing on our Pupil Leadership Roles and ensuring that our pupils continue the excellent work they are doing in taking forward our school improvements.

I hope you all have a very safe and happy Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday 15th April.

Mrs Donna Kilpatrick
Interim HeadTeacher

