

Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 1 - September 2024



News

It has been wonderful to welcome the children to school and to see them looking so healthy and well. Thank you to parents/carers for following the school uniform guidelines, the children look very smart and ready to learn. This is fantastic as we have an exciting year ahead.

We are committed to continuously improving and developing our curriculum offer. From our very youngest to the oldest children, teaching reading skills and fluency continues to be a key priority. This year, we will also be enhancing all our lessons by teaching and developing *Oracy* which is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.

By focusing on active learning and learning outdoors in our amazing local area, we will continue to explore opportunities that enhance child development, support mental health and wellbeing, deepen our connection with nature and promote inclusive and engaging learning.

This half term's topic information is below. A more detailed topic web of the intended learning for each year group has been sent to parents and carers this week. Please contact class teachers if you have any further queries regarding our curriculum offer.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery: 'Rhyme Time'

This term we will be taking an exciting dive into the world of nursery rhymes past and present. Incy Wincy spider will be leaping out of the story book and becoming our nursery pet and we will be splatting Humpty Dumpty in order to create a whole-class masterpiece! Fun learning times ahead as we dig deeper into some much loved traditional nursery rhymes.



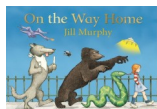
Reception: This is Me!

We are all unique and special in our own way and this half term we will take a closer look at how we explore the world using our five senses. We will learn the importance of space and moving around safely; our gymnastics work in PE will help with this too. We will talk about our families and look at family trees. We will become artists as we create self-portraits using different media and increasing detail. Our first steps into reading will occur with the introduction of the Read, Write, Inc phonics programme too. A busy and exciting term ahead!



Key Stage One

Our topic this half term is called "**The Journey of Me**". In Geography, we will explore maps of the UK and zoom in on Whitley Bay; identifying key features of our local area. We will focus particularly on the coast and how we can help to protect and improve where we live. In English, we begin by exploring the concept of identity and what makes us all individuals.



Through our key texts, including, '*On the Way Home*,' by Jill Murphy, we will investigate what makes a good journey tale and then have a go at creating a journey story of our own. Through our Art unit, '*Marvelous Marks*' we will explore texture, line and pattern and study portraits and self portraits.

In Maths, we are focusing on understanding place value and will begin to apply our knowledge to support addition and subtraction.

Key Stage Two

We are very excited to be starting the term with a brand new topic, **Antarctica**. We will listen to, read, explore and use the incredible book '*Shackleton's Journey*' as a stimulus for our writing.



In Science, we will be finding out about how the explorers stayed healthy during their expedition. We will compare this to modern day healthy eating and dentistry.

In Geography, the children will identify and describe Antarctica's location in the far south of the globe. We will then investigate the two main reasons people visit that part of world: tourism and scientific research.

In art, we will be developing colour mixing skills to create detailed self portraits, in abstract and in traditional styles.

Diary Dates 2024-2025

25.9.24 Reception Parent Workshop 1— 5pm or

26.9.24 Reception Parent Workshop 2— 9am

15.10.24 Parent Evening 1

17.10.24 Parent Evening 2

28.10.24-1.11.24 Half term

8.11.24 Red Class Assembly

7.11.24 School Photographs

9.12.24 KS1 Christmas Performance (1) PM

10.12.24 KS1 Christmas Performance (2) AM

11.12.24 Reception Christmas Performance AM

12.12.24 KS2 Christmas Performance PM

13.12.24 Nursery AM/PM Christmas Stay & Play

20.12.24 Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

Diary Dates 2025

6.1.25 Training Day

24.2.25-28.2.25 Half term

14.4.25-25.4.25 Easter Break

5.5.25 May Bank Holiday

26.5.25-30.5.25 May Half Term

17.7.25 Last day of term

18.7.25 Training Day

The next newsletter is out on
Friday 20 September 2024