

## Whytemead Spring 2 Newsletter



HAPPY  
EASTER



Firstly, a big thank you to all the children and staff at Whytemead for another wonderful term! Everyone has worked hard this term to be the best that they can be! Wishing you all a happy, healthy holiday filled with fun!

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April as the Monday is a bank holiday.

### Maths project

This term, we have been lucky to work with Mark Sears who is Head Teacher at Northlands Wood Primary School and also a maths specialist. He has worked closely with Mr Pascoe and Mrs Ford (our maths leaders) to raise the profile of maths in our school. We are very pleased to report that the hard work of all the teachers and children has led to some great improvements and the impact has been overwhelmingly positive. Please continue to support maths learning by encouraging your child to use <https://trockstars.com/login>.

This is particularly important for our year 3 and 4 children. As of June 2020, there will be a compulsory times table test taken by all year 4 children which will be set by the government.

### Accelerated Reader

Thank you for your enthusiastic support for our new reading scheme. The children in Key Stage 2 now all have access to Accelerated Reader. This will allow them to develop their comprehension skills more deeply as they can take a quiz after every accelerated reader book they read. Star tests are taken once a term and your child's ZPD number will be adjusted in the light of the results of these. We have seen that, for those children who are reading at least 15 minutes every day, it has had a huge impact. We have changed our timetables to ensure that there is time set aside in the day for independent reading, please support us at home by ensuring that your child reads daily. Practice makes perfect!

We have now catalogued nearly all of the thousands of school books that we have. I would like to offer my personal thanks to the fabulous team of parents who helped with this – without you, we wouldn't have been able to get the new scheme up and running so quickly. Thank you.

### PE kits

Over the holiday, please take the time to check that your child's PE kits still fits! We have a (very) limited selection of spare PE clothes and an even smaller one of PE shoes! We expect your child's PE kit to be in school every day and that ALL items (including shoes) are named. Some names are very hard to read now as they fade in the wash – please check this.

### Year 6 SATs

The week of 13<sup>th</sup> May is SATs week. These are statutory assessment tests, set by the government. Year 6 parents will receive more information about the timings of the week early next term. In the meantime, please ensure that your child practises their times tables, reads and completes accelerated reader quizzes, etc.

## **Twitter**

I regularly update our twitter account with photos and tweets about what's going on at Whytemead! Please follow us on @whytemead for our latest news! It is the school's only official social media account.

## **PE News – A message from Mrs Andrew**

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported and encouraged their children to participate in competitive sports this term - it is wonderful for them to have the experience and opportunity to represent Whytemead in our community. Look out for the termly sports round-up for full details of their achievements. There are more competitions and events coming in the Summer Term, so please check your emails regularly - and **please** follow WHYTEMEAD-PE (@WhytemeadP) on Twitter

## **Bikeability**

Children in year 6 have been fortunate to take part in 'Bikeability' (what was once known as cycling proficiency). I am very proud to say that we were complimented on our exemplary behaviour and that the children all did very well. Well done to all involved and Thank you to the Year 6 team for organising the week.

## **Swimming**

Congratulations to our year 5 children who have now completed their swimming lessons at Splash Point. We were often complimented by members of the public on their excellent behaviour.

Year 3's turn next! They start their swimming lessons on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

## **Summer Uniform**

All children are welcome to come back to school after the Easter break in summer uniform – grey shorts or purple checked summer dresses should they wish to. Please note that summer uniform is not compulsory. However, sandals are not part of our summer uniform as they can cause children to trip over when running. We would like all children to continue to wear black school shoes.

All that is left for me to say now is HAPPY EASTER to you all. I hope that the Easter Bunny is kind to everyone. For those of you who have 'take away' tasks to complete over the holidays; enjoy making and doing! We look forward to seeing your creations when you return.

See you after the holidays,

Mrs Clare Mavin