

# Whytemead Primary School Newsletter



## Message from Mr Waddington and Mrs Mavin

Happy Red Nose Day everyone! Thank you all for your kind donations to Comic Relief, we are cashing them up now and will be passing on your generous contributions to the charity. Although we understand that donating to charity may be difficult for some during these times, we also feel that it is very important for children to understand the giving process and how we all have a responsibility for helping others in our community and beyond. This may not be through donating money but can also be through giving our time, caring for our environment, being kind and tolerant to others and looking out for our neighbours and friends. Together, when we all do our small bit, we make a bigger change.



We have had another great week. The children are all back and settled and we are making very positive

progress across the school. EYFS have been reading 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. It has inspired them to listen to Caribbean music. In years 1 and 2, they have been reading a beautiful book called 'The Fox and the Star' written by Coralie Bickford-Smith. They experienced a magical stunning start to their learning by transforming one classroom into a star filled night sky. Years 3 and 4 have been studying animals and skeletons in Science. They have been piecing together skeletons and learning how to classify animals. Year 5 and 6 were confronted with 'Petalcide' on Wednesday afternoon. Someone had committed a terrible crime against flowers and the children had to perform a flower autopsy to gain evidence. They had to display their findings systematically and think like scientists. It's really lovely to hear children throughout the school enjoying their learning. They really are living up to our school value statement 'Through curiosity, collaboration and determination, we are Growing Minds.' Well done to all the children for their excellent attitude to learning!



Stay safe, Mr Waddington & Mrs Mavin



## Reading at School and at Home

The one thing that will make the biggest difference to your child's educational outcomes is whether they read! All subjects at GCSE, including maths, require children to have a good reading level. The good news is that this is something that can be supported at home. Please ensure that your child reads at least 5 times a week for at least 10 minutes in EYFS, Years 1 & 2 and 15 minutes in all other years - of course, if they want to read for longer, even better!

At Whytemead, we have recently developed our 'Reading Spine'. These are high quality books that all children will read (together in class) as they journey through our school. On top of this, we are always investing in buying new books for our Accelerated Reader library so that there is always lots of choice. Children are taught explicit reading skills daily through our Guided Reading sessions and all teachers are promoting the joy of reading with children in their class through lots of book talk and recommendations. If anyone knows of someone with an old vending machine (like the ones at the Leisure Centre) we have reading plans for one of those too! ;-)

## Diary Dates:

**Class Party:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March

**Parent's Evening:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

**Last day of term:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

**INSET DAY:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April

**First day of summer term:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April

## Lateral Flow Tests

Families of primary age children may now order their own Lateral Flow Tests. These tests are for the ADULTS only in your household. Primary age children are not being asked to test at this time.

If you would like to order your own Lateral Flow Tests, please read the guidance and order online via;

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Please ensure that you continue to follow government guidelines on social distancing and lockdown procedures at all times.

