

Whitwick St. John the Baptist C.E Primary School



# Newsletter



Spring Term

Jan/Feb 2020



## DIARY DATES

14th February  
School Closes for Half-Term

24th February  
School Re-opens  
9.15am—Y1 Hearing Tests

26th February  
1.45pm—Y6 Bridge Building & SATs Meeting for Parents

3rd March  
Y4 Life Skills

4th—6th March  
Y2 Beaumanor Hall Residential

4th March  
2.35pm—School Bank

5th March  
World Book Day!

18th March  
3.30pm—Parents Evening

19th March  
3.30pm—Parents Evening

24th March  
9.00am—Y2 Family Assembly



## Message from Mrs Noon

The first half of the spring term has been really busy, concluding with a whole school "Well Being" week this week. Our Christian Value has been 'Love' and the children have been thinking about what love is, who loves them and how love links to our other values like kindness. Their reflections have been very heart-felt and compassionate.



Please ensure all children have a school jumper. This is particularly important when they are out on a school trip. We have a small stock of newly new jumpers in school. Please ask at the office. Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Noon

## General Reminders

**DOGS**—Please can we remind all parents/carers that we do not allow dogs on the school premises, with exception to guide dogs for the visually impaired. Wherever possible, please leave your dog at home when dropping off or collecting your child.



**MOBILE PHONES**—We are noticing an increasing number of children who are bringing mobile phones into school with them. Please only send your child with a mobile phone if they are walking to or from school alone. If your child is being dropped off or collected, there is no need for them to have a mobile phone in school. The school cannot be held responsible for any lost or damaged mobile phones.

**BACK PLAYGROUND**—Please can we remind you that you should not be walking around the side of reception to access the back playground. We have many delivery trucks coming and going which makes this route unsafe. Please use the pedestrian gates to enter the playground.

## Book Swap

The Book Swap & Sale which was held after school on Thursday 16th January was really busy with lots of children swapping or buying books. Everyone went home clutching at least one new book to read and £12.50 was raised towards new books for library.

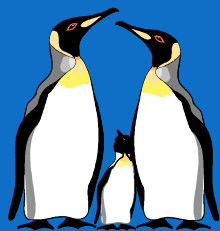


Look at all the new books that we have purchased for the library, many of which have been bought after children have requested specific titles. Please keep letting Mrs Cross know what you love to read and which new books you would like to see in the library.

## Penguin Parents



The Penguin Parents meeting took place on Thursday 23rd January. The group discussed our new vision statement and the half termly reports which are sent home. If you would like to join the group, please contact Miss Webster through the school office.



**NUT FREE School**

Please can we remind you that we are a nut free school. Children should not be bringing anything in to school that may contain any type of nut. Anything that is brought in will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. This includes Nutella products.



**Bullying Contact**

If you think your child maybe having issues with bullying or friendships you may contact Mrs Prime via the school office.



**Twitter**

Please follow us on twitter:  
@WhitwickPrimary

**Sporting Updates**

**Football**

**NWL Year 5/6 Girls' Football Cup**

On Monday 27th January, The Year 5/6 Girls' Football Team took on Ashby CofE in the inaugural NWL Year 5/6 Girls Football Cup. The match was the first of two group stage games with the top two teams progressing to a semi-final. The weather was wet and cold but that didn't stop the girls putting in a fantastic performance and coming away with a comfortable victory. Well done!



**Basketball**

**Year 5&6**

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, three teams represented the school at the NWL schools tournament at Castle Rock School. The teams played skilfully and showed great sportsmanship throughout the tournament. It was lovely to see the high level of enthusiasm for the children and the encouragement for one another. As a result of winning all their matches, team A have progressed to the area finals to be played at the start of February. Congratulations and good luck at the finals!



**Year 5&6—FINAL**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February, the winners of the first round tournaments of the NWL Schools Basketball Tournament came together to play the grand final at Castle Rock School. After three very competitive matches, the Whitwick A Team remain undefeated, winning 2 matches and drawing their final contest. This means they won the tournament as they finished in first place. Huge congratulations on this brilliant achievement! The team will now play in the county finals to be held at the Leicester Riders Arena on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.



**Y1 Phonics**

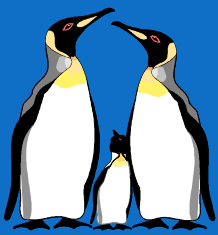
Year one invited parents into school for a phonics session. One was held in the morning and one towards the end of the afternoon. The aim of these sessions was to inform parents of the phonic screening test that children in Year one are required to take and also to demonstrate the different activities that the children do to learn and solidify their phonic knowledge. We were really pleased with the uptake of this opportunity and both parents and children got stuck into the activities. Thank you to all the parents that were able to attend.



**Y5 Family Assembly**

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, our Year 5 children performed in their wonderful Family Assembly. The "Viking Themed Gogglebox" performance was the perfect chance for them to share their learning all about Vikings with their families and the school. We learnt about Viking weapons, gods, sagas and some of the children presented the story of Beowulf through storytelling. All of the children gave super performances and we are very proud of them all... Well done Year 5!





**Penguin Pre-School**

Are you looking for childcare for your 2-4 year olds? Our penguin pre-school are now taking bookings for the summer term. If you are interested please contact Sally Price on 01530 832116.



**Staff Appointments**

Congratulations to Miss Mugglestone and Mrs Hall who have been appointed as midday supervisors and to Mrs Blockley who has been appointed as a Learning Support Assistant. All three will start with us after half term. Welcome to the team.

**Young Voices**

32 pupils represented the school at the Young Voices concert which took place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at the Resort World Arena, Birmingham. There were impeccably behaved, had oodles of energy and sang their hearts out! Performing with over 6,000 children to create the world's largest choir they also got to sing with the legend that is Mr. Tony Hadley and the country band The Shires. This was a truly unforgettable experience for all involved and the children's dedication and commitment to the event was second to none. Well done to all participants and a huge thanks is due to all parents and carers for their support - thank you for a fantastic day! Fingers crossed we will get to do it all again.... soon!



**Wellbeing Workshops**

To round off a fantastic half term full of learning, the children have been exploring Mental Health and Wellbeing during our whole school week. Throughout the school, children have been working together towards developing their understanding of what mental health is, how it can affect others and what we can do to make sure we are looking after both our bodies and our minds. On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February, the focus turned to well-being. From Reception to Year 6, children participated in a fun, energetic yet important workshop that taught them about their own well-being. To ensure our minds stay positive, happy and healthy they came away with five strategies: be active, give, take notice, keep learning and connect. Through fun games and important conversation, all left the session with a clearer understanding of how to look after their mental health. It being a fun event in our week was also a bonus!



**Wolsey House Visit**

We were very excited to welcome our friends from Wolsey House School in Beaumont Leys on the 29th January. 5 of our children from years 3, 4 and 5 were 'buddied up' with Wolsey House students of the same age to take part in a cooking workshop day. The result was a delicious cream tea. We are looking forward to a return visit in April.

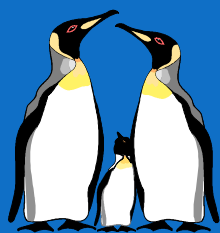
**NSPCC Assembly**

As you know, the NSPCC visited our school this month and delivered their Speak out. Stay safe. assembly to share information with the children about how they can keep themselves safe from harm and get help if they have any worries. Following on from the assemblies, years 5 and 6 took part in workshops which enabled them to dig a little deeper into how to decide if certain situations were safe. It was a very worthwhile and empowering session for both pupils and teachers. The volunteers from the NSPCC described the children's behaviour as exceptional and were extremely impressed with the maturity of their discussions.



**Year 3 Family Assembly**

Year 3's family assembly took place on 11th February, showcasing their learning so far this year. The performances included a news report from the Battle of Hastings; 'Uptown Tamworth', a dramatisation of life below stairs in a castle; a special edition of 'Cave Watch' presented by Chris Packet; and 'From Russia With Love' which took us on a literary and musical journey to Moscow.



## Free School Meals

If you are entitled to free school meals please claim these by contacting the following number:- **0116 3055000**.

It is particularly important for those parents of children in FS, Y1 and Y2 to register even though you are already receiving a free hot meal. Registering will enable the school to access funding for your child every year while they remain in primary school.

They are not obliged to have a hot meal every day. This money will help to fund valuable support for your child. Details of what may be provided are on our website. If any of our families are serving in the armed forces, please let the school know.

## Year 5 Viking Visit

The sound of a Norse horn was heard throughout the school on Thursday 9th January 2020, as Year 5 had a visit from Gregolf the Viking, who introduced the children to aspects of Viking life and society. The children took part in three sessions. In 'Raiders' they got to handle Viking weapons and shields, re-enacting warfare movements and tactics: During 'Toys and Games' the children learned how to play the Viking playtimes of Nine Men's Morris (similar to skittles) and Kubb, a three-in-a-row game of skill and strategy. Lastly, in 'Traders' they also got to spend Danegeld (Viking coins) and they got to touch and explore different replica objects, such as lanterns, clothing, bone combs and hunting horns. Much fun was had by all, as the children gained a valuable insight into Norse life, circa 1013AD.



## Year 2 Meetings

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who attended the Year 2 SATs and Beaumanor Hall information meeting on Monday 10th February, 2020. We talked about what the experience of SATs is like for a year two pupil and the expectations by the end of Key Stage One. Those that attended had the chance to look through some example papers and received advice on how to support pupils at home. Pupils joined us towards the end of the session to discuss plans for the forthcoming residential to Beaumanor Hall. Should parents or carers wish to discuss any of these areas further please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Thomas or Miss Armstrong.

## Roadworks

Phase one of roadworks on the City of Three Waters is due to commence on 4th March and last for up to 4 weeks. Work is being carried out on the bridge, which means there will be no vehicular access during this time. The council are providing a safe pedestrian route through these roadworks to enable families to still use this route to school. Please visit Leicestershire County Councils website for more information.



Have a lovely half term!  
**School will re-open on Monday  
 24th  
 February 2020 at 8.40am.**



### PROTECTING CHILDREN IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

At Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School we know it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare. All our staff and volunteers are alert to possible concerns about every pupil. We have a safeguarding and child protection policy and anyone may request a copy from the school office. If you have a concern, please speak to the headteacher and we will treat your concern seriously