

NOVEMBER 2023

24.11.23



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Fortnightly Flyer

We have had another great couple of weeks in school marking Anti-bullying Week and Interfaith Week.

Last week, the children engaged thoughtfully and maturely in a number of activities and discussions around the issue of bullying. We collected some really insightful comments from the children. We asked the children: What is bullying? Does the school take bullying seriously? Responses included:

- If someone is repeating a physical, verbal, cyber or mental action it counts as bullying.
- Bullying is being mean, name calling, constantly, non-stop. STOP (several times on purpose)
- Bullying means to hurt someone on purpose with intent or malice.
- When I've fallen out with my friend it was close to bullying. I told the teacher and it got better.
- The teachers keep it with the people involved and it stops people talking about it so the bully doesn't get embarrassed. That resolves it in a good way.
- Teachers deal with it instantly and not leave it. They do it calmly.
- Parents are involved if bullying happens.
- I think the school does it well. I haven't been bullied since I joined the school (joined 2020) and that's 'wow'!
- The teacher sorted it out (for me) by talking to me and letting it come out. I trusted him and it was sorted out.

A reminder that we will be holding a **parent workshop** around this issue, as well as discussing the revised proposed anti-bullying policy, on **Monday 27th November** straight after school. (We can provide childcare.)

Interfaith Week

This week has been our annual Interfaith Week. As always, it is one of the prominent weeks in the year with trips, artwork, writing, acting and hands-on learning.

Cedar had an inciteful time out at Guru Naka Dev Ji Gurdwara in Manchester, whilst Willow encountered Buddhism and Christianity as living and vibrant faiths at the Buddhist Meditation Centre and Manchester Cathedral. Our wonderful Acorns have also visited St Mary's and learnt about the key beliefs of Christians. Beech have also produced some beautiful artwork using Rangoli patterns as part of their study of Hinduism and the recent festival of Diwali.



This year, Elm and Oak have both been exploring Judaism. Elm's taste buds have been treated as they looked at Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year; they were also mesmerised by the Hanukkah menorah. Finally, Oak have been busy being hands on investigating all the Jewish artefacts we have in school.

This is but a drop in the ocean of learning that has occurred this week across school. Having looked at the British value of tolerance of different people's faiths and cultures in our collective worship at the start of the week, I am sure you will agree this will have been an eye-opening experience for our wonderful Whitegate children.

Communication

I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of those using the contact@whitegate ... email address. I admit that there were some teething problems when we first set this up, but it is now working really well. Thank you for your patience. I am finding it much easier to respond to emails from parents as they are not getting lost in the hundreds of emails I receive each week. Please continue to use this address rather than the head@whitegate ... which is no longer used for communication with parents.

FOWS News

The team have been busy in school again last week making Christmas crafts with the children in Oak, Elm and Acorns. If you would like to buy your children's craft, please send £2.50 (or more) in a sealed envelope with the child's name on. Sorry we can't give change.



Thank you to everyone who attended the wreath making session yesterday evening. Despite there being a power cut for the whole of the set up, light was restored with five minutes to spare and a fantastic evening was had by all raising £650 towards the new build. Thank you to Mrs Hough and Mrs Hurley for organising this successful event.

We are now looking forward to the Christmas Fair which takes place straight after school Friday 1st December.

Leading up to the fair there is a raffle running; tickets can be purchased from this link <https://app.classlist.com/events/#/raffle/view/1035971018> The raffle is online only, being drawn at midday on the 1st December so winners will be able to collect their prize at the fair. Please see the attached flyer for details of the amazing prizes on offer.

All being well, we will have at least one card reader in each room (other than Y6 stalls) so you can buy Whitegate money and pay for some stalls on card. If you would like to allow your children time to roam by themselves, there will be seating and refreshments including mulled wine in the hall. Keep an eye on Classlist for information about stalls and prices.

We are still short of volunteers and so if you can support with the set up or the manning of a stall on the evening, please sign up on Classlist.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

Dates

Please make a note of all of the important dates leading up to Christmas. For the evening performances of 'The Donkey Seller' and 'The Keymaster' all children are expected to attend. If a child is not present, it causes confusion for the rest of the cast and does not allow for the smooth running of the productions.

Please also note that we finish at 1:30pm on the 15th December . The Ark will not be operating on this afternoon/evening.

Monday 27th November	3:15pm	Anti-bullying Workshop for parents
Thursday 30th November	All day	Acorns' visit to Wheelock Farm
Friday 1st December	3:30pm	Christmas Fair
Saturday 2nd December	5:15pm	Village Christmas lights switch on
Tuesday 5th December	2pm	KS1 performance of 'The Donkey Seller'
Wednesday 6th December	5:30pm	KS1 performance of 'The Donkey Seller'
Friday 8th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
Friday 8th December	Lunch	Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 12th December	1:30pm	KS2 performance of 'The Keymaster'
Wednesday 13th December	6pm	KS2 performance of 'The Keymaster'
Thursday 14th December	Afternoon	Whole school visit to the pantomime
Friday 15th December	10am	Carol service in St. Mary's (Willow Class leading)
Friday 15th December	1:30pm	Break up for Christmas

Have a lovely weekend. It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... a month to go until Christmas Eve!

Every blessing,

C Mackenzie