



Whittingham
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

February's newsletter

Welcome to this month's newsletter - a round-up of all the wonderful achievements, events and developments across our school recently.

Visitors

As well as ensuring that we have a broad and balanced curriculum being taught well throughout our school, we also look at every opportunity possible to enhance our teaching and learning, bringing the curriculum to life. As such, we are delighted to work with our local community to enable the children to have visits and visitors whenever we can.

We are very grateful to both Laura and Cherry who have been coming into school to hear our children read as an extra to what each class does already. Laura also runs our school library once per week.

EYFS and Class 1 were also thrilled to have Lyndall and Jen from Market Place Dental Surgery, Alnwick, come into school to talk about how we keep ourselves healthy and dental hygiene. The children took part in activities within this session too.



Sport

As stated in last month's newsletter, after competing in a local multi-skills sports competition between schools in the area, our Year 5 and Year 6 children had successfully been in the top 2 out of many schools that took part. As such, both year groups went through to the regional competition and compete in a live event. The children performed well and gave their best in every challenge in the competition. Unfortunately, after facing very tough competition, we did not qualify for the national competition. Nevertheless, well done Year 5 and Year 6 – we are very proud of you!



School developments

Homework feedback/ consultation

Earlier this half-term, we held a session where parents/ caregivers were invited to give feedback regarding homework. This was met positively with those attending plus some other parents that gave feedback via email stating that they thought was of the appropriate level in terms of both quantity and challenge. The CGP books that were brought in for increasing practise of written methods in maths continue to be a strong positive, as does the use of TTRS (Times Table Rock Stars) for practising times-tables. Parents/ caregivers also felt that the reading records were good as a physical book rather than an app. Teachers will continue to send messages out regarding homework weekly and please feel free to contact your child's Class Teacher if you are unsure of anything or require further support.



Our walnut tree

As many of you will have experienced yourself or seen within the community and across the region or nationally, due to the number of high winds from storms, we have sadly had to have a beautiful walnut tree cut down at the rear of our grounds. Many of the children and parents/ caregivers have expressed sadness at having this tree felled. Unfortunately, the tree was deemed to be unsafe by experts as it posed a threat to not only the children and staff in the school grounds but the neighbouring buildings and road adjacent to it. As such tree surgeons safely removed this tree.

The children have often used this area in the summer time in particular to rest and relax when it's been break-times or to congregate for lessons/ activities led by staff. As such, we are keen to keep this area as a place where children can use still. The tree stump has been put to a height that eventually it will grow back in more of a bush form. We also planted many trees within our school grounds last year. The wood from the tree has also been kept and will be made into a bench to keep in the same spot as the tree once stood for the children. We also have discs of the ash wood from other trees that held to felled earlier this year. Although we're able to create seating ourselves, we also appreciate that we have talents and expertise for wood carving and building in our community, as such, if anyone has the skills and time for creating seating from this wood then please get in touch.



From all the staff at Whittingham C of E Primary School, thank you for your continued support,
Mr Charlton – Deputy Headteacher