

# Whalton C of E Primary School



January Newsletter

## Welcome Back

Welcome back to the Spring Term! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Firstly, we'd like to say a big congratulations to everyone involved, both staff and children, in this Year's Christmas performance, the children were absolutely wonderful and really reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas.

## Learning Journeys

We have added the Class Spring Term Learning Journeys to our website so please have a look to see what the focus' are for this term for each year group. These are under 'Our Curriculum' and then the sub-section 'Our Curriculum Learning Journeys'. You should also have received a paper copy of your child's Class Newsletter, so please check their Home School Diaries.

## Multi-skills

Children from Year's 4, 5 & 6 have taken part in the Area Multi-Skills Festival via zoom link with the presenter Justin Lockwood. The children competed against other schools in Northumberland and completed activities designed to promote resilience, teamwork and excellence. The children really enjoyed their afternoon and felt proud of their achievements. Well done Years 4, 5 & 6!

*'Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential' - Place2Be's children's mental health week.*



## Children's Mental Health Week

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

Children's Mental Health 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. This is an excellent opportunity to help highlight the importance of mental health with your child and this year's theme is 'Growing Together'.

*The children will be taking part in a series of activities designed to promote the idea of growth and will be exploring topics such as;*

More resources can be found on;

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

## Covid Update

As of 11<sup>th</sup> January, the testing guidelines have changed as per our communication. Also, from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January, the self-isolation period will be cut to a full 5 days, with people, if they have had a negative lateral flow tests on days 5 and 6, being able to leave isolation 'at the start of day six'.

If you need further information on either testing or self-isolation Government guidance, please refer to the information on the Northumberland County Council Education webpage (hyperlink below):

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus/Northumberland-schools.apx>

Thank you so much for your continued support in terms of testing when your child/ren have symptoms or they are under the weather and by respecting the school's risk assessments. Please do continue to report any cases to us and we appreciate everyone's over cautious approach so we can keep each other as safe as we can.

## Parent Ofsted Questionnaire

Thank you so much to those of you who have completed the Parent Ofsted Questionnaire. We are in the process of reviewing all responses.

## Teacher Training Day

Just to make you all aware that our next Teacher Training Day is on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February, in line with the Pele Trust and High School, with pupils returning to school on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## Echo Warrior's 'Walking Bus'

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February our Echo Warrior's 'Walking Bus' will be starting again. Miss Anderson and Mr Morris will be waiting opposite the Beresford Arms every Tuesday at 8.45am to walk your child down to school, if they'd like to take part.



## PLATINUM JUBILEE

### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

This year, the Queen is celebrating her Platinum Jubilee and to recognize and celebrate this the Government has announced that there will be an additional bank holiday. The late May bank holiday will be moved to Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.

As the additional bank holiday falls within the half term holiday, legislation has been passed to allow schools to benefit from the additional day's holiday. We will let you know, as soon as a decision has been confirmed regarding this additional day.



Information on the Robinwood Residential in February has been sent out separately to Year 4 parents this week. We hope they're all really looking forward to it!

## This Term in Class 3;

### *The Titanic*

Class 3 have been exploring the famous Titanic through a variety of curriculum areas. They have been taking part in a variety of investigations and enquiries to support and motivate their learning, incorporating the use of Primary and Secondary sources. From finding out who was on board the Titanic to how and why she sank, Class 3 are enjoying taking on the predominant role of being Historians this Spring Term!

Did you know, we can further explore the Titanic within our local area? The Titanic's sister ship, the RMS Olympic, was launched in 1911, a year before its sister's tragic maiden voyage. She finally retired in 1935 and was scrapped in 1937. Before it was dismantled completely, many of the fittings and artworks were auctioned. The then-owner of The White Swan Hotel, in Alnwick, bought the Olympic's dining room and transported it to the hotel, reconstructing it in all its splendour.



The magnificent Olympic Suite now shows off the original paneling, mirrors, ceiling and stained glass windows from a time when ships were truly magnificent. Miss Anderson couldn't resist the opportunity for Class 3 to begin to experience what it was like to have been on-board the magnificent ship. The children are also scheduled to have a workshop delivered to them by a specialist who works at the hotel.

In addition, World Book Day also falls in Spring Term. With a class of avid readers, who enjoy reading a range of books for pleasure, Miss Anderson has also arranged for Class 3 to visit Barter Books whilst in Alnwick. They will have a guided tour (even the places not usually open to the public), exploring the history of the store before having time to choose their own pre-loved book to read for pleasure. For updates linked to our learning, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @CofeSchool



The White Swan Hotel Dining room, Alnwick



Barter Books, Alnwick

# This Term in Class 2:



## Design Technology

This term in Class 2 will be taking part in a Design Technology project to design and make their own marble run. They will be encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to take risks and become more resourceful, innovative and capable, to see their ideas come to life.

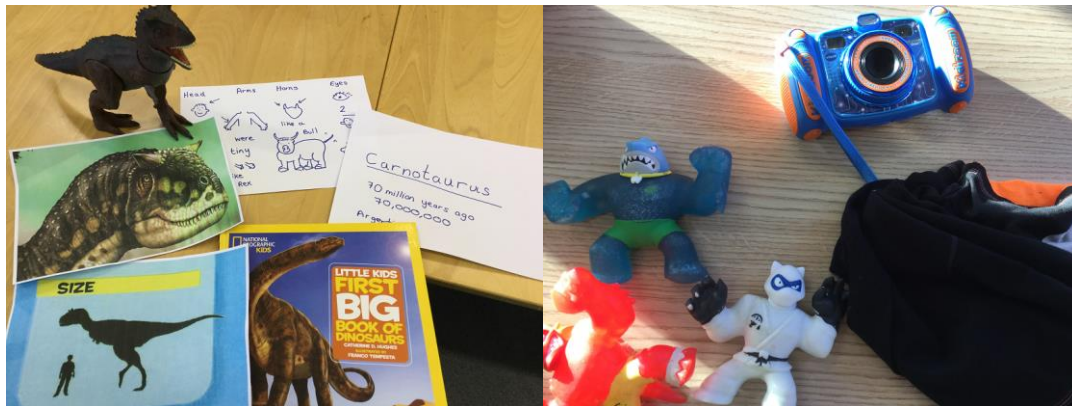
They will be asked to bring in cereal boxes, toilet rolls and all manner of things to help engineer and construct their own marble run! Watch this space for their designs and creations!



# This Term in Class 1:

## Expert of the Week!

In Class 1, we have been hearing from the children about different subjects that they are experts in! There has been a huge range of topics that people are experts in. Some children are dinosaur experts, experts at looking after pets, dancing experts, game experts, lego experts, experts in exploring the outdoors, and more! It has been wonderful to hear from our wonderfully talented class. Everyone has shown that they are an expert in something in Class 1.







## Dates for your diary -

Echo Warrior's 'Walking Bus' – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

PTA Valentines raffle – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Robinwood (Year 4): Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Teacher Training day Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Swimming for (Reception & Year 1) – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April

World Book Day – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

Barterbooks/ The White Swan Hotel (Class 3) – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March

