

Whalton C of E Primary School



February Newsletter

Spring Term 1

We have had a busy and eventful Spring term this half term including the launch of our Ready Steady Read challenge, in which we are hoping to inspire our love of reading across the school, with our sponsored read challenge happening from the 18th – 27th February. Because of our love for reading the children have also been exploring other types of love in our themed assemblies this month. They have been thinking about the meaning of compassionate love, friendship love and family love and seemed to have enjoyed thinking about what this means for them personally.

Baptism

We extend our thanks to Reverend Fiona Sample for providing a whole school Church Service on the meaning of Baptism. It was an insightful service which talked about the symbolism of purification and renewal. A perfect service to lead us into spring where all of nature is also renewing itself.

Robinwood

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, we have had to cancel the Year 4 Robinwood trip. However, we are looking to rearrange this as soon as possible and will update you on any arrangements as soon as possible.



Swimming

Call for help! If there any parents who are available and would like to help with assisting our children with our Tuesday swimming sessions, please can you contact the office for further information.



British Science Week

11th – 20th March

Kielder Observatory

We are excited to facilitate a visit that will bring the bright skies of Kielder Observatory to our school next term. The event is designed to inspire passion in our young scientists, who may even get a chance to touch a piece of the Moon!

Class 1

In Class 1 we shared with the children from PAWS in a celebration of Chinese New Year. We enjoyed performing our very own dragon and lion dance together adding a rowdy accompaniment using some untuned percussion instruments. We followed this by cooking our stir fry using our table top cookers; all bravely having a taste with a mixture of opinions!



We will be spending time reflecting on child mental health week. We have been learning some simple mindfulness activities.

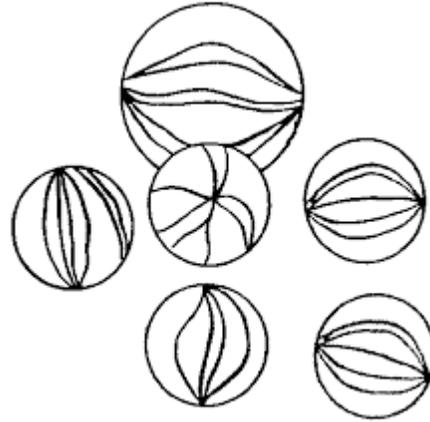
Our Expert of the week is drawing to an end, with our final candidates, who have waited patiently for their turn, sharing interesting expertise.



Class 2

So far, February has been a busy month for Class 2. We have loved watching our marble run in action and will be making our own runs using cereal boxes. We will be using the computer programme Scratch to learn about coding, and we have already planted bulbs and seeds in Science lessons.

We will be finding out about earthquakes and tsunamis in our Geography lessons, and our Year 4 children are already very excited about their upcoming trip to Robinwood!



Class 3 Art

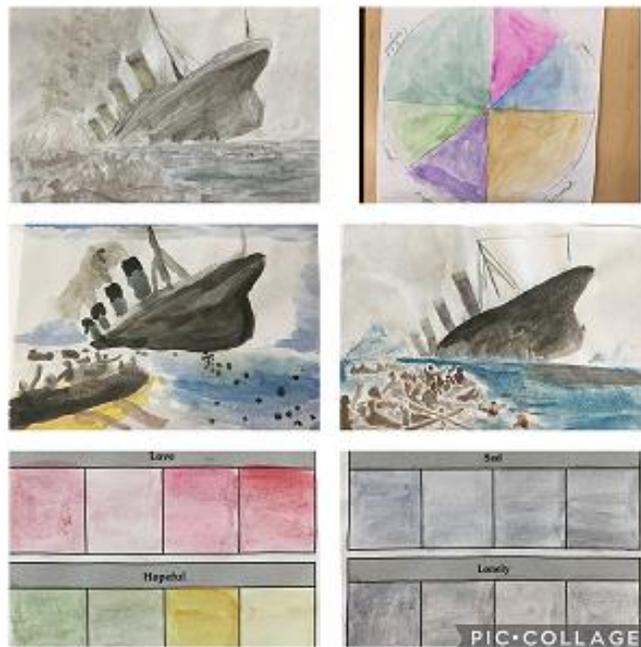
Class 3 have been studying the artist, Willy Stöwer. They have observed Stöwer's painting, 'The Sinking of the Titanic' (Der Untergang Der Titanic), and discussed initial reactions to the painting, using emotive language. They have held debates, contemplating why they thought the artist made the painting; allowing time for the children to look closely at the painting, supporting their views with key features spotted.

Stöwer made this painting without much detailed information about the Titanic's disaster. Our class of historians spotted that there was smoke coming from the fourth funnel. We knew, from our previous learning, that the fourth funnel was only used for ventilation and no smoke should appear.

We then viewed an edited version of the painting with colour added and explored how this changed the painting's effect. We asked ourselves:

Is it better? Do we prefer it this way? What colours have been used? Why? What effect or mood has this created?

Since then, the children have viewed some other paintings of the Titanic and have discussed the moods that the colours create, e.g. yellows and oranges might show hope (as the survivors sail towards the Carpathia), purples and blues might show the cold temperatures and despair as the ship sank. They then produced their own colour wheels containing colours linked to mood, created in the paintings they have looked at, valuing the children's own opinions and creativity.



Class 1 Art

This half term, class 1 have been learning about the Antarctica and the kinds of animals that live there. They have linked this in with their art curriculum and they have also been looking at the artist movement of Pointillism and investigating the artist Georges Seurat. Here is an image of their beautiful work;



Dates for your diary -

Echo Warrior's 'Walking Bus' – Every Tuesday starting 1st February

PTA Valentines raffle – Monday 14th February

Robinwood (Year 4): Cancelled due to weather – To be rearranged

Teacher Training day Monday 28th February

Swimming for (Reception & Year 1) – Tuesday 1st March – Tuesday 5th April

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

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

