George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 14th February 2025

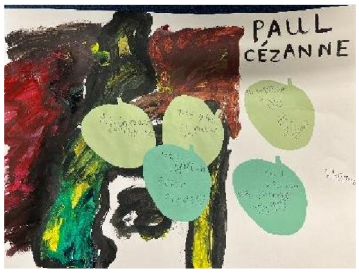
To all our families,

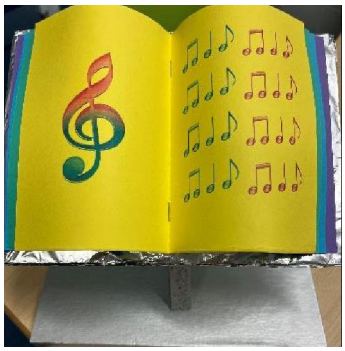
To celebrate Valentines Day, this week our newsletter has turned red.

As we come to the end of another half term, we reflect on just how busy we have been, and how much we have managed to fit in over the past 6 weeks. There have been numerous sporting events, visitors into school, trips beyond school, wow experiences alongside amazing learning across the school, a successful Ofsted inspection and so much more!



At George White Junior School there is so much celebrate and enjoy, including some amazing examples of Year 4 homework projects which were shared in our assembly this morning.





This week has been our **Aspirations Week**. I would like to say a huge thank you to our parents who were able to offer their time to come into school to talk to the children about their job and career path. This week we have welcomed Abaigail's dad, Hannah's mum and Peggy's mum into Year 6, Liam's mum, Luca's mum, Emily-Rose's mum and Lincoln's mum into Year 3. We have also welcomed Zara who is a paramedic, Aoife who works for Norwich City Community Sports Foundation and Andy Ward who works for Anglia TV. Weeks like these are so important, as they allow opportunities for children to discover and feel inspired about possible career choices and options beyond high school. What a fantastic Aspirations Week we have had.

I would like to wish all our families a safe and happy half term break. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Monday 24th February from 8:30am**.

Mrs Petchey and the George White Team.



EASTER BONNET COMPETITION

Earlier this week an email was sent to all parents with information about our Easter Bonnet competition. This was also shared with all children in our celebration assembly this morning.

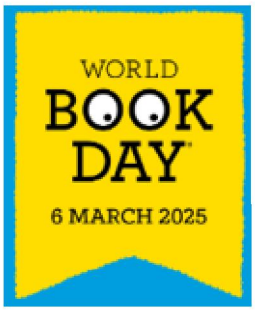
We hope as many children as possible can design and make an Easter Bonnet at home which will be paraded in school on Thursday 3rd April. Please can all bonnets be brought into school from Monday 31st March. There will be prizes from 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each year group. If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.






World Book Day

This year World Book Day will be celebrated in school on Thursday 6th March. Our whole school theme will be 'Wizarding World' and the children will be attending the 'George White School of Witchcraft and Wizardry' for the day and taking part in a range of activities such as wand making and potions class. Please note that this is not a school trip and the children will be on-site, at school for the duration of the day.



Children are welcome to come in clothes which link to our theme, but this is not essential. We ask that children do not bring in any items/accessories which they do not want to lose.

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week.

Well-done to **3 Potter** this week, for having the highest attendance.

6 Ness: 92%

6 Palacio: 95%

6 Morpurgo: 96%

5 Almond: 96%

5 Johnson: 96%

4 Tan: 97%

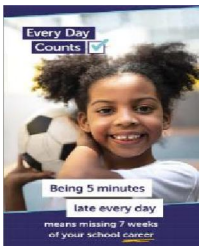
4 Pullman: 93%

3 Potter: 98%

3 Blyton: 95%

Whole school attendance for this week: 96%

School Target: 96%



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



SEND News



At the end of each half term, our newsletter will contain information about supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. This half term, we want to let you know what is available locally.

Are you aware of the SEND Local Offer? It is the website which tells you about all the support available for children and young people with SEND in Norfolk. There are sections on education, health and social care, as well as support services for parents and activities which are accessible to children with additional needs. The Local Offer is a great place to search if you have any questions about your child's eating or sleep patterns as well, along with information about financial support available for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. If you want to speak to other people in a similar situation to you, whether you are new to a SEND diagnosis or are further down this road, or are even awaiting a diagnosis or further information about your child's needs, there are support groups both locally and nationally, some in person and some online, where you can share your concerns and get advice and signposting.

The link below will show you what events are coming up for children, parents and carers in Norfolk but please do explore the website:

ADVICE AND SUPPORT - NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

There are also regular events held by the Dyslexia Outreach Service. If you would like to attend a workshop to get ideas on how to support your primary aged child with reading and spelling, you can book a place below:

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS/CARERS - DYSLEXIA OUTREACH SERVICE DYSLEXIA OUTREACH SERVICE

Attendance

Well done to the 123 children who have achieved 100% this half term. We will be celebrating this with certificates and prizes straight after half term.

Additionally, letters of support will go to parents of children with attendance below 92% since September. Please always remember that you can talk to any member of staff if there are barriers to attendance that you would like support with.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 17th February	Half Term Break
Monday 24th February	Welcome Back after half term- gates open at 8.30am
Monday 24th February	Year 4 Multiplication Timetable Check Parent Meeting at 3.30pm
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day – Details to follow
Tuesday 18th March	Open Classrooms for all years from 3.20pm
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day – Do something funny for money – Details to follow
Monday 24th March	Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm
Tuesday 25th March	Parents Evening 3.30 – 7.00pm
Thursday 3rd April	Easter Bonnet Competition and parade **Please bring your Easter Bonnet to school from Monday 31st March.**

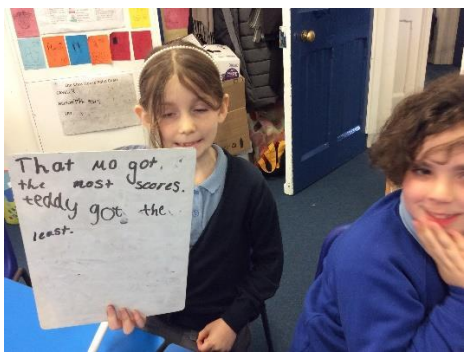
Look at what we're learning

Year 3

What a fantastic week of learning we've had in Year 3!
This week has been extra special as we've celebrated Aspirations Week! The children had the opportunity to meet inspiring visitors, including a play therapist, a forest school leader, a paramedic, and more. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they learned about different careers and how people help others in their professions.
In Science, we have put our knowledge of magnets to the test by designing and creating our very own magnet-based games. The children showed fantastic creativity and problem-solving skills as they explored how magnets attract and repel in a fun and practical way.
In Maths, we've been learning about pictograms and bar charts. The children have been collecting data, creating their own graphs, and interpreting information, helping them to develop their data-handling skills in a meaningful and engaging way.
In English, we have been working hard on completing our Autumn Child stories. The children have been editing their work to include the features we have focused on this half term, such as time conjunctions, adverbs, and direct speech. It's been amazing to see their writing skills progress, and their dedication to improving their work has been commendable.
We've also completed our end-of-term assessments this week, and we could not be prouder of the children. They have given it their very best effort, demonstrating resilience and determination in every subject. Well done, Year 3!
In Games, we have been continuing to practice our basketball skills, focusing on teamwork, dribbling, and shooting techniques. The children have shown great improvement and sportsmanship throughout the lessons.
In French, we have been learning to count to 20, and the children have especially enjoyed practicing alongside a lively and engaging song. Their enthusiasm for language learning has been fantastic!
In RSHE, the children have been completing and presenting their garden designs. It has been wonderful to see them express their ideas creatively and explain their thought processes with confidence.
As we come to the end of this half term, we want to thank all the children for their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to their learning. We hope that all families have a fantastic half-term holiday, and we look forward to another exciting and enriching term ahead.
Well done, Year 3!





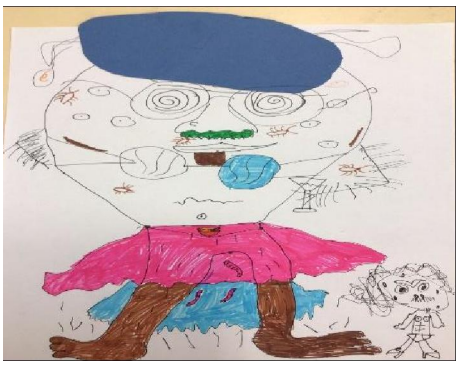


Year 4

Another very busy week in year 4. In our writing this week we have planned and written our journals based on Our Tower. We have had a lot of fun adding doodles and making our writing interesting.
In our maths this week we have been practicing using the 4 operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We have then used these skills to solving multistep word problems. This has been a bit of a challenge, but we have worked really hard at this and improved our skills.
In science this week we have set up an experiment to see if all liquids evaporate. We are testing water, oil, squash, ketchup and syrup and we will check the experiment after half term.
We have begun a unit on Art this week based on still life, focussing on Paul Cezanne. We have had a good look at some of his works and have practiced drawing simple objects.
In our PSHE lesson this week we have continue to look at goals and dreams. We have worked on teamwork and creating new goals together by entering a group design into a funniest potato competition!
Mrs Thirtle and Mr Elias would like to say how proud we both are of year 4 this half term as they have worked amazingly well. Well done year 4!!

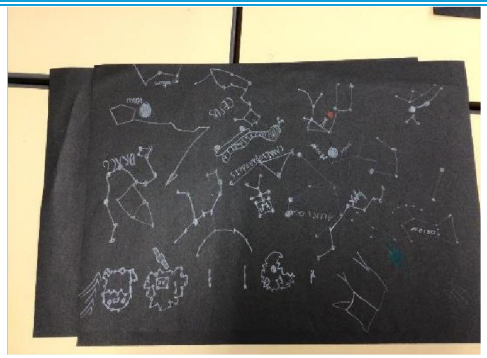






Year 5

We've had a wonderful week in year 5 and have welcomed a whole range of amazing visitors to inspire us for aspirations week! We had assemblies where we were joined by a paramedic, someone who works for Norwich City Community Sports Foundation and an ITV news reporter! We were very excited as the news reporter came and did a question-and-answer session in year 5 classes afterwards. We were blown away by the amount of amazing questions the children had to ask, and they definitely were inspired by this visit.
This week the children have also been continuing to work hard on their fractions unit, learning how to find fractions of an amount and use fractions as operators. In English we have been focusing on poetry with the topic of 'Viking Kennings and Spells' which the children have thoroughly enjoyed! In RSHE we had an important discussion around the important topic of cyberbullying. In History we are continuing to explore Ancient Maya Civilisation, and have been really impressed with the knowledge the children have remembered and shared, through their classwork and home learning projects.
On Monday, we welcomed lots of you to a star gazing event linked to our solar system topic in Science. Although the weather wasn't as we'd hoped, we had a great time exploring constellations using technology on the iPads and creating our own constellations! We were so impressed with the results! (see photos). Thank you to those of you who came along - we hope to run some similar events in the future!
We hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on 3rd March!
The Year 5 Team.


Year 6

What a truly inspiring week it has been in Year 6! Our **Aspirations Week** brought a refreshing change to our usual routine, with an exciting line-up of visitors who shared their unique career journeys and steps to success. A huge thank you to all the parents who took the time to come in and talk to the children. Your stories and insights have sparked new aspirations, and we can already see the children's motivation soaring! They were truly inspired by the diverse paths people take to reach their goals, and we believe this will have a lasting impact.

In addition to our Aspirations Week activities, the students continued to work hard and stay engaged in their learning across various subjects. In **Maths,** we tackled volume and measurements. In **English, t**he children explored their creative writing skills by crafting a **free verse poem** about a secret garden, allowing them to experiment with different forms of expression. We began our exciting new topic on **Activism in Art**, where students will reflect on their passions and explore ways to inspire change in the world. This is shaping up to be a thought-provoking and powerful unit, and we can't wait to see the incredible outcomes.

Last Friday, half of the year group had the wonderful opportunity to visit **Norwich Cathedral**. They learned so much about Christianity and its connections with both **Science** and **Art**. It was an enriching experience for all involved, and we couldn't be prouder of how the students engaged with the visit. The day was filled with discovery and awe.

We continue to be so impressed by how the Year 6s are growing into respectful, kind, and motivated young people. Their hard work this week has been truly commendable, and we are excited to see how they continue to develop in the months to come.

Next week, we will be taking a well-deserved break, and we encourage everyone to make the most of this time to relax and recharge. We look forward to seeing all the children back at school on **February 24th**.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break!

Warm regards,

The Year 6 Team





Blake Class

In Blake class, we are coming to the end of our descriptive writing unit. Children chose their own character to draw, then chose some words from a selection that they could use in a description. They did lots of work with mind maps, pictures and drama before writing their final piece. We are so proud of the descriptions, use of adjectives, prepositions, nouns and verbs.

We finished our science unit by matching up circuit symbols with the photos of the objects so that children could draw scientific diagrams. They have enjoyed creating a variety of circuits using bulbs, buzzers, and switches which they made themselves.

Today, we say goodbye to two members of Blake class who are returning to their home school mainstream classes full time. They've both worked so hard and we wish them all the best. We look forward to welcoming two new children after half term.



