Dear Parents and Carers,

Creativity Week has been an astounding success across all schools in the Trust and in particular here at Whirley! Throughout the week, our children immersed themselves in a vibrant programme of art, music, dance and drama, embracing every opportunity to express themselves creatively.

We were delighted to welcome storyteller LLaria Passeri, who launched our week with a whole-school assembly on Monday, captivating everyone with her engaging storytelling. She also delivered a workshop with Year 4, encouraging imagination and creativity through the power of narrative.

Music has been a real highlight. Last Friday, our Year 2 and Year 3 children attended the Big Sing, joining other schools in the Trust for a combined singing event. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to perform as part of a larger community.

Year 6 and Year 3 also enjoyed an energetic and enriching drumming workshop with Drum Roots, an African Drumming & Dance company. The session began with group drumming, with all children playing together as they learned a traditional African rhythm. The dance facilitator played the large bass drums (dunduns) alongside the group, helping the children understand how the different rhythmic parts fit together. The children also learned choreographed African dance movements, developing coordination and confidence.

Drama workshops were delivered by ECHO Performing Arts for our Year 1 and Reception children, who thoroughly enjoyed using movement and expression.

In visual arts, Anastasia from Sensoria UK worked with Year 4 and Year 5 to create beautiful dream catchers. Using simple weaving techniques and incorporating found objects fusing nature and manmade materials.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Brendan Stanley (Whirley parent) for giving up his time to work with our Year 1 and Year 2 children during Creativity Week. Brendan kindly brought in some of his own incredible artwork to share with us, and the children were absolutely amazed by how 'real' his paintings looked! During his workshop, the children explored blending and fusing colours to create beautifully shaded backgrounds. They thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with paint and mixing colours to develop their own unique shades. Once their backgrounds were complete, they added a striking bee silhouette on top, finishing their artwork with additional materials to create detail and texture.

We are also incredibly proud of the Whirley Echo Club, who performed at Fallibroome High School on Thursday evening alongside other Trust schools. They were a fantastic representation of Whirley Primary School and they took to the stage with such confidence, performing with enthusiasm and professionalism. The displays in the foyer which included examples of Whirley 'Creativity Week' work were not only of an incredibly high quality but also visually stunning, showcasing the breadth of creativity across the Trust.

We would also like to celebrate our Young Voices Choir, who travelled to Co-op Live on Thursday evening to perform alongside many other schools. Singing with over 8,000 other children, they truly sang their hearts out and thoroughly loved the experience. It was an unforgettable opportunity to be part of such a powerful and uplifting musical event and wouldn't be able to happen without the amazing work by Mrs Dunford. A big thankyou also to Mr Carew, Karenza Pateman and Alexa MacBryde for keeping the children engaged during the long breaks!

Creativity Week finished with a wonderful sharing assembly this morning. The children were enthusiastic and confidently shared their work, speaking proudly about their experiences and creative achievements. The work showcased was not only from the fantastic workshops throughout the week, but also pieces created in class inspired by our theme of *Fusion*, demonstrating how pupils combined different styles, ideas and techniques in imaginative ways. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the week and reflect on all that had been accomplished.

RESPECT RESILIENCE COLLABORATION INDEPENDENCE TOLERANCE

Celebration Assembly

Our celebration assembly is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the children's hard work, their commitment to our Whirley values and their achievements outside of school. We also celebrate the Dojo house points earned throughout the week and announce the winning house of the week.

Headteacher's Award

This week, the following pupils were praised for their excellent learning and achievements across the school.

In Reception, Gryffin and Val were recognised for their excellent maths work, confidently exploring different ways to make 6. Well done!

In Year 1, Eleni was celebrated for her beautiful artwork, skilfully blending colours during her Creativity Week workshop inspired by the theme of fusion.

In Year 2, Albie is awarded for his excellent work creating a creature by fusing together different animals. He drew and described his creature and then his description was put into AI. His description was very clear and created a picture just like his drawing. Well done Albie!

In Year 4, Omar and Jack were praised for their mosaic projects. Linking to the Creativity Week theme of fusion, they combined History, art and computing to create their final pieces.

In Year 5, Max and Rosa were awarded for being fantastic role models while reading with their Year 1 buddies.

Well done to everyone who has been recognised this week for their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements.

V.I.Ps (Values in Practice)

Our **V.I.P. (Values In Practice) Award**, recognises and celebrates children who consistently demonstrate our **Whirley Values** in their daily school life.

Well done to this week's V.I.Ps who will proudly wear our purple VIP sweatshirts the first week back after half term: Elliot (Reception) for Respect, Thea (Y1) for Collaboration, Hope (Y2) for Respect, Charlie (Y3) for Resilience, Cody (Y4) for Collaboration, Fynn (Y5) for Collaboration and Isobel (Y6) for Resilience.

Winning House



A big congratulations to **Chelford**, who are our winning house this week with an excellent **121** Dojo points! Well done also to **Henbury** with **119** Dojo points, **Birtles** with **118** Dojo points and **Alderley** with **107** Dojo points.

Message from the Chair of Governors

As Chair of the Governors, I would like the opportunity to chat face to face with parents. The intention of the sessions is to cover thoughts about school in general terms. Therefore, I would like to trial an open session in school. I know how busy everyone is, so I propose to be in school from 3pm to 4pm on Monday the 9th March in the Lodge. If this proves popular with parents, I will hold a session once a month.
I look forward to meeting with you.
Pete Walsh

Year 4 Residential

A reminder that Friday 6th March is the last day for payments for the Year 4 Residential.

Attendance

I would like to thank the many of you who are already partnering with us to ensure your children are in school, on time, every day. Your support makes a significant difference and is vital for your child's success. Overall, our school attendance was 98% this week.

- Reception: 99%
- Year 1: 98%
- Year 2: 98%
- Year 3: 95%
- Year 4: 96%
- Year 5: 98%
- Year 6: 98%

Spring Term dates up to Easter holidays

13th February – Break up for HALF Term 3.30pm
23rd February – School reopens
23rd February – Burwardsley Residential Year 2
12th March – Tattenhall Residential Year 4
Week beginning 16th March – Parents' Evenings
27th March – Break up for Easter/Spring Holiday 3.30pm
13th April – School Reopens

External School Clubs

Monday – Y3 – 6 Football 3.30 – 4.30
Tuesday – Y1/2 Football 3.30 – 4.30
Wednesday – Echo Club
Thursday Multi-Sports - 3.30 – 4.30
Friday – Girls Football - 3.30 – 4.30

Teacher Led School Clubs

Monday 12.30 – 13.00 Sewing Club with Mrs Hennerley
Monday 3.30 – 4.30 Y4, 5 and 6 Netball with Mrs Tomlinson
Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 KS2 Coding Club with Mr Salmon
Tuesday 12.30 – 13.00 Sewing Club with Mrs Hennerley

Kind regards,
Mrs Karen Whalley
Headteacher