RESPECT RESILIENCE COLLABORATION INDEPENDENCE TOLERANCE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the final week of half term, we look ahead to a busy and exciting Creativity Week, which we are taking part in, alongside the other schools in our trust. The children have lots to look forward to, with a wide range of workshops planned throughout the week, including sessions with storytellers, artists and drama specialists. While we are excited about the week ahead, I would like to reflect on some of the highlights from last week.

Our pond area continues to take shape and is already becoming a valuable feature of our outdoor learning space. The Eco Committee has been working extremely hard alongside Phil Harris to build a dead hedge around the pond, using branches and recycled materials sourced from around the school grounds. This will not only help to define the area but will also create a safe and natural habitat for wildlife. We hope the work will be completed by the end of the week, ready for the second half of the spring term and we are excited to see how the area continues to develop.

Last week, we were also pleased to welcome representatives from the Brimstone Project, which promotes tree planting to encourage Brimstone butterflies. An area has been identified for planting ten trees in March, with Year 5 leading this project. We are really looking forward to another fantastic addition to our outdoor learning space.

Sporting success came from our netball team, who played against Puss Bank Primary last Wednesday. Despite a later than usual start, the team showed great composure and secured a win, scoring six goals. Archie was nominated Player of the Match. Well done to him and to the whole team! We wish them the very best of luck this week as they play away at Upton Priory.

What a wonderful way to end the week! On Friday, the WSA hosted the school Valentine's disco, which was very well attended. A huge thank you to the amazing volunteers whose hard work helped make the evening such a success. We are delighted to share that an incredible £1,015 was raised, with every penny going towards supporting the school and enriching the children's learning experiences. Thank you once again to the WSA, our fantastic volunteers and everyone who came along to make it such a fun event for all the children.

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

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

In Reception, Kaan and Harley-Rose were commended for their fantastic reading, confidently using segmenting and blending to read CVC words. Brilliant effort!

In Year 1, Wilf was recognised for his strong Maths skills, accurately counting in tens and ones and confidently counting forwards and backwards.

In Year 2, Joey was acknowledged for his wonderful descriptive poem about a polar bear, which was a joy to read.

In Year 3, Daisy impressed us by sharing her fantastic artwork, where she carefully practised light and dark shading techniques.

In Year 4, Liv and Isabelle were praised for their excellent 'hot piece' writing in English, successfully using persuasive features.

In Year 5, Thomas was commended for his thoughtful English 'hot write', where he planned an exciting adventure. Also in Year 5, Charlie shared his excellent Science knowledge about forces, particularly his understanding of friction.

In Year 6, Isobel and Jack were recognised for their thoughtful PSHE questioning and their strong collaboration skills.

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 this week: Flo (Reception) for Respect and Tolerance, James (Y1) for Independence, Henry (Y2) for Resilience, Imogen (Y3) for Resilience, Enid (Y4) for Resilience and Independence, Ava (Y5) for Respect and Isobel (Y6) for Respect.

Winning House



A big congratulations to **Chelford**, who are our winning house this week with an excellent **175** Dojo points! Well done also to **Alderley** with **165** Dojo points and to **Henbury** and **Birtles**, who both scored **149** Dojo points.

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 95% last week.

- Reception: 90%
- Year 1: 99%
- Year 2: 95%
- Year 3: 89%
- Year 4: 94%
- Year 5: 98%
- Year 6: 99%

Young Voices

A reminder that if your child is attending Young Voices on Friday, they will need two packed lunches. One for when we arrive for lunchtime and another in the evening, before the performance begins. We are so looking forward to the experience of performing alongside many other schools in such a big arena.

Smart Watches in school

At Whirley, we recognise that mobile phone and smart watch technology have advanced significantly in recent years and continues to evolve. Many devices now provide internet and email access, in addition to standard functions such as messaging, cameras, video and sound recording.

We are aware that there has been an increase in the number of children wearing smart watches to school. However, even when certain features are said to be disabled, staff are unable to reliably monitor or verify whether access to apps, cameras or other functions has been restricted during the school day.
For this reason, **smart watches are not permitted to be worn in school**.

In line with our commitment to supporting children's independence and time-telling skills, pupils **may wear a simple analogue or digital wristwatch** that does not have smart functionality.
If you are unsure whether your child's watch is appropriate, please speak to the school office or a member of the Senior Leadership Team at the gate, who will be happy to advise.

Spring Term dates up to Easter holidays

9th February – Creativity Week
10th February – Internet Safety Week
10th February – Chemistry with Cabbage – Year 6
12th February – Young Voices Concert (COOP Live)
12th February – Creativity week presentation evening at Fallibroome – Echo Club
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
Not on 10/2/26 - 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