RESPECT RESILIENCE COLLABORATION INDEPENDENCE TOLERANCE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful first week back after the half-term holiday, with lots of exciting learning already taking place across school.

Burwardsley Residential Year 2

Our Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic residential visit to Burwardsley, where they truly embodied the Whirley values of resilience, collaboration, independence and respect.

On the first day, the children headed out on a forest walk, exploring the woodland habitat and identifying different trees. They investigated animal environments, searching for signs of wildlife by listening carefully and observing closely. They asked thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity, soaking up new knowledge with enthusiasm. In the evening, they gathered for a special campfire, roasting marshmallows and singing songs with Mr Carew, which was a wonderful way to end their first day.

The second day focused on "jungle survival", where the children learned how to tie a range of knots and used these new skills to build shelters and string up hammocks. Teamwork and collaboration were key as they worked together to solve problems and support one another during activities and games.

For many children, this was their first time away from home and they demonstrated impressive independence throughout the residential. They made and stripped their own beds, kept their rooms tidy and cleared and organised their dinner tables responsibly. They also enjoyed a great selection of delicious food across the two days.

We are incredibly proud of how Year 2 embraced every opportunity and represented our school so positively. A big thankyou to Mr Carew, Mrs Bailey, Miss Sutton and Mr Walsh (Chair of Governors) who gave their time so generously to make the experience such a special one. Their care, enthusiasm and support ensured that the children felt safe, happy and able to enjoy every moment of their adventure.

School Wildlife Pond

We are delighted to announce that our school pond project has now been completed, creating a fantastic new opportunity to enrich children's outdoor learning and exploration.

To celebrate, we will be holding a whole-school Grand Opening on Tuesday 3rd March at 9:30am. This will be a whole-school event, with all children and staff attending.

We are especially pleased that Mr Buckley will be joining us for the opening. As a Whirley parent and member of Dow Chemicals, his support through their science grant made this entire project possible. We are incredibly grateful for the generous contribution that has helped us create this wonderful new learning environment for our children.

Healthy Snacks

Today, all families will receive a letter asking for your views on healthy snacks for morning break. We would be grateful if you could take a few moments to read the letter carefully and share your response. Your feedback will help us update our snack policy in a way that supports children's health while respecting family choices. Once you have completed it, please could you return to school so we can collate all views.

Big Walk and Wheel to School

We are excited to announce that Whirley Primary School will be taking part in the Big Walk and Wheel to School from Monday 16th March to Friday 27th March. Many schools from across the country will be taking part.

During these two weeks, pupils will be encouraged to walk or scoot to school whenever possible. This initiative strongly supports our ongoing drive to help children develop healthy lifestyles, while also raising awareness of important environmental issues such as reducing traffic congestion and lowering our carbon footprint.

By choosing active travel, children can enjoy fresh air, build daily exercise into their routine, and learn how small changes can make a big difference to our planet. We encourage families to get involved and support their children in taking part as much as they can throughout the event.
Let's work together to make this a positive, fun, and environmentally friendly experience for our whole school community. We will be introducing this competition to the children in an assembly next week so that they can tell you more about it.

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

The following pupils have been celebrated for their outstanding learning and accomplishments across the school.

In Year 1, Theo C was awarded for his impressive science investigation, exploring which material would make the best umbrella. Fantastic work!
In Year 2, James was commended for his keen observation skills in History, successfully identifying similarities and differences between Whirley today and 150 years ago.
In Year 4, Liam demonstrated exceptional sewing skills in his design and technology project.
In Year 5, Evelyn was awarded for her scientific investigation into which 3D shapes are most water-resistant.
Also in Year 5, Bella showcased her English work, where she confidently and accurately using relative pronouns and clauses.
In Year 6, Thomas H was recognised for his remarkable progress in reading, showing determination and commitment both at school and at home.

Congratulations to all the pupils acknowledged this week for their dedication, 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: Sylvie (Reception) for Respect, Aggie (Y1) for Respect, Teddy (Y2) for Independence, Layla (Y3) for Collaboration, Omar (Y4) for Independence, Riley (Y5) for Resilience and Liam (Y6) for Resilience.

Winning House



All four houses added well to this week's dojo points, showing teamwork and effort. The competition at the top was close, with Alderley finishing first with 118 points, Henbury second on 111, Chelford third with 109, and Birtles on 101. Well done to everyone for their effort.

No Idling - Clean Air Campaign

We're supporting the NHS **'No Idling' poster competition**, which links directly to our Sustainability Action Plan and our commitment to **clean air** for our community along with other schools in the Halliard Trust. The NHS is encouraging drivers to switch off engines when waiting outside hospitals to reduce air pollution and protect health. As part of this, pupils are invited to design posters promoting the **No Idling** message for the NHS competition. This competition is open to all **KS2 pupils** and the closing date is the 9th March. Entries can be brought in before this date. (NHS campaign poster is at the end of this newsletter)

Alongside this, our **Eco Committee** will also be running a 'No Idling' **whole-school poster competition for our school**. Winning designs will be displayed **outside our school gates**, helping to promote the same clean air message in our own local environment. This competition is open to **all pupils from Reception to Year 6**. This is a great opportunity for pupils to act, be creative, and make a positive difference, both for the NHS and our school community.
This message was shared this morning in our school assembly and teachers will collect completed posters to give to the Eco-Committee.

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 97% this week.

- Reception: 98%
- Year 1: 99.7%
- Year 2: 98%
- Year 3: 98%
- Year 4: 92%
- Year 5: 96%
- Year 6: 98%

Spring Term dates up to Easter holidays

5th March – World Book Day
9th March – Chair of Governors Face to Face Session (Learning Lodge 3pm – 4pm)
12th March – Tattenhall Residential Year 4
Week beginning 16th March – Parents' Evenings
18th March – Rock Steady Concert 10.00am
25th March – Brimstone Project Year 5
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 3.30 – 4.30
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

KS2 Poster Campaign for the NHS

