Dear Parents and Carers,

School Wildlife Pond – Grand Opening





Last Tuesday saw the grand opening of our school pond and wildlife area. We celebrated outside with a whole-school assembly on a beautiful early spring morning. This area is part of a larger project to enhance our outdoor learning, and we are thrilled with the results so far.
A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it possible. In the photo, you will see Mrs Hennerley, the leader of our Eco Committee and very much the driving force behind the project and Mr Byrne, one of our school site managers, who has been busy preparing the outdoor area. They have, of course, been ably supported by our wonderful Eco Committee.
Mr Buckley, a representative from Dow Chemical, was also present. We were very fortunate to receive a grant from Dow Chemical to help fund the project, as the company is keen to encourage young people's participation in science. Phil Harris, Virdis Vita Ecology Limited, was very much the hands-on creator of the pond and our thanks go to him too. Finally, we thank Mr Pete Walsh, our Head of Governors, for always giving us the support and encouragement to move forward with projects such as this.

Healthy Snacks

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our healthy snacks survey. We have had a fantastic response and will share the results, along with our next steps, once we've finished reviewing and collating the feedback.

Year 4 Residential Trip to Chester & Tattenhall

Year 4 are very excited to be heading off on their residential trip this Thursday and Friday to Chester and Tattenhall. On Thursday, the children will visit the Deva Roman Discovery Centre in Chester, where they will take part in a range of hands-on Roman activities. They will step back in time to learn what life was like in Roman Chester, exploring the city's fascinating history through interactive experiences and workshops.
The children will also enjoy the excitement of an overnight stay, giving them the opportunity to spend time together, build independence and create special memories with their friends. On Friday, the adventure continues in Tattenhall, where the children will take part in creative art activities. This will give them the chance to express their creativity, work collaboratively and produce some wonderful artwork inspired by their experiences. It promises to be two exciting days full of learning, creativity and memorable moments. We look forward to hearing all about their fantastic experiences when they return!

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 Reception, Evie was awarded for her fantastic DT work making jam tarts. Ezra was also awarded for his super drawing of Harry Potter, the character he dressed up as on World Book Day. Well done to both of them!
In Year 1, Jack was awarded for his History work, where he has been learning about where food came from and how it got onto our grandparents' plates.
In Year 2, Fabia was celebrated for her incredible miniature book, which she carefully made and wrote, inspired by the character she dressed up as on World Book Day.
In Year 3, Halle and George were awarded for their super character descriptions written in English.
In Year 4, Teddy and Monty were celebrated for their artwork, where they made a Wild Robot using outdoor materials.
In Year 5, Charlie M was awarded for his History work on the Sutton Hoo excavation. Also in Year 5, Bobby was celebrated for his Science work on levers, pulleys and gears.
In Year 6, Matilda was awarded for her super maths work, where she has challenged herself.
Congratulations to all the pupils celebrated 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: Edith (Reception) for Independence, Thomas W (Y1) for Independence, Leo H (Y2) for Independence, George (Y3) for Resilience, Isla (Y4) for all the values, Beth (Y5) for all the values and Arthur (Y6) for Respect and Resilience.

Winning House



All four houses earned a great number of dojo points this week, showing fantastic teamwork and effort. Chelford finished in first place with 206 points. Henbury took second place with 192 points, closely followed by Alderley in third with 191. Birtles finished with 161 points. Well done to everyone for their hard work this week!

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: 90%
- Year 1: 98%
- Year 2: 98%
- Year 3: 97%
- Year 4: 94%

- Year 5: 97%
- Year 6: 97%

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings for **Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6** will take place on **16th and 17th March**. These meetings will be held **face to face in school**.

The **Year 1 parents' evening** will take place slightly later, on **20th and 21st April** following the Easter Holidays. This is due to a staffing change and maternity cover for the Mrs Shaul. Mrs Garbutt has been teaching the class since 23rd February and benefited from a positive handover and transition period with Mrs Shaul who has now commenced maternity leave. Scheduling the parents' evening later will provide further opportunity for her to continue getting to know the children and to share the most accurate and up to date information about their progress and learning.

Spring Term dates up to Easter holidays

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 (R, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6)
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 LAST Coding Club with Mr Salmon
Tuesday 12.30 – 13.00 Sewing Club with Mrs Hennerley

Kind regards,
Mrs Karen Whalley
Headteacher

