WHITEHALL

Autumn 1 Week 6

Message from the Headteacher

We continue to work on ensuring that all children continue to attend each day. You will know from information recently shared that our attendance is not where it needs to be. A day missed equates to two marks which makes a big difference to your child's attendance overall and the school's attendance total. For families where this is two or more children, this can equate to 6 marks which is significant for the school on any given day.

The biggest issue in our school is parents taking children for holidays or special treats- we ask all parents to refrain from doing so as, not only does it have a detrimental impact on the children and teachers who then have to catch the children up whilst teaching the others, it penalises the school for something that is wholly parental choice. Please note that if a child is reported absent due to illness, but it later transpires that they have been taken on holiday, the absence will be amended on the child's attendance record and will not be recorded as illness. Please support the school in ensuring that illnesses are reported and that no days are taken off for holidays or special events. We have worked extremely hard over the last few years to offer something truly unique and special. Please continue to support us, as you have always done, by ensuring your child/ren attend school every day.

Family Maths will be taking place next week. We warmly encourage you to attend:

- Tuesday 13th October at 9:05am for Hazel, Rowan. Acer and Silver Birch
- Wednesday 14th October at 9:05am for Olive, Juniper, Willow and Sycamore
- Thursday 15th October at 9:05am for Aspen, Beech, Maple and Hawthorn.

The final week this term will end in a big celebration of all things beautiful. Our Art Symposium will take place in school and will consist of special trips out, a chance for all children to engage with The National Gallery's 'Take One Picture' event and also experience pottery for some of our classes. We look forward to seeing those who wish to view the children's art work in the classrooms after school on Friday 23rd October after the children have been dismissed.

Contacting us:

As well as speaking to us on the school gates and at the beginning and end of the school day and at classrooms doors once the children have been dismissed, here is a reminder of how you can contact the school:

Office@whitehall.waltham.sch.uk - for all office functions such as requesting letters queries with admissions and general information

Communications@whitehall.waltham.sch.uk - attendance, messages for teaching and anything children related

ParentPay@whitehall.waltham.sch.uk – all payments for trips, clubs, Breakfast Club and After School Care

EYFS

As part of Nursery's topic this term, Wonderful Me, the children have been developing their understanding of themselves by creating their very own self-portraits.

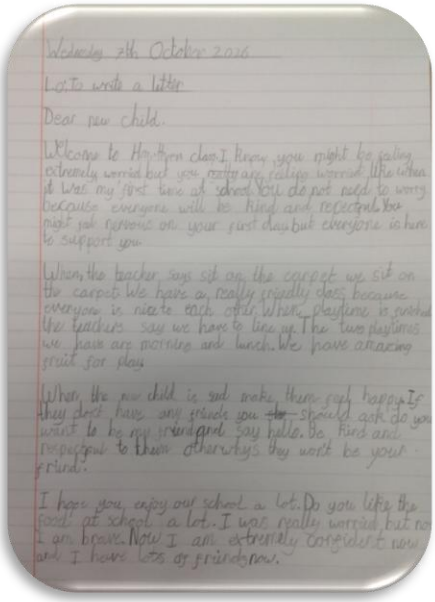
The children used mirrors to carefully observe their own faces, noticing the different shapes, colours and features that make each of us unique. They looked closely at their eyes, hair, skin, noses and mouths, discussing what they could see and how everyone is wonderfully different.
Using paint, they then recreated their features in their own self-portraits. They made thoughtful choices about colours and shapes, developing their observational skills, creativity and confidence as they represented themselves through art.

The children took a lot of pride in their work and are able to recognise and celebrate what makes each of them special and unique.

In Reception, the children have been carefully observing a range of autumn objects and creating their own observational drawings. They looked closely at the shapes, colours and intricate details they could see, using their drawing skills to represent their observations. This activity helped to develop their concentration, attention to detail and fine motor skills.

The children also explored the rich colours of autumn, including red, orange, yellow and brown. Using leaf-shaped sponges, they created colourful prints and patterns, practising how to recognise, continue and create repeating patterns. Through this activity, they developed their creativity while strengthening their early mathematical understanding.

KS1



Wednesday 7th October 2026

L.O. To write a letter

Dear new child,

Welcome to Hawthorn class. I know you might be feeling extremely worried but you really are really worried like when it was my first time at school. You do not need to worry because everyone will be kind and respectful. You might get nervous on your first day but everyone is here to support you.

When the teacher says sit on the carpet we sit on the carpet. We have a really friendly class because everyone is nice to each other. When playtime is finished the teachers say we have to line up. The two playtimes we have are morning and lunch. We have amazing fruit for play.

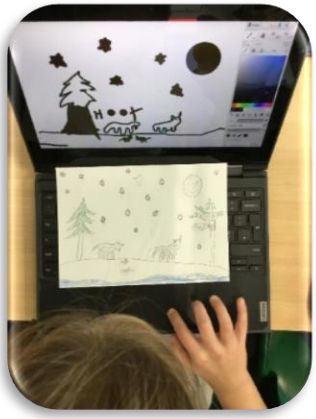
When the new child is sad make them feel happy. If they don't have any friends you ~~to~~ should ask do you want to be my friend and say hello. Be kind and respectful to them otherwise they won't be your friend.

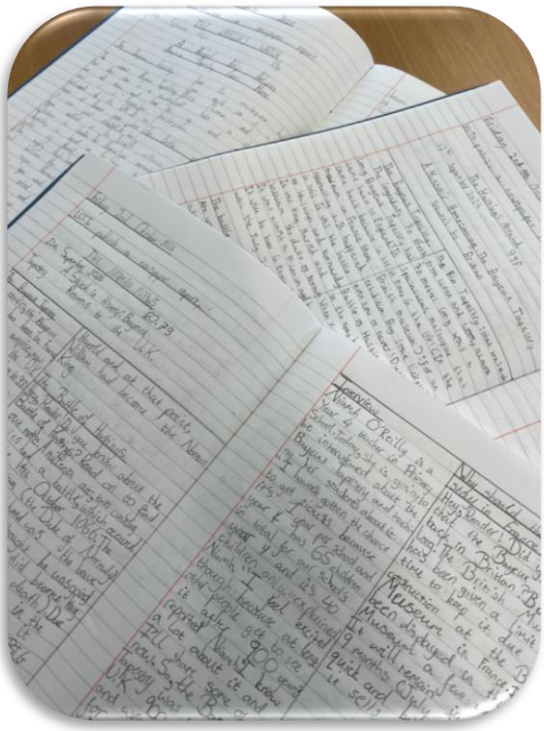
I hope you enjoy our school a lot. Do you like the food at school a lot. I was really worried but now I am brave. Now I am extremely confident now and I have lots of friends now.

As part of our topic, 'We Belong', Year 2 have been discussing what it means to feel welcomed, valued and included within our school community. The children enjoyed writing a letter to welcome a new child to our school, sharing kind words, helpful advice and ideas about what makes our school a welcoming environment to belong to. This encouraged the children to reflect on the importance of friendship, kindness and making sure that everyone feels included and valued. The children reflected on being empathetic, discussing philosophical concepts such as community, similarities and differences and relationships.

LKS2

In Computing, Year 3 have been exploring the differences between digital and non-digital devices. Through a drawing activity, our children were able to compare similarities and differences as well as discuss their drawing experiences together. “I liked using the shapes drawing feature for my landscape picture”, says Thea thoughtfully. The activities promoted good critical thinking, problem solving and creativity across both classes. Great work Year 3!



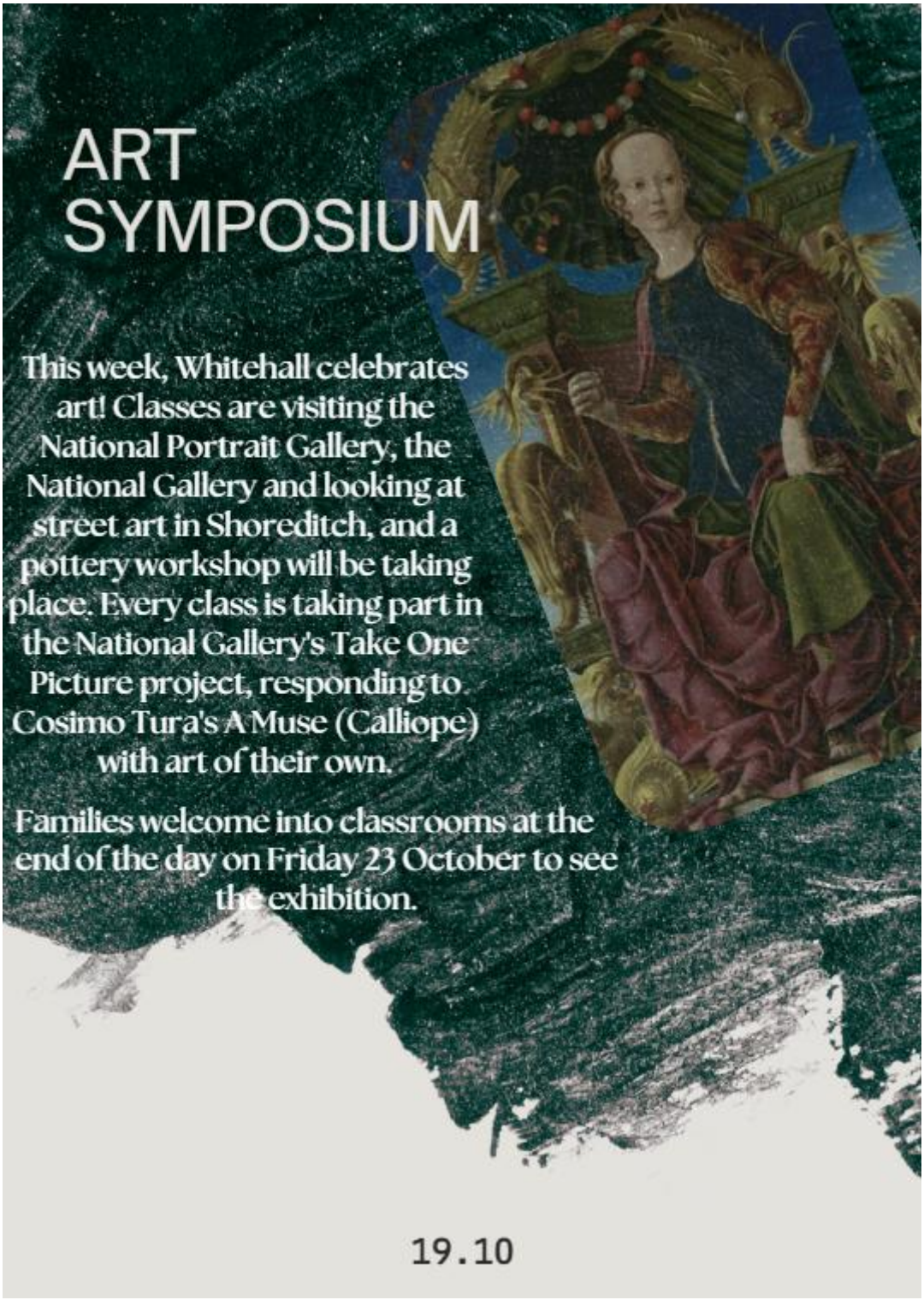


Year 4 stepped into the role of journalists as they compiled newspaper reports about the arrival of the Bayeux Tapestry in the UK. To begin, the children explored the five key questions of journalism: who, what, when, where and why, which helped them to gather and organise important information. They then developed their understanding by explaining the events of the Battle of Hastings and its significance. This learning linked closely to our current study of the Anglo-Saxons, as the Bayeux Tapestry provides a valuable historical record of the key events surrounding their reign and the Norman conquest of England.

UKS2

As part of our PE curriculum, Year 6 have been taking weekly treks in and around our local area, visiting Highams Park Lake, Hatch Forest, Station Road, and Pimp Hall Park. These walks promote stamina, strengthen our physical health, and encourage overall well-being.

"During our PE lessons, we've been walking to various parks and forests around Chingford. It was a bit challenging for me at first, but it has inspired me to walk every day. It is not challenging now as it was in the beginning." Aidan



ART SYMPOSIUM

This week, Whitehall celebrates art! Classes are visiting the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery and looking at street art in Shoreditch, and a pottery workshop will be taking place. Every class is taking part in the National Gallery's Take One Picture project, responding to Cosimo Tura's A Muse (Calliope) with art of their own.

Families welcome into classrooms at the end of the day on Friday 23 October to see the exhibition.

19.10