

NEWS CORNER

The latest news and information about Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary.



31st January 2025

Sarah Jane's reflection on the week...

Another fantastic week at school, with our value of the week being "Being Active." This can take many forms, whether it's being physically active, engaging the mind, or showing activity through making positive changes. It's been wonderful to see how this theme has been embraced across the school.

A special highlight was the celebration of Chinese New Year, particularly in our Reception classes. They made an impressive dragon head and led a vibrant parade around the school—what a show! The joy and excitement was fantastic as the children took part in this cultural celebration.



I had the pleasure of visiting Year 2, where things were quite messy, but in the best possible way! The children were fully immersed in their artwork topic on collages, working hard to create their backdrops. I also saw the beginnings of some fantastic chronological report writing—well done, Year 2!

I've been really impressed by Year 1's independent sentence writing. The focus and dedication they show is inspiring, and it's clear they are putting in so much effort to improve their skills.

This week, I also had the opportunity to meet with Shireena to review our English curriculum. For those who may not know, Shireena became our English and Reading Lead in January, and we're so pleased to have her as part of the leadership team, in addition to continuing her role as the teacher in Panda Class.

Looking ahead, next week is Children's Mental Health Week, and the theme is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**. We will be introducing our Classroom Connection Boxes—a safe space for children to leave messages for their teacher, creating another way for them to feel supported and heard. Have a wonderful weekend, and hello to February! We are excited to see what the month will bring.

[About Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week](#)

Blue Whale and Tiger Class have been learning...

This week has been an exciting time learning about the traditions and customs surrounding Chinese New Year. They discovered how families prepare for the celebration by cleaning their homes to sweep away bad luck and decorating with red, which symbolizes good fortune. They also learned about the delicious foods eaten during the festivities, like dumplings, rice cakes, and sweet rice balls, each carrying special meanings for prosperity and happiness. As they delved deeper into the holiday's history, they were fascinated by the story of "The Great Race," which explains the order of the Chinese zodiac animals. From the tale, they learned that this year is the Year of the Snake, symbolizing wisdom, intuition, and calm. The children were excited to take part in the celebrations, feeling connected to both the rich history and the vibrant customs of this joyful time.

The children got creative and made their very own big Chinese dragon, which they proudly paraded around. They worked together to craft the dragon, using vibrant materials and decorations, and took turns holding the dragon as they marched through the space. As they paraded, they listened to traditional Chinese music, which filled the air with rhythm and excitement. The children felt a deep sense of joy and connection to the culture as they danced and waved their dragon, making the celebration even more memorable and fun. It was a perfect way to bring the spirit of Chinese New Year to life, while honouring the rich traditions behind it.

This week the children have been learning all about Chinese New Year. They enjoyed listening to the story of The Great Race which explains the origins of Lunar New Year and finding out what their zodiac animal is depending on the date of their birthday. The children learned that this year is the year of the snake and they all designed a snake and had a go at describing it. In phonics, the children have been working hard to blend their sounds into words. They are making incredible progress and have really grown in confidence which is great to see.

In maths this week, the children have been learning about length and height. They built towers and compared them to see which is taller and which is shorter. They picked up and were able to use the vocabulary quickly and enjoyed comparing their own height with that of their friends.



STARS OF THE WEEK FOR DEMONSTRATING: **Being Active**



David: for being an active friend by supporting and listening to his friends feelings.

Oliva-Korra: for being an active listener and always participating in carpet discussions.

Everett – for using the wooden planks and blocks creatively to build small ramps for the balance bikes

Sudiksha – for working hard at dribbling the basketball in PE



Elephant Class have been learning...

Children's confidence in reading has noticeably improved, and they have been enthusiastic about taking home their Big Cat books, which cover a range of engaging topics. Similarly, for their RWI books, we encourage children to reread them at least three times: First, to ensure every word is read and pronounced correctly. Second, to read with increased speed and fluency. Third, to bring the text to life by reading in a storyteller's voice. We are also focusing on helping children practice breaking words into syllables to improve their decoding skills and reading stamina.

In **PSHE**, we have been focusing on teamwork skills. The children identified that good team members listen to one another, show effort, and share their ideas. They then practiced these skills in small groups by choosing one of three goals: learning to count to 10 in Mandarin, performing the Macarena, or reciting *The Owl and the Pussycat* by Edward Lear. The first challenge was agreeing on their group's goal. Through these activities, I observed improvements in the children's confidence and ability to negotiate and collaborate effectively.

In **Art**, the children have been designing and creating different patterns on a range of paper to use as backgrounds for their collages in Lesson 3. They carefully considered shape and line to create interesting and personalised paper. The children thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with a variety of techniques to make their work unique and expressive.



STARS OF THE WEEK
FOR DEMONSTRATING:

Being Active

ELEPHANT CLASS

Chloe

For being an active and enthusiastic reader, contributing fantastic ideas and always looking for ways to use her storytelling voice.

Arielle

For showing a fantastic attitude to learning by always listening and applying what she learnt to her writing.



Panda Class have been learning...

Panda class pupils carefully threaded needles with wool in their DT lessons. Each child selected a piece of brightly coloured wool and carefully poked the end through the small eye of the needle, a task that required patience and precision. Once the needles were threaded, they started stitching the wool through the holes in the cardboard, creating simple patterns and designs. They displayed our core value Resilience when it got tricky. Well done for not giving up Panda Class!

In Maths, pupils used their number bonds to 10 to work out number bonds to 20. They began by recalling the pairs of numbers that added up to 10, such as 1 + 9, 2 + 8, and 5 + 5. Once they were confident with these, they applied their knowledge to find number bonds to 20. For example, they knew that if $5 + 5 = 10$, then $5 + 15 = 20$. By using their understanding of number bonds to 10, they were able to work out pairs like 12 + 8 and 17 + 3 with ease. The pupils have worked hard to solve problems and develop a deeper understanding of addition.



STARS OF THE WEEK FOR DEMONSTRATING: **Being Active**

PANDA CLASS

Idris for building a sequence of movements in Dance.

Valentino for listening to feedback to make improvements in his learning.

LION CLASS

Aymane: being active in his writing. Really thinking about and beginning to apply finger spaces independently.

Mysha: being active by always engaging in learning opportunities in the classroom.

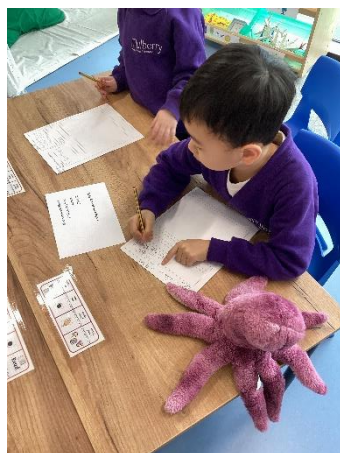


Lion Class have been learning...

In PSHE we have been learning about having positive attitudes and how tackling a new challenge might stretch our learning. We were challenged to follow steps to achieve a goal of creating 'stretchy hand flowers' and each one of our flowers were unique, like every individual in Lion class.

We took this idea of stretching ourselves and applying it to our Art learning. Lion class learned a new skill of threading using a plastic needle and wool. It was challenging to put the wool through the eye of the needle, but we all persisted and overcame the challenge. When we overcome challenges, we feel "proud, excited and happy!"

In English we have been learning about the features and format of informal letters. We know letters consist of an address, date, content and the use of 'Dear' and 'From' to begin and end a letter. We have been planning our informal letters, thinking about who to write to and the content. Oral rehearsal of our letters have been important so that we can begin to write them. We look forward to delivering our letters to our chosen person very soon!



EVERY DAY MATTERS
SCHOOL + YOU = SUCCESS



Dates for your diary:

- 03.02.25: children's mental health week
- 04.02.25: Y2 offsite visit
- 07.02.25: Site meeting info meeting -9.30am
- 07.02.25: Y1 offsite visit
- 13.02.25 – Positive parenting workshop at 2.30pm
- 14.02.25: End of half term

Our GOLD Class Attendance are our classes who have 97+ attendance for a whole week

Our SILVER Class Attendance are our classes who have 95-97% attendance for a whole week

Our BRONZE Class Attendance are our classes who have 90-95% attendance for a whole week.



GOLD Attendance goes to:
SILVER Attendance goes to:
BRONZE Attendance goes to:
Tiger Class 91%
Lion Class – 90%

PSHE – RHE Parent workshops

Monday 3rd Feb: 3.45pm-4.30pm

Thursday 13th Feb: 9.00-10.00am

Tuesday 11th Feb: 5.00-5.45pm

Thursday 27th Feb: 9.00-10.00am

Tuesday 4th March: 5.00-5.45pm

Keep Trying:

Blue Whale
Elephant
Panda

Attendance Ladder		
How close is your child to 100%?		
0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

