



Whitchurch
Weekly

School
News

9th Feb
2024
Issue 20

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Whitchurch Families,

It's hard to believe that the first half of the Spring term is already complete! It has been wonderful to see a wide range of activities taking place across the school, demonstrating the range of experiences on offer. We look forward to the arrival of Spring soon, with more visits and other enrichment opportunities.

Thank you to the majority of parents and carers who have been supportive of our request to drive responsibly on Marsh Lane. Harrow Council have agreed to add school road markings in the coming weeks.

At Whitchurch, we fully support the current drive to promote the MMR vaccine in light of the recent outbreak. Measles is a very serious childhood disease and whilst we respect freedom of choice, we strongly encourage all families to take up the vaccination in order to keep all members of the community safe.

I would like to reassure you that although I am leaving in July, I would still value the opportunity to meet with families at the Tea & Talk sessions to hear feedback which will help us plan for next year's School Development Plan. Whitchurch will continue to work towards its vision despite changes to its leadership.

Wishing you all a relaxing, enjoyable half term break.

Mr Joseph Pine
Headteacher

Children
back to school
on Monday
19th February

Playground gates
will now be open
from 8.35am to
8.55am in the
morning

Please
remember
to book your
child's lunches
via ParentPay



Dates for your Diary

Monday 26th February	4CM and 4BS visit to The Science Museum
Tuesday 27th February	4XL and 4SF visit to The Science Museum 3LA and 3NL visit to Canons Park (1pm-3pm)
Wednesday 28th February	3MS and 3SM visit to Canons Park (1pm-3pm)
Tuesday 5th March	5PA and 5SC visit to The British Museum
Wednesday 6th March	Music for Youth Festival at Harrow Arts Centre (12pm-3.30pm)
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Monday 11th March	5SK and 5ET visit to The British Museum
Wednesday 13th March	Soloists Spring Concert (4pm)
Friday 15th March	2AR visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th March	Year 6 Residential Visit to Danbury Essex Outdoors
Wednesday 20th March	HMS String Festival at Harrow Arts Centre 2KB visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Thursday 21st March	2SA visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Friday 22nd March	2HD visit to Florence Nightingale Museum



5th March - 2AR
12th March - 3SM
19th March - 1CL
23rd April - Lions
30th April - Tigers
7th May - Leopards
14th May - Jaguars
21st May - Nursery

**Infant Class
Assemblies**
Tuesdays
9.05am

7th March - 5ET
21st March - 4SF
11th July - Year 6

**Junior Class
Assemblies**
Thursdays
at 9.05am

STARS of the Week



Well done to our stars of the week, who have been selected for excellent work and demonstrating our school values

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

This week's
Infant Stars

- RRA Tigers** Alaina
- RNW Leopards** Teeyan
- RRV Lions** Omar
- RPS Jaguars** Lois

- 1ST** Hansin
- 1BP** Yousef
- 1SM** Mehreen
- 1CL** Stara

- 2HD** Stefi
- 2KB** Maariyah
- 2SA** Whole Class
- 2AR** Amos

- 3NL** Malak
- 3MS** Cattley
- 3LA** Aarav
- 3SM** Viya

This week's
Junior Stars

- 4BS** Daria
- 4CM** Aaron
- 4XL** Ella
- 4SF** Pahel

- 5PA** Yashvir
- 5SK** Nicolas
- 5SC** Dylan
- 5ET** Diyaani

- 6HH** Kushal
- 6AS** Aron
- 6EH** Aaron
- 6MO** Jiya

Class Attendance this week

Nursery	AM 94.19%		PM 88.16%	
Reception	RRA 89.22%	RNW 84.17%	RPS 81.03%	RRV 92.5%
Year 1	1CL 93.33%	1BP 90.83%	1ST 96.25%	1SM 86.67%
Year 2	2AR 93.1%	2HD 92.92%	2KB 96.25%	2SA 89.92%
Year 3	3LA 92.92%	3MS 97.41%	3NL 92.92%	3SM 85.42%
Year 4	4CM 91.83%	4SF 92.59%	4XL 92.86%	4BS 87.96%
Year 5	5ET 97.41%	5PA 98.33%	5SC 85.34%	5SK 94.2%
Year 6	6AS 94.71%	6EH 95%	6HH 94.4%	6MO 95.98%

This week's
Attendance
Stars are
5PA!

Whole
School
91.95%

General News

Inclusion



Life Skills

This week in Life Skills we focused on 'teeth brushing'. We discussed the importance of healthy teeth and took it in turns to brush our teeth independently. We then completed and a table top activity where we brushed a set of teeth in front of us to ensure they are nice and clean!



Miss Tunstall

Sport



Girls' Football Team

Huge congratulations and well done to our girls' football team who played in the London Bees Qualifier at The Hive; they proceeded to win 3 matches, draw 1 and lose 1 match. It was fantastic game play from all members of the team with many goals scored. Fingers crossed we are through to the final!

Miss Byrne

PlayPALs

Whitchurch PlayPALs

Well done to the following children in Years 2 to 5 who have been chosen as PlayPALs; to 'Play with you, Advise you and Listen to you' at playtimes.

Thank you to all the children who applied to be a PlayPAL this year, there were many strong applications and it was hard for us to choose!



Year 2	Taashi (2AR); Sophie, Elias, Aliza and Kevin (2SA); Ariana and Aiswarya (2HD); Aylan, Zai and Eloise (2KB).
Year 3	Ilinca, Diana and Sophia (3LA); Ishaan and Kiame (3NL); Shanaya, Nikita and Idris (3SM); Jasmine and Viha (3MS).
Year 4	Nathan, Ella S, Dominick and Aleena (4BS); Anahi Lily and Aanshi (4CM).
Year 5	Kiya and lara (5SC); Preesha and Reyansh (5SK); Toby and Neel (5PA).



Year Group Highlights

Special Events

Nursery have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year, Pancake Day and Valentines Day. We made lovely lanterns and Valentines Day cards. We also enjoyed our pyjama day with our teddy bears and spoke about day and night routines.



Nursery

Year 1

Kindness

This week in PSHE, Year 1 have been talking about kindness. When others are kind to us, our buckets fill up; when people are unkind they dip from the bucket and leave us feeling empty. We came up with different ways of filling other people's buckets!



Chinese New Year

This week Reception have been learning all about Chinese New Year. We took part in a range of exciting activities included making and decorating Ang Pows (lucky envelopes), concertina dragons and recreating a dragon dance!

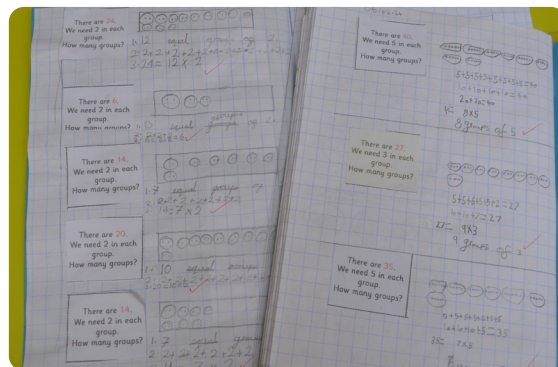


Reception

Year 2

Multiplication

In Maths this week, Year 2 have been developing multiplication skills. We learnt how to multiply by making equal groups - for example, two baskets of 4 apples equals 8 apples altogether. This reinforced the idea of multiplication as repeated addition.



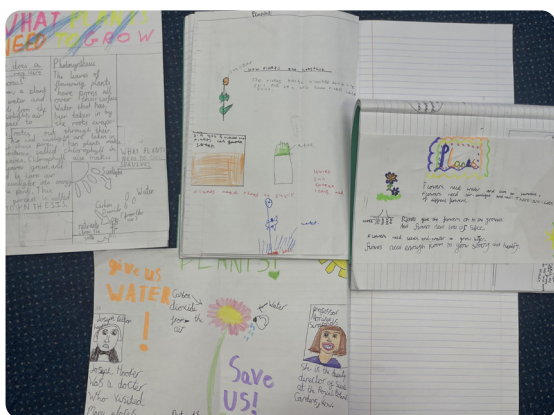


Year 3

Year Group Highlights

Plant Posters

This week in Science, as part of our topic about Plants, Year 3 have been making posters showing the requirements of a plant. We enjoyed creating our posters using the knowledge we have learnt.



Year 5

Theatre Visit

Year 5 were treated to an amazing theatrical performance of 'The Wizard of Oz' at Bentley Wood High School. "It was amazing! I just loved the songs. I want to see it again!" Sophia "It was breathtaking!" Neel



Year 4

My Bank Workshop

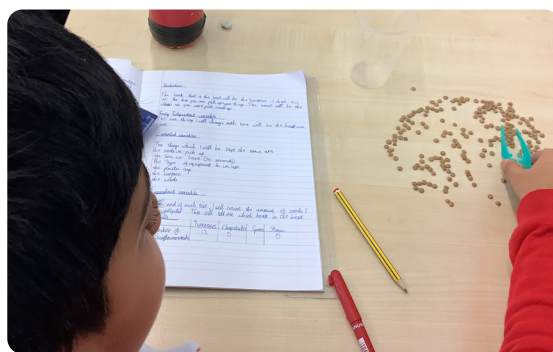
This week in Year 4 we have started to take part in fantastic workshops led by the My Bank team. We have started to learn essential life skills like money management and entrepreneurship.



Year 6

Natural Selection

This week in Science, Year 6 have been learning more about natural selection following our workshop in the Natural History Museum. We enjoyed using a variety of tools to represent bird beaks when identifying which bird beak was best for collecting enough food.



'My Voice Matters'

Children's Mental Health Week



Bags of Happiness

As part of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, the children in Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the 'Bags of Happiness' activity. They first discussed the importance of talking about mental health and how it is just as important as physical health. The children suggested that the bags of happiness would be useful for times when they feel upset or sad, as it encourages them to reflect on their 'happy self'. The children enjoyed decorating their bags with stickers and they wrote lovely notes inside referring to happy memories and thoughts. They also wrote notes to go into each other's bags with compliments and words of positivity! The children cannot wait to add more notes and sentimental things to their bags of happiness.



Have you filled your bucket today?



We all have an invisible bucket that holds our good feelings and good thoughts about ourselves. We feel happy and good when our bucket is full, and sad when our bucket is empty. We can be a bucket filler when we treat others with kindness and do nice things to make them feel special. Bucket dipping is when we take out good feelings from someone else's bucket - for example, when we make fun of them or do and say things that are hurtful or unkind.

Schools Counselling Partnership are inviting everyone - children and adults - to be bucket fillers!

Reach Out

Sometimes we could all do with someone to talk to. If you would like to meet Tom for a confidential and non-judgemental chat about you, your child, or any other worries, he is available on **Wednesdays at 9am-10am**. You can contact Tom on **07799 028 461** or email **tom@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk**

Support for Families

Online Safety



Online Safety: 'Monkey'

Online video calling with random strangers: it's hardly a new internet phenomenon - but the recent demise of Omegle has prompted the creation of several similar platforms bidding to fill the vacuum. One such contender is Monkey - a service that randomly connects its users for video calls, using their mobile numbers and Snapchat account details.

Monkey has surged in popularity since Omegle's shutdown in November 2023: visits to the site more than doubled within a month and have been climbing steadily ever since. Regrettably, it also seems that Monkey suffers from many of the same pitfalls as its notorious predecessor.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter to learn more about the possible risks involved to young people.



#WakeUpWednesday

For other useful links please see the Online Safety page of our website: www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/online-safety

Reading

Reading Corner

As read in Reception



'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers

There once was a boy and one day a penguin arrives on his doorstep. The boy decides the penguin must be lost and tries to return him. But no one seems to be missing a penguin. So the boy decides to take the penguin home himself, and they set out in his row boat on a journey to the South Pole. However, when they get there, the boy discovers that maybe home wasn't what the penguin was looking for after all.



In Reception we have been exploring 'Winter' and have shared different stories related to the season including 'Lost and Found' - a heartwarming story about friendship between a boy and a penguin, brought to life by beautiful illustrations. We enjoyed the journey of the boy and the penguin and were really pleased that the story had a happy ending!

Spring Menu



Salad bar and bread are available daily

WHITCHURCH PRIMARY MENU

	WEEK ONE 08/01, 29/01, 26/02, 18/03	WEEK TWO 15/01, 05/02, 04/03, 25/03	WEEK THREE 22/01, 19/02, 11/03
MONDAY MAINS	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Herby Diced Potatoes & Sweetcorn Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Herby Diced Potatoes & Sweetcorn (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Fruity Mousse	Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Garden Peas Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Garden Peas (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Carrot Cookie	Vegetable Curry, Pilau Rice, Naan Bread & Peas (V) Cheese Sub, Herby Diced Potatoes & Peas (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Flapjack
DESSERT			
TUESDAY MAINS	Minced Beef & Onion Pie (H), Mashed Potatoes & Broccoli Cheese & Onion Lattice, Mashed Potatoes & Broccoli (V) Spicy Tomato Pasta with Side Salad (Ve) Fruit Tuesday	Tandoori Chicken Shwarma (H), Diced Potatoes & Sweetcorn Vegetable Nuggets, Diced Potatoes & Sweetcorn (V) Neapolitan Pasta with Side Salad (Ve) Fruit Tuesday	Chicken Tikka Burrito Stack (H), Potato Wedges & Side Salad Falafel Wrap, Potato Wedges & Side Salad (V) Spicy Tomato Pasta with Side Salad (Ve) Fruit Tuesday
DESSERT			
WEDNESDAY MAINS	Chicken Sausage Toad in the Hole(H), Roast Potatoes, Sliced Carrots & Cabbage Vegetarian Toad in the Hole, Roast Potatoes, Sliced Carrots & Cabbage (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Apple Crumble Cake	Roast Turkey (H), Roast Potatoes, Sliced Carrots & Broccoli Cauliflower Cheese Bake, Roast Potatoes, Sliced Carrots & Broccoli (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Jam & Coconut Sponge	Chicken Sausage (H), Mashed Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Sliced Carrots & Green Beans Vegetarian Cottage Pie, Sliced Carrots & Green Beans (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Jelly & Fruit
DESSERT			
THURSDAY MAINS	Turkey Bolognese (H) with Spaghetti & Sweetcorn Vegetarian Bolognese with Spaghetti & Sweetcorn (V) Veggie Wrap with Tomato Topping & Side Salad (Ve) Melting Moment Cookie	Beef Lasagne (H), Garlic Bread & Peas Vegetarian Lasagne, Garlic Bread & Peas (V) Veggie Wrap with Tomato Topping & Side Salad (Ve) Cherry Triangle Biscuit	Cajun Chicken (H) & Sweetcorn Pizza, Diced Potatoes & Peas Vegetable Pizza, Diced Potatoes & Peas (V) Veggie Wrap with Tomato Topping & Side Salad (Ve) Orange Drizzle Cake
DESSERT			
FRIDAY MAINS	Fish Fillet with Chips & Mushy Peas Vegetable Burger, Chips & Mushy Peas (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Pear & Chocolate Sponge & Custard	Fish Fingers, Chips & Baked Beans Vegetarian Sausage Roll with Chips & Baked Beans (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Toffee Apple Sponge & Custard	Fish Cake, Chips & Baked Beans Cheese & Sweetcorn Omelette, Chips & Baked Beans (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Raspberry Oat Slice & Custard
DESSERT			

Allergen Information: Menu descriptions may not list every individual ingredient. We are aware of the presence of allergens requiring labelling, so please ask a member of the catering team should you require any more details. Vegetarian options are indicated by the symbol (V).

COOMBS
CATERING PARTNERSHIP





Useful Contacts

Headteacher (Mr J Pine)

head@whitchurchps.co.uk

Deputy Headteacher (Mr M Thompson-Lawrie)

deputy@whitchurchps.co.uk

Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion
(Mrs D Qudsiyeh)

sendco@whitchurchps.co.uk

Assistant Headteacher for Early Years
(Miss N Ward)

nward@whitchurchps.co.uk

Assistant Headteacher for Years 1, 2 & 3
(Miss G Harris)

gharris@whitchurchps.co.uk

Assistant Headteacher for Years 4, 5 & 6
(Mrs K Portou)

kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk

Year 1 Leader (Mrs S Tezel)

stezel@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Year 2 Leader (Miss G Harris)

gharris@whitchurchps.co.uk

Year 3 Leader (Miss N Lakhani)

nlakhani@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Year 4 Leader (Mrs B Solanki)

bsolanki@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Year 5 Leader (Mrs K Portou)

kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk

Year 6 Leader (Miss H Hogberg)

hhogberg@whitchurchps.co.uk

Our email addresses are in the process of being updated

If you have any general or learning related enquiries, please speak to the class teacher

If you have concerns about your child's safety or behaviour, please contact a member of our leadership team

Family Liaison (Mrs N Chikhlia)
nchikhlia@whitchurchps.co.uk

Director of Music (Mrs E Leutfeld)
eleutfeld@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Music Department
music@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Friends of Whitchurch
FoW@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Childcare (Early Birds and Night Owls)
childcare@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

School Office

Tel: 020 8951 5380

office@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk



School Term Dates 2023-2024

Spring Term 2024

Spring 1st Monday 8 January to Thursday 8 February
Half Term Monday 12 February to Friday 16 February
Spring 2nd Monday 19 February to Thursday 28 March

Staff Training Days Friday 9 February (no children in school)

Holidays during term time are **not** permitted

Summer Term 2024

Summer 1st Monday 15 April to Friday 24 May
Half Term Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May
Summer 2nd Tuesday 4 June to Wednesday 24 July

Staff Training Days Monday 3 June (no children in school)

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

Term dates are posted on the school website



2024-2025 Term Dates can be viewed on the school website
www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/term-dates

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



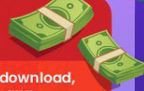
CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety