



## Whitchurch Weekly

School News

28th Mar  
2024  
Issue 26

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Whitchurch Families,

They say that time flies - it really does when working in schools! It has been a really busy but rewarding half term with plenty of enrichment, including Word Book Day where children all dressed for the occasion to celebrate our love of reading.

We have offered lots of exciting visits across the school, including museums and outdoor activities. Our Year 6 pupils were great ambassadors for the school on their residential visit to Danbury, showing our values in all of their actions and interactions. We are also so proud of our musicians, who showcased their amazing skills in our Spring Soloists Concert, and also our cricketers for reaching the finals at Lords! The holistic activities are so important to our school community. Remember to check out the news posts on our website for a snapshot of selected events.

It is with a heavy heart that I will be leaving Whitchurch at the end of the next half term. My time at the school may have been briefer than hoped but the impression and impact the school has made on me personally will be long lasting.

Spring is definitely upon us and I for one will be looking forward to some warmer weather in the coming months. If you do celebrate Easter as a family then enjoy; also Eid Mubarak to our families celebrating Eid.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable Spring break with your families.

**Mr Joseph Pine**  
Headteacher

First day of  
Summer Term  
Monday  
15th April

Please  
remember that  
playground gates  
are now open  
between 8.35am  
and 8.55am

Please  
ensure that  
you book your  
child's lunches  
via ParentPay



More events to be announced

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 24th April	Year 3 VR Volcano Workshop
Tuesday 7th May	Whitchurch Senior Choir: Junior Music Day at John Lyon School (9.15am-4.15pm)
Friday 10th May	Year 4 Trumpets/Clarinets (9.15am-9.45am for 4BS and 4CM and 10.15am-10.45am for 4XL and 4SF)
13th to 16th May	KS2 SATs Week
Tuesday 14th May	5SK and 5SC visit to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 15th May	Reception visit to Hertfordshire Zoo 5PA and 5ET visit to Kew Gardens
Monday 20th to Tuesday 21st May	Year 5 Residential visit to Woodrow High House
Tuesday 21st May	Year 6 Play in a Day (Macbeth)
Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th May	Class Photographs
Tuesday 18th June	HMS Recorder Festival
Wednesday 19th June	Summer Music Concert (5.30pm)
Tuesday 25th June	HMS Percussion Workshop
Thursday 4th July	Year 3 Recorders (9.15am and 10.15am)
Tuesday 11th July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Monday 15th July	1ST and 1CL visit to the Sea Life London Aquarium
Tuesday 16th July	1SM and 1BP visit to the Sea Life London Aquarium

Early May Bank Holiday  
Monday 6th May



23rd April - Lions      7th May - Leopards  
30th April - Tigers      14th May - Jaguars

Infant Class Assemblies  
Tuesdays 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

This week's Infant Stars

**RRA Tigers** Skye  
**RNW Leopards** Krish  
**RRV Lions** Dhilon  
**RPS Jaguars** Miriam

**1ST** Matthias  
**1BP** Abdullah  
**1SM** Xavi  
**1CL** Benjamin

**2HD** Sarah  
**2KB** Denash  
**2SA** Maryam  
**2AR** Darius

**3NL** Laurance  
**3MS** Daniel  
**3LA** Diana  
**3SM** Ayyub, Khateejah, Hassan and Idris

Respect  
 Responsibility  
 Resilience  
 Honesty  
 Generosity  
 Aspiration

**4BS** Ella  
**4CM** Dawud  
**4XL** Areeb  
**4SF** Manan

**5PA** Neel  
**5SK** Mbarak, Melissa, Shay, Ashvi and Rhys  
**5SC** Leon  
**5ET** Veer and Joshua

**6HH** Avni  
**6AS** Toby  
**6EH** Zoha  
**6MO** Aidan

This week's Junior Stars

## Class Attendance this week

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>AM</b> 77.27%		<b>PM</b> 92.16%	
<b>Reception</b>	<b>RRA</b> 87.36%	<b>RNW</b> 91.11%	<b>RPS</b> 85.06%	<b>RRV</b> 91.67%
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>1CL</b> 97.78%	<b>1BP</b> 88.89%	<b>1ST</b> 93.33%	<b>1SM</b> 94.25%
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>2AR</b> 89.29%	<b>2HD</b> 96.67%	<b>2KB</b> 97.22%	<b>2SA</b> 86.11%
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>3LA</b> 95.56%	<b>3MS</b> 96.55%	<b>3NL</b> 100%	<b>3SM</b> 100%
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>4CM</b> 99.38%	<b>4SF</b> 98.77%	<b>4XL</b> 94.44%	<b>4BS</b> 100%
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>5ET</b> 98.85%	<b>5PA</b> 92.22%	<b>5SC</b> 90.80%	<b>5SK</b> 90.12%
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>6AS</b> 86.42%	<b>6EH</b> 97.78%	<b>6HH</b> 89.66%	<b>6MO</b> 95.24%

This week's Attendance Stars are **3NL, 3SM and 4BS!**

Whole School **93.51%**



## News and Notices

### School Meals (Summer Term)

Please remember to book your child's lunches for Summer 1 over the holidays via your ParentPay account. The lunch menu for the Summer term can be viewed later on in this newsletter.



### Vacancies

We have a vacancy for a Learning Support Assistant to work as part of our team to provide both 1:1 and group support within the classroom.

Please see the Vacancies page of our website for more information and an application pack: [www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/vacancies](http://www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/vacancies)



Our Stationery Shop will now be running on **Thursday lunchtimes**

### Forget-Me-Not Walk for Riya

This week we held special assemblies and transformed our Daily Mile into a memorial 'Forget-Me-Not Walk for Riya' as an act of memory making and reflection. Thank you to all of you who have made a donation and left a message of support for Riya's family.

### The Elms Holiday Activity Camp

The Elms are holding an activity camp for children aged 5-12 in the Easter holidays from **Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th April, 9am-4pm.**

This event is **£34 per child per day.** 20% sibling discounts are available when they attend on the same days.

Activities include sports, art and crafts, games and much more. Children should wear comfortable clothing and bring a snack, packed lunch and drink in a refillable container for the day.

Booking hotline: **020 8954 8787** / Book online: [www.theelms.co.uk](http://www.theelms.co.uk)

For more details please see the flyer on the **Support for Families** page of our website: [www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/support-for-families](http://www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/support-for-families)



Visit the **Support for Families** page of the school website (in the Parents & Community section) for useful activities and resources



## Year Group Highlights

### Easter

This week in Nursery we have been learning about Easter. We learnt the meaning behind Easter and why people celebrate. We read the story 'We're Going on an Egg Hunt', made Easter cards, did Easter colouring and made delicious Easter nests with rice crispies!

### Nursery



### Year 1

### Compass Points

In Geography this week, Year 1 have been learning about all the different compass points including North, South, East and West. We made our very own compass and made up rhymes to help us with directions. We also had a go at giving directions using these compass points.



### Easter

This week in Reception we have been learning about Easter and Easter traditions. We have written to the Easter Bunny who paid us a visit on Thursday! We made fantastic Easter cards and coloured Easter patterns; we also tasted some yummy hot cross buns!

### Reception



### Year 2

### Easter

Year 2 have been learning about Easter and the symbols associated with this important celebration for Christians - such as the cross, palm branches, hot cross buns and Easter eggs. We made lovely Easter cards by creating colourful and patterned eggs.



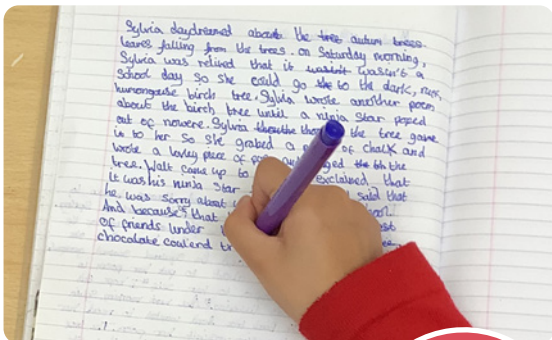


Year 3

Year Group Highlights

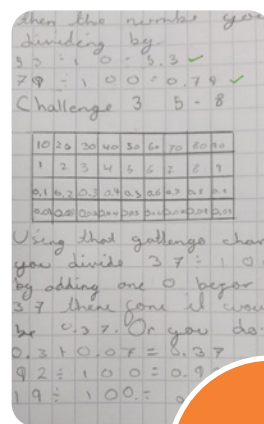
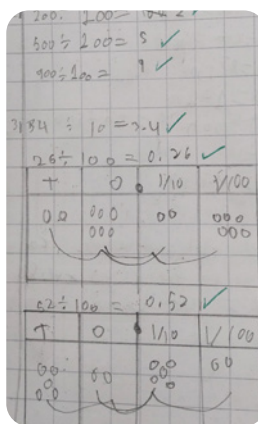
### Narratives

This week in English, Year 3 have been writing a narrative of a story. We have been retelling our focus text 'Poetree' by Shauna LaVoy Reynolds. We have been including expanded noun phrases, time and place prepositions, fronted adverbials and much more.



### Division

In Maths, Year 4 have been developing our division skills. We have been dividing two or three digit numbers by 100. We learnt how digits move two places to the right to take on a different value.



Year 5

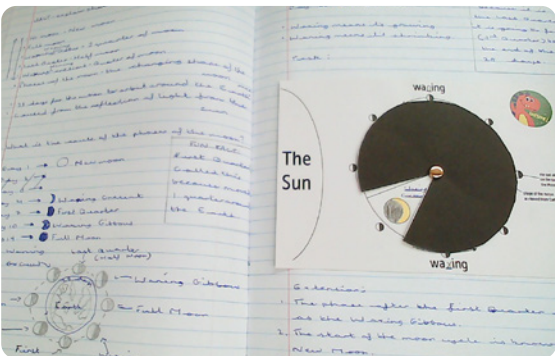
Year 4

### Phases of the Moon

In Science, Year 5 have been learning all about Earth and Space. To conclude our topic we have been exploring the waxing and waning phases of the moon and created our own useful models. We have also learnt about the causes of seasons on Earth, which we found fascinating!

### Perspective

In Art, Year 6 have been developing skills and techniques for perspective drawing. We have enjoyed learning how to change the size of different objects in our drawing to show their distance within a landscape.



Year 6





# Making Mistakes as Parents and Carers

We all have difficult times when we know we are messing up. Sometimes, we get triggered and we forget to see things from our child’s perspective. So we lose it, react to their behaviours and can later be left filled with remorse. As this is a particularly busy time of year for many, we can easily feel more stressed, which makes it more difficult to practice patience and calm when faced with challenging behaviours. It is helpful to remind ourselves that most things can be repaired.

### How parents and carers can help

Parenting is hard and we are only human - which means that your child doesn’t need you to be perfect. In fact, what they need from you is the space to be imperfect too, and to be loved and accepted for who they are. Luckily, we can model how to repair: “I’m so sorry I yelled at you... You don’t ever deserve to be yelled at. Let’s rewind and try again. Here is what I meant to say...” As long as our ruptures are followed by reconnection and outweighed by positive moments, they become learning opportunities for our children.

### 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@schoolsounsellingpartnership.co.uk**

# Football Camp and Sessions at The Hive

The Hive are offering an Easter Football Camp (£14 per day) and Football sessions for Year 4 and Year 5 girls (£2 per session) in the Summer term.

For more information please visit [www.thehivefoundation.com](http://www.thehivefoundation.com)



## Support for Families



### HAF in Harrow - Free Easter Holiday Clubs

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is a Department for Education (DfE) funded programme of activities for children eligible for means-tested Free School Meals (FSM). It offers a range of physical and creative activities, including some specialist SEND provisions. The programme also includes free daily nutritious meals.

Free Easter Holiday Clubs are running from **29th March to 12th April**. For more information please see the flyer on the Support for Families page of our website: [www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/support-for-families](http://www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/support-for-families)

Please also see the Young Harrow Foundation website: [www.youngharrowfoundation.org/haf-programme](http://www.youngharrowfoundation.org/haf-programme)



## Online Safety

### Online Safety: Clickbait

Around one in five headlines online are clickbait. That's an estimate from experts at Stanford University, who conducted a study into this phenomenon which has gradually extended its reach to almost every corner of the Internet - powered by a strategy of snagging users' attention by any means necessary rather than a legitimate desire to inform or enlighten.

As that statistic indicates, this manipulative marketing strategy is difficult to avoid online. There's still plenty that can be done though to limit its influence - especially in relation to young people, who are often more susceptible to sensationalist headlines.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter, highlighting the potential hazards around clickbait and expert tips for avoiding them.





Support for  
Families

**HOPE**

Helping Families to Live and Learn Together



## Parenting Pre-Teens: Online Workshop

As parents, we all want the best for our children and parenting pre teens can be a challenging task. This 2 hour workshop will help you to navigate this important stage in your child's life. You will learn valuable strategies and techniques to better understand and communicate with your pre teen. You will also gain insights into their developmental needs, and learn how to support them through the challenges they may face.

Topics include:

- Positive communication
- Sustaining positive parent/pre-teen relationships
- Pre teen behaviour and emotions, why do they do what they do?
- Understanding their developmental needs and avoid power struggles.

**Monday 22nd  
April, 7pm-9pm  
(online via Zoom)  
£13 per parent  
or carer /  
£5 concessions**

To enrol for a place please visit [www.hopeharrow.org.uk](http://www.hopeharrow.org.uk)

You can also email [info@hopeharrow.org.uk](mailto:info@hopeharrow.org.uk) / call 0208 863 7319 or 07498 881 496

## Family Learning Hub - 10 week Online Parenting Programme

This 10 week online course offers parents and carers of children ages 4-12 many positive, practical and fun ways of guiding children to manage their feelings and behaviour.



**THE FAMILY  
LEARNING HUB**  
GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

The programme starts on **Tuesday 23rd April, 9.45am-11.45am.**

Please email [info@thefamilylearninghub.com](mailto:info@thefamilylearninghub.com) to book your place.

Inclusion

## Life Skills

As we finish the Spring term, we are already looking forward to lots of exciting things ahead! We have an action packed Summer term full of celebrations for neurodiversity, with presentations and lots of exciting new life skill provisions.

**Miss Tunstall**



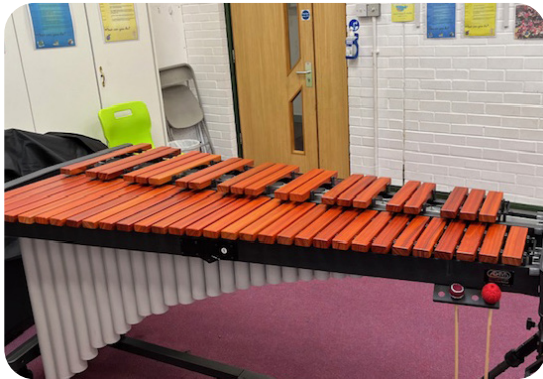
Music



Music News

Percussion Ensemble

Our recently organised percussion group, an ensemble option for our intermediate pianists and enthusiastic drummers, is well into preparations for our upcoming end of year concert. Along with a wide range of tuned and untuned classroom instruments, we are thrilled that our pupils can now make use of a full-size brand new marimba!



HMS String Festival

Well done to our violinists Jiya (Y6) and Jeysey (Year 5) who participated in the HMS String Festival last week. After a whole day of rehearsing alongside five more schools, they performed as part of a youth orchestra at the evening concert featuring a diverse repertoire of music styles from baroque music to pop songs.

Instrumental Exams

We are also very proud of the instrumental exam results our pupils received this half-term. Many congratulations to the following pupils:

Guitar

- Veer (4CM) - Grade 2 with Distinction
- Alex (4SF) - Initial Grade with Distinction
- Kian (4CM) - Initial Grade with Pass
- Reyansh (5SK) - Grade 3 with Distinction
- Saavir (5ET) - Grade 3 with Distinction
- Kiya (5SC) - Initial Grade with Distinction
- Anaiya (5SC) - Initial Grade with Merit
- Shivani (6HH) - Grade 3 with Distinction
- Zachary (6EH) - Grade 3 with Merit
- Finley (6MO) - Grade 1 with Distinction
- Aryan (6HH) - Grade 1 with Merit

Piano

- Nivai (2HD) - Initial Grade with Merit
- Anahi-Lily (4CM) - Initial Grade with Distinction
- Isai (5SK) - Grade 1 with Pass
- Shayan (5ET) - Grade 1 with Distinction

Mrs E Leutfeld  
Director of Music

# Summer Menu



Salad bar and bread are available daily

## WHITCHURCH PRIMARY MENU

	WEEK ONE 15/04, 06/05, 03/06, 24/06, 15/07	WEEK TWO 22/04, 13/05, 10/06, 01/07	WEEK THREE 29/04, 20/05, 17/06, 08/07
<b>MONDAY</b> 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 Cherry Shortbread	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 Chocolate Orange Sponge (V)	Sweet Potato, Lentil & Chickpea Curry, Pilau Rice, Naan Bread & Peas (Ve) Grilled Cheese Sub, Diced Potatoes & Peas (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Orange Drizzle Cake (V)
DESSERT			
<b>TUESDAY</b> MAINS	Beef Chilli (H) with Boiled Rice & Mixed Vegetables Vegan Chilli with Boiled Rice & Mixed Vegetables (Ve) 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 (Ve)	Cajun Chicken Pasta Bake, Garlic Slice & Garden Peas Mexican Spiced Pasta Bake, Garlic Slice & Garden Peas (V) Veggie Wrap with Tomato Topping & Side Salad (Ve) Fruit Tuesday (Ve)
DESSERT			
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 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 Summer Fruit Crumble & Custard	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 tart (Ve) & Custard (V)	Chicken Sausage (H), Mashed Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Sliced Carrots & Green Beans Cheese & Potato Pie, Sliced Carrots & Green Beans (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Courgette Muffin (V)
DESSERT			
<b>THURSDAY</b> MAINS	Chicken Burger (H) with Potato Wedges & Sweetcorn Veggie Burger with Potato Wedges & Sweetcorn (Ve) Veggie Wrap with Tomato Topping & Side Salad (Ve) Fruity Mousse	Beef Keema Curry with Pilau Rice & Naan Bread Vegan Keema Curry with Pilau Rice & Naan Bread (V) Veggie Wrap with Tomato Topping & Side Salad (Ve) Orange Jelly & Fruit (Ve)	Chinese Style Turkey Curry (H) with Boiled Rice & Peas Chinese Style Vegetable Curry with Boiled Rice & Peas (V) Spicy Tomato Pasta with Side Salad Fruity Cracknell (Ve)
DESSERT			
<b>FRIDAY</b> MAINS	Fish Fillet with Chips & Baked Beans Vegetable Nuggets with Chips & Baked Beans (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Rainbow Sprinkled Vanilla Cake	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 Fruity Flapjack (Ve)	Fish Stars, Chips & Baked Beans Falafel Wrap, Chips & Baked Beans (V) Baked Beans (Ve) Cheese or Tuna Mayo Jacket Potato with Side Salad Mandarin Brownie (V)
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](mailto:head@whitchurchps.co.uk)

Deputy Headteacher (Mr M Thompson-Lawrie)

[deputy@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:deputy@whitchurchps.co.uk)

Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion  
(Mrs D Qudsiyeh)

[sendco@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:sendco@whitchurchps.co.uk)

Assistant Headteacher for Early Years  
(Miss N Ward)

[nward@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:nward@whitchurchps.co.uk)

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

[gharris@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:gharris@whitchurchps.co.uk)

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

[kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk)

Year 1 Leader (Mrs S Tezel)

[stezel@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:stezel@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Year 2 Leader (Miss G Harris)

[gharris@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:gharris@whitchurchps.co.uk)

Year 3 Leader (Miss N Lakhani)

[nlakhani@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:nlakhani@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Year 4 Leader (Mrs B Solanki)

[bsolanki@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:bsolanki@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Year 5 Leader (Mrs K Portou)

[kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk](mailto:kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk)

Year 6 Leader (Miss H Hogberg)

[hhogberg@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:hhogberg@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.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@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:nchikhlia@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Director of Music (Mrs E Leutfeld)

[eleutfeld@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:eleutfeld@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Music Department

[music@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:music@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Friends of Whitchurch

[FoW@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:FoW@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

Childcare (Early Birds and Night Owls)

[childcare@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:childcare@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

tel: 07904 428 226

### School Office

Tel: 020 8951 5380

[office@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:office@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)



## School Term Dates 2023-2024

### 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 (2pm finish)**

Staff Training Days Monday 3 June (no children in school)  
Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

Holidays during term time are **not** permitted

### Autumn Term 2024

Autumn 1st Wednesday 4 September to Friday 25 October  
Half Term Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November  
Autumn 2nd Tuesday 5 November to **Friday 20 December (2pm finish)**

Staff Training Days Monday 2 September, Tuesday 3 September, Monday 4 November (no children in school)

### Spring Term 2025

Spring 1st Monday 6 January to Friday 14 February  
Half Term Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February  
Spring 2nd Tuesday 25 February to **Friday 4 April (2pm finish)**

Staff Training Day Monday 24 February (no children in school)  
Easter Bank Holiday Monday 21 April (no children in school)

### Summer Term 2025

Summer 1st Tuesday 22 April to Friday 23 May  
Half Term Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May  
Summer 2nd Tuesday 3 June to **Tuesday 22 July (2pm finish)**

May Bank Holiday Monday 5 May (no children in school)  
Staff Training Day Monday 2 June (no children in school)



School finishes at **2pm** for the end of term

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CLICKBAIT

Clickbait is a controversial online marketing strategy which uses sensationalist (and frequently misleading) headlines to encourage engagement with an article, image or video – often playing on users’ emotions and curiosity, while much of the actual content is of questionable accuracy. Clickbait is also sometimes used to disguise scams, phishing sites and malware.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### HARMFUL MISINFORMATION

Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they’re viewing and why it’s harmful.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

### HIDDEN MALWARE

While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child’s sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

### PRIVACY PROBLEMS

Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

### A DRAINING DISTRACTION

Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, social and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

### IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR

Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory ‘rage bait’ articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START A CONVERSATION

The sheer volume of clickbait can make protecting children against it quite challenging. It’s vital to talk to young people regularly about the types of content they encounter online, so that they understand the risks of engaging with clickbait. If you’re still concerned, it may also be wise to keep an eye on children’s online activity to ensure they’re not being tempted by clickbait headlines.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Encouraging children to question the legitimacy of sensational headlines and too-good-to-be-true promises will help them to become savvier online – and far less likely to be drawn in by clickbait content. These critical thinking skills will also serve to protect them in other areas of the digital world where misinformation is becoming increasingly common.

### SPOT THE TELLTALE SIGNS

There are certain common elements in clickbait, including headlines and images that use shock and outrage to grab people’s attention – as well as numbered lists, such as ‘8 Facts You Won’t Believe Are True’. Some clickbait combines several of these tactics to snag users’ interest. Learn to recognise these techniques for yourself so you can teach children to notice them as well.

### TAKE CONTROL

Many parents opt to place limits on how long their children can spend online each day, which obviously reduces the chance of exposure to clickbait. Alternatively, most internet-enabled devices have built-in controls that allow parents to manage what sort of online content their child can access – including filtering by age, which can screen out a percentage of inappropriate material.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.



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