

Whitchurch Weekly



10th May
2024
Issue 30

Meet the Team!

Name: Nisha Chikhlia



Role: Family Liaison Officer



About me: I was born in West London but brought up in North London. I moved to Harrow 22 years ago after I got married. I have 2 children aged 16 and 20 and they both attended Whitchurch. I have been at Whitchurch for nearly 12 years; I started as Teaching Assistant and I have worked my way up to Family Liaison Officer.

Hobbies and interests: Outside of school I enjoy baking, learning new recipes and sharing tasty treats with friends and family. I also like to trial my cakes and bakes with the staff at Whitchurch - just a little 'pick me up' to go with their tea during morning break time. I was happy to get some very good feedback on my Biscoff tiramisu recently!



When I'm not in the kitchen I enjoy watching Bollywood movies and going to Bollywood concerts with my family. I also love spending time with family and friends, catching up over dinner and taking long walks. During the school holidays I love travelling to different countries - my last trip was to Cape Verde, where I enjoyed good food and lovely sunshine. I am keen to learn the history of different places, explore different cultures and wander off the beaten track.

Best part about my role: For me, the best part of the job is seeing the smiles on the faces of the children as they see me around the school. Additionally, I am pleased to be able to offer practical support to our families; working with parents and carers to make a positive difference to their lives and, of course, their child's education.



For more information about my role and how I can help, please visit the **Family Liaison Officer** page of our website.

General Notices and Highlights



Events for the week ahead

- Year 6 SATs Week (Monday to Thursday)
- Reception visit to Hertfordshire Zoo on Wednesday
- Year 5 visits to Kew Gardens on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Year 4 Junior Choir Choral Day at NLCS on Wednesday (10.20am-4pm)

MMR Vaccination - Second Dose

Harrow Immunisation Team will be in school on **Thursday 23rd May** to administer the second dose of the MMR vaccine to children who have already received their first dose. All relevant pupils will be invited to attend - please refer to the School Spider message for more information.



Scarlet Fever

As we are seeing a slight rise in cases of Scarlet Fever, please refer to the following link for helpful advice and information including signs and symptoms to look out for:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever

FoW Quiz Night

Friends of Whitchurch will be holding a Quiz Night (adults only) on **Thursday 23rd May from 7pm-9pm.**

Tickets cost £5 per adult and will be on sale on Tuesday and Wednesday in the playgrounds at 3.15pm.



Upcoming
FoW events
on page 8

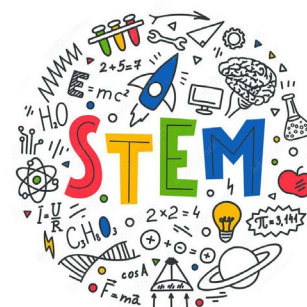
Quiz Night

Whitchurch STEM Week - 4th to 7th June

We will be holding STEM Week (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) from **Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th June.** For home learning over the half term break, in preparation for STEM week, children will create a research project. The week culminate in a dress-up day and exhibition on **Friday 7th June.** Parents and carers are invited to attend our class exhibitions from **2.30pm** on this day.

Jaguars
class assembly
on Thursday
at 9.05am

Please
check our lost
property box
before half term if
your child has lost
any school
uniform



Dates for your Diary

Summer
1st



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
Year 4 Junior Choir Choral Day at NLCS
(10.20am-4pm)



Monday 20th May

Nursery visit to Woodside Farm

Mon 20th to Tues 21st May

Year 5 Residential visit to Woodrow High House

Tuesday 21st May

Year 1 visit to Canons Park - picnic (AM)
Year 4 visit to London Zoo
Year 6 Play in a Day (Macbeth)

Thursday 23rd May

FoW Quiz Night (7pm-9pm)

Thurs 23rd & Fri 24th May

Class Photographs

May Half
Term Break
27th to
31st May



Staff
Training Day
on Monday
3rd June

Class Assemblies

Thurs 16th May - Jaguars
Tues 21st May - Lions

Please note
amended
dates for class
assemblies
(still at
9.05am)

Monday
22nd July
Year 6 Leavers'
Assembly
(2pm)

Whitchurch Stars of the Week



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

RRA Tigers Judith
RNW Leopards Jamie
RRV Lions Cristine
RPS Jaguars Eliza

1ST Avni
1BP Mivaan
1SM Layla
1CL Mishti

2HD Aarna
2KB Avyaan
2SA Sophie
2AR Riya

3NL Yasin
3MS Idris and Sayan
3LA Riyansh
3SM Sabah

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Ruqayah
4CM Estrela
4XL Dev
4SF Moss

5PA Tisha
5SK Tabark
5SC Dhyani
5ET Diyaani

6HH Niam
6MO Whole Class
6EH Vihaan S
6AS Ranna

Library helpers
shout out:

Moss and Omar (4SF),
Anirudh (6AS),
Emily and Arzo (5ET),
Tanvin (6EH) and
Cattley (3MS)

Attendance Stars

**Top Tip! Book
holidays outside
school dates - term
time holidays will
not be authorised!**

This week's
attendance
stars are 5SC
(100%)

Most
improved
attendance
6AS

Year 4 Reading Corner



"I like reading factual books because I like telling facts and information to my friends."

Ronald

Favourite book:
Stories by David Walliams

"I like reading because I can use my imagination in fantasy stories."

Raisa
Favourite book:
Harry Potter series



"I like reading because it is fun and makes me happy."

Robert

Favourite book:
Peppa Pig

Year 4
share their
experiences
of reading

"I like reading as it helps me learn more words and improves my creativity and imagination."

Anahi Lily
Favourite book: Matilda



"I enjoy books about coding as it helps me learn more about coding, bringing me closer to achieving my dream of becoming a coding expert."

Dylan

Favourite book:
Books about coding

"I like reading factual books because they give me more information."

Alexis
Favourite book:
Pokemon Encyclopedia



Year 4 Reading Corner

Year 4's
focus text is
'Charlotte's
Web'



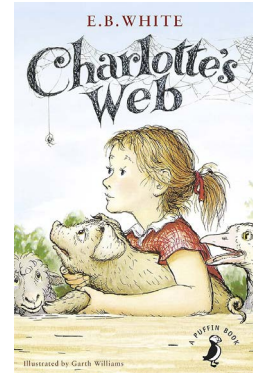
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

"I think Charlotte's Web is a lovely because it teaches us about having compassion for animals just like Fern had for Wilbur, which in turn, saved him from his terrible fate as a runt - death!"

Aleena

"Charlotte's Web is a really good way for us to see what farm animals experience and how they might perhaps feel about having to see other animals that they have built relationships and friendships with being sent to slaughter houses. It also shows us how strong relationships between animals and humans can be and friendship and protectiveness between animals themselves." **Yusuf**

"I really like Charlotte's Web because it shows a loving relationship between animals and their owners and vice versa. It has also taught me about how animals can make us feel less lonely and can be great companions." **Liyana**



"Charlotte's Web is most definitely one of the children's favourite class texts in Year 4. It is a delightful story full of wonderful themes such as growing up, responsibility, friendship, trust and sacrifice to name a few. The children have laughed, sympathised and empathised, with the characters that they have become so fond of.

I am immensely proud of the way that they have all engaged with the book and delved deep into the characters' thoughts, intentions and emotions. This text supports the Year 4 curriculum perfectly, linking our learning in English to Science, DT and Geography (including farming and agriculture). We shall be using the text to write about the controversial topic of 'animals in captivity' and cannot wait for our visit to London Zoo to bring our learning to life."

Mrs Solanki (4BS)

Support for Families



Online Safety: Helldivers 2

With a peak simultaneous player count of almost 500,000, it's safe to say that Helldivers 2 has taken the games industry by storm, attracting a wide array of fans from all over the world and - more importantly - from various age groups. Many young gamers are actively playing this title, both with friends and with strangers via online multiplayer - despite the game's 18+ rating.

Unfortunately, the gore and violence of Helldivers 2 (combined with its in-game purchases and the ability to play with unfamiliar people online) present significant online safety concerns for its younger players.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for more information surrounding these issues and advice on minimising the risks to children and young people.



#WakeUpWednesday

Premier Tennis Open Days and Tennis Camp

Saturday 11th May - Headstone Manor Park

Sunday 12th May - West Harrow Rec

3 free 40 minute sessions with fantastic tennis coaches.

Tuesday 28th to Thursday 30th May - Headstone Manor Park

The Elms Holiday Activity Camp

Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st May (9am-4pm)

The Elms are offering holiday activities including art, sports and games for children aged 5-12 years old.

£34 per day with discounts available.

For more information on these events please see the **Support for Families** page of our website.



Support for Families



Rituals to nurture family connection

Your days can quickly feel very busy and they go by too fast. It is so easy then to lose moments of true connection and presence with your family. Creating family traditions can help to nurture connection and fun at home. Here are some ideas to inspire you - the key is to keep it simple and fun:

- Go outside and pick up lots of different coloured leaves - you can make all sorts of crafts and collages with them! How about creating cards for each other?
- Go for a nice walk together in a nearby park. Bring some paper and pencils and draw the trees in all their colours. Maybe you could even make a large joint family drawing?
- Bake together using seasonal ingredients such as berries.
- Keep a Family Gratitude Journal. At the end of each week, ask everyone to write down what about your family life you were grateful for and read it at the end of the month. See if you can keep it going throughout the year.

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 9-10am**. You can call/text Tom on **07799 028 461** or email him at tom@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk



Friends of Whitchurch



Quiz Night (adults only)
Thursday 23rd May
7pm-9pm

Bags2School Donations
Thursday 6th June
8.40am-9.15am

Special Male (Father's Day) Gift Stall
Thursday 13th June
3.15pm-4pm

Summer Fair
Date to be announced soon

Spotlight on Enrichment

Music



Junior Music Day

This has been an especially musical week at Whitchurch. Our Senior Choir of Year 5 and 6 pupils participated in the Junior Music Day at the John Lyon School, where young musicians were brought together for mass music-making with various ensembles. The children took part in vocal warm ups, practised short canons and call and response songs; they also learned 'Bue Skies' by Irving Berlin and 'Any Dream Will Do' by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The day ended with a beautiful concert attended by many parents. Well done to our very musical singers!



Year 4 Trumpet and Clarinet Concert

Year 4 also treated us to a remarkable musical concert this week, featuring trumpets and clarinets. The pupils showcased their instrumental and ensemble playing skills with confidence and enthusiasm. They performed pieces of various styles, using all the notes of the C major scale and followed music notation and dynamic indications. They also responded accurately to visual directions and demonstrated strong listening skills while performing alongside pre-recorded music. Congratulations to all Year 4 pupils - and a big thank you to Miss Naddermier (clarinet teacher) and Mr Rieband (brass teacher).

Mrs Leutfeld Director of Music



Useful Signposting

Quick
Links



Website Calendar

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/events

Term Dates

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/term-dates

Senior Leadership Team Contacts

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/senior-leadership-team

Lunch Menu

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/school-meals

Support for Families

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/page/support-for-families

School Office Email

office@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

Music Email

music@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, *HELLDIVERS 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.



PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *HELLDIVERS 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In *HELLDIVERS 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

HELLDIVERS 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This *does* mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to *HELLDIVERS 2*'s appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as *HELLDIVERS 2*.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST

HELLDIVERS 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, *HELLDIVERS 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether *HELLDIVERS 2* is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where *HELLDIVERS 2* isn't available – consider something like *Halo: The Master Chief Collection* as an alternative. One of its game modes – *Firefight* – replicates *HELLDIVERS 2*'s mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Deep Rock Galactic*, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but *HELLDIVERS 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to *HELLDIVERS 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

