

Whitchurch Weekly



7th June
2024
Issue 33

Meet the Team!

Name: Jamie Coghill



Role: Learning Support Assistant



About me: I was born in Harrow and have lived here my entire life. My mum's side of the family are from Exmouth in Devon and any chance we get we always drive down to the coast to see them. I am fairly new to my role as an LSA and Whitchurch has provided such a wonderful opportunity for me to begin my journey in teaching. Before starting here, I previously worked in a dog grooming daycare salon for one and a half years and just before that I was completing my A levels.

Hobbies and interests: One of my favourite things to do at the weekend is baking - I always enjoy finding new recipes but my go to bakes are usually brownies, cookies and cakes. I am a big lover of chess and enjoy calculating tactics and finding creative ways to checkmate my opponents. I also have an 11 year old cocker spaniel called Marley and I love going on long refreshing walks with him being surrounded by nature.



Best part about my role: There are so many exciting things about my job. I love coming in every day and seeing all of the positivity the children bring to each lesson. It's a rewarding feeling to see how quickly they grow and develop their learning to achieve their goals. I also love how much the pupils and staff have welcomed me into the school community. I am so excited for next year already and am looking forward to continuing my journey at Whitchurch.



General Notices and Highlights



Events for the week ahead

- Year 5/6 Girls Cricket Festival at Harrow St Mary's Cricket Ground
- Year 6 Police visit on Thursday
- Friends of Whitchurch Special Male Gift Event on Thursday in the playground after school from 3.15pm-4pm
- Year 2 River Thames Cruise on Friday



Nursery Sports Day - Monday 15th July

Nursery's Sports Day will take place on Monday 15th July from 9.30am-10.30am in the infant playground. This is for all Nursery children (AM and PM classes). Parents and carers of children in Nursery are, of course, invited to attend.

Year group pages on our website

Year group pages can now be found in the 'Our Learning' section of the school website. Here you can find curriculum overviews, half termly curriculum plans and curriculum news.

Event dates

Please refer to the dates for your diary on **pages 3 and 4** for additional events coming up this half term.

Follow us on
Instagram:
WhitchurchPS



Late arrivals

If your child is late for school, it is vital that they come into school through the main reception and sign in on our Inentry screen.

Servery Design Competition Winner

Congratulations to our competition winner in Year 5 whose design was selected to decorate the servery area in our lunch hall.

Many thanks to our caterers, Coombs, who were inspired by the design and kindly funded the installation of this artwork!



Dates for your Diary

Summer
2nd



Wednesday 12th June

Year 5/6 Girls Cricket Festival at Harrow
St Mary's Cricket Ground

Thursday 13th June

Year 6 Police visit
FoW Special Male Gift Event (3.15pm-4pm)

Friday 14th June

Year 2 River Thames Cruise

Tuesday 18th June

HMS Recorder Festival

Wednesday 19th June

Summer Music Concert (5.30pm)

Thursday 20th June

Year 5/6 Girls and Boys visit to
Wormsley Cricket Ground

Friday 21st June

Year 5 Chocolate Making Workshop:
The Chocolate Museum (5PA 10.30am-12pm;
5SC 1.30pm-3pm)

Sunday 23rd June

FoW Summer Fair (12pm-4pm)

Tuesday 25th June

HMS Percussion Workshop at Harrow Arts Centre
Year 3 visit to Rock Up (3MS and 3SM)

Wednesday 26th June

Year 3 visit to Rock Up (3LA and 3NL)

Friday 28th June

Year 5 Chocolate Making Workshop:
The Chocolate Museum
(5ET 10.30am-12pm; 5SK 1.30pm-3pm)

Monday 1st July

6MO visit to Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre

Tuesday 2nd July

6EH visit to Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre

Thursday 4th July

6AS visit to Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre
Year 3 Recorders Concert (9.15am and 10.15am)
Year 4 visit to Cineworld Wembley



Dates for your Diary

continued

Summer
2nd



Friday 5th July

6HH visit to Fairlop Outdoor Activity Centre

Tuesday 9th July

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 10th July

Parents' Evening

Thursday 11th July

LAMDA Exams

Monday 15th July

1ST and 1CL visit to Sea Life
London Aquarium
Nursery AM/PM Sports Day (9.30am-10.30am)
Reception Sports Day (PM)
Year 6 Production: 6HH and 6MO (5.30pm)

Tuesday 16th July

Year 1-3 Sports Day (AM)
Year 6 Production: 6AS and 6EH (5.30pm)

Wednesday 17th July

1SM and 1BP visit to Sea Life London Aquarium
Year 4-6 HMS Staff Orchestra visit (9.30am)

Thursday 18th July

Year 4-6 Sports Day (AM)

Friday 19th July

National Youth Orchestra presentation (AM)

Monday 22nd July

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (2pm)
Year 6 Leavers' Party (6pm-8pm)



Last day
of term:
Wednesday
24th July
(2pm finish)

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 Malik
RNW Leopards Asona
RRV Lions Kiaan
RPS Jaguars Maheem

1ST Erika
1BP Saajan
1SM Lucas
1CL Moise

2HD Neil
2KB Aylaan
2SA Rishi
2AR Arshay

3NL Diyan
3MS Dheven
3LA Sahar
3SM Raiya

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Viyaan
4XL Elias
4SF Sahil

4CM Dylan, Veer, Reeve,
Mia, Elliott, Shaima, Riyaan,
Kimia, Rian, Ibrahim, Nada,
Anahi Lily

5PA Nooreen
5SK Aahil
5ET Vanisha, Luca
5SC Dylan, Kiyan,
Adrian

6HH Vrish
6AS Hamza
6EH Ayat
6MO Omar

Library helpers
shout out:
Moss and Raisa (4SF),
Sianna and Navlin
(6MO), Ahmed (5SC)
and Burhan (6HH)

Attendance Stars

This week's
attendance
stars are
3MS (99.54%)

Most
improved
attendance
5PA

Whole
School
95%

Reception Reading Corner

Reception
have been
reading various
books about
transport



Brilliant Boats, Cool Cars, Roaring Rocket and Amazing Aeroplanes!

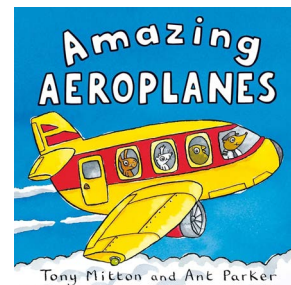
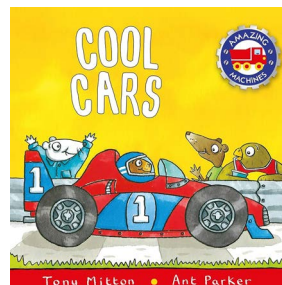
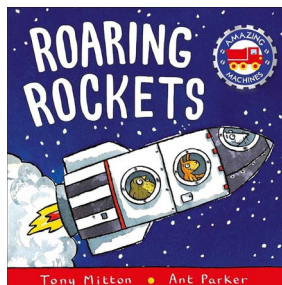
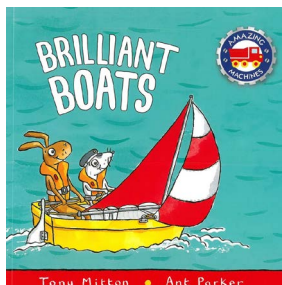
"I liked learning about the boat's anchor and the fast boats and the fishing boats."
Amber

"I liked the plane and getting packed up." Leah

"I loved the racing cars because they go fast!" Amatasia

"Rockets go to space, the machine can stand on the moon." Teeyan

STEM
Week



Reception have been reading books relating to our STEM week topic - Transport! We started by reading 'Brilliant Boats' and learnt about different types of boats. We particularly enjoyed looking at the submarines! Next we read 'Cool Cars'. We already knew quite a bit about cars but learnt the names of different parts of a car and loved the racing cars! We then read 'Roaring Rockets' and we were extremely excited by rockets blasting off! We looked inside a spaceship and learnt about landers! We finished the week by reading 'Amazing Aeroplanes' and were amazed at all the buttons and dials the pilot has to use to fly the plane! It has been a really interesting week and we have enjoyed reading lots of stories and songs on transport!

Miss Ward (Early Years)

Reception Reading Corner



"I like reading because the books are funny."
Timeea, Jaguars

"Reading gives me lots of information."
Abraham, Jaguars

"I like reading because it makes me happy."
Alaina, Tigers

"Reading is nice."
Elias, Tigers

"I like reading because I can make my own stories."
Rhea, Lions

"I like the sounds and looking at the pictures."
Aisha, Leopards

"I like reading because it is fun."
River, Leopards

"I like reading because I can learn new things."
Mark, Lions

Friends of Whitchurch



Save the
Date

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



Summer Fair
Sunday 23rd June
12pm-4pm



Whitchurch STEM Week

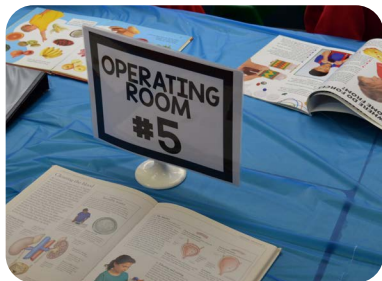


This week at Whitchurch we held a fantastic STEM Week to celebrate the wonder of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths in the world around us. Each year group explored a different theme relating to STEM, with opportunities for research projects, exciting activities and inspirational workshops. Thank you for attending our class exhibitions today - the children loved sharing their amazing work with you!

Early Years – Transport
Year 1 – Paleontology
Year 2 – Space

Year 3 – Health
Year 4 – Construction

Year 5 – Robotics
Year 6 – Crime



Support for Families

Online Safety



Palworld

With an all-time peak of 2.1 million concurrent players, Palworld rose to prominence after its release earlier this year on PC and Xbox, resonating in particular with the younger audience - both those who saw their favourite influencers playing it and those who bought the game themselves.

Despite its light-hearted presentation and cartoonish art style, Palworld has been noted for its mature references that could be inappropriate for children. What's more, the presence of online multiplayer and the potential for interacting with strangers can pose further online safety risks.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for expert advice on how to protect young people from the concerns associated with Palworld.



Holiday Activities

The Elms Tennis Camps

Weekdays during the Summer holidays (9am-4pm)

The Elms are offering holiday tennis camps with drills and skills in the mornings and games/match play in the afternoon.

The cost is £40 for a single day, £152 for a 4-day camp or £190 for a 5-day camps. Early Bird rates are available.

Children should wear comfortable sports clothing and bring a healthy snack, packed lunch and drink in a refillable container.

For more information on this event and other activities, please see the **Support for Families** page of our website.



Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Family Meetings Create Connections

When our days are so full and busy, family meetings are an opportunity to regularly bring families together. They can help your children learn to solve problems, they help them to feel like important members of the family and they also allow the space to share any emotions or concerns that might be troubling them.

How parents and carers can help

Introduce family meetings to your children by saying that you have a new fun idea to make it easier to work out problems that come up. Schedule it at the same time every week and invite suggestions from everyone for the agenda. You can agree on a set of rules/values, such as listening to each other and using kind words. Create traditions and rituals, like lighting a candle or using a talking stick. Start with something positive such as sharing appreciations, followed by things that everyone likes or would like to be improved. It may be helpful to keep a 'family notebook' to write down any agreements made and to reflect on. Finally, share something you are looking forward to and any announcements for the week ahead. It is also always good to end with a family hug or other agreed ritual that brings everyone together!

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**

Useful Signposting

Quick
Links

[Senior Leadership Team](#)

[Support for Families](#)

[Summer Lunch Menu](#)

[School Office Email](#)

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In Palworld, players head out into an environment where they must craft items and survive alongside creatures called 'Pals'. In this sense, it's similar to Minecraft: fight monsters while maintaining a base. Palworld has sold more than six million copies and often has over two million people playing online simultaneously.



MATURE CONTENT



While Palworld may look cute and cuddly, the game does have its more mature moments. For example, if you try to catch a Pal and don't succeed, the game displays a mild swear word. There are also minor references to inhumane acts like slavery when getting your Pals to perform certain tasks for you. While the presentation is intended to be humorous, this could still be seen as being in poor taste.

ONLINE PLAY



Palworld can be played with other people online. On Xbox, players can only play with people on their friends list. On PC, however, up to 32 players can share in the same game, playing in a large online world, and these players may not necessarily be known to the host beforehand. It can be quite complicated to set up these servers. However, it can be quite complicated to set up these servers (online worlds) and they cost money to keep active.

VIOLENCE



Palworld has been referred to as "Pokémon with guns" and with good reason. As the game progresses, Pals can be given firearms, explosives and other weapons, allowing them to fight by the player's side. There are several moments where cute animals use these guns to kill other Pals or fight against bosses. The violence is cartoonish and bloodless, but it's present.

DIFFICULTY



Despite its endearing visuals, Palworld is actually an extremely difficult game in places: defeating bosses, catching Pals and exploring the environment can all be very tricky. It takes a lot of skill – or working together with a friend – to be successful, which could be off-putting or even aggravating to a player expecting something more like Minecraft or Pokémon.

SUGGESTIVE WRITING



Some of the Pals' descriptions – found in the game menu – can be very suggestive and adult in nature. The game makes a joke of balancing on the line between age-appropriate and mature content: playing on the contrast between the two while never being outright explicit. While it's possible that younger players won't notice this content, it's just as conceivable that they will.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH GAMEPLAY



Watching gameplay and reviews for Palworld on sites like YouTube is the best available means of gathering information on it, second only to playing it for yourself. Currently, there are plenty of videos showing this game off to the internet at large, along with detailed breakdowns of what can be found or done within it.

LEND A HAND



By learning the basics of the game – Pal catching, battling, crafting items and building up a base – you can help to lower the difficulty for younger players. This, in turn, decreases the likelihood that such players will need to look online for tips and tricks, where they could quite easily stumble across more violent and mature content associated with the game.

SET CONTENT LIMITS



As Palworld is available on Xbox Game Pass, it's easy for players to access it. Any player subscribed to this service can simply find the title on Game Pass and hit the download button. If a child or young person isn't allowed to play Palworld, the best way to prevent them downloading it regardless is to enable age limits on their account. Setting the limit below 12 will not allow users to install Palworld.

PLAY TOGETHER

By playing Palworld yourself, you'll have the best chance of catching any content that you don't think is suitable for children, as well as getting an idea of how violence is presented in the game. The conflict is cartoonish in nature – until players and Pals unlock the ability to use guns, at which point it can become more intense. It's likely best for you to give it a look and form your own opinion.



PLACE BOUNDARIES

Limit options when it comes to online play. For players on PC, they'll still be able to cooperate with friends through the game's multiplayer option, much like Xbox users. Just because they have the option to run a dedicated server that's open to anyone doesn't mean they need to take it. The risks of interacting with strangers can be significantly lowered or even eliminated entirely by playing on servers which are restricted to friends only.



Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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