

Whitchurch Weekly



14th June
2024
Issue 34

Meet the Team!

Name: Yasmita Chowdhury



Role: Librarian / HLTA



About me: I am originally from India and moved to the UK in 2020. My family includes my supportive husband and our bubbly 8-year-old, who is always excited to hear about my days at Whitchurch. Before transitioning to the education sector, I spent over a decade working in corporate content, campaigns and marketing for various IT companies. I have been at Whitchurch since January and have quickly grown to love it here!

Hobbies and interests: Reading is my escape and my safe place. My 'me time' is usually spent in a hidden spot in a park with a book or my Kindle in hand and snacks by my side. However, I also enjoy travelling to new countries, camping, cooking for my foodie family and exploring different cuisines. Music is something I cannot live without and I listen to a wide variety of genres including rock, vintage, K-pop, trance and everything in between!



Best part about my role: There are many reasons why I look forward to the start of a new week every Monday morning! From the warm welcoming smiles of the children and staff to the unwavering support of the leadership, I feel incredibly fortunate to be part of the Whitchurch family. As an avid reader, I am passionate about fostering a love for reading and learning in our pupils. It's immensely rewarding and refreshing to see children enjoying themselves in the library with a book in hand instead of an iPad!



General Notices and Highlights



Events for the week ahead

- HMS Recorder Festival on Tuesday
- Summer Music Concert on Wednesday at 5.30pm (music ensembles)
- Year 5/6 Girls and Boys visit to Wormsley Cricket Ground on Thursday
- 5PA and 5SC visit from The Chocolate Museum on Friday

Bicycles and Scooters

A reminder that no pupils or visitors should be using bicycles or scooters on the school grounds at any point.



Summer Music Concert (Wednesday 19th June, 5.30pm)

The Guitar Ensemble, the Orchestra, the Junior Choir, the Senior Choir, the Wind Band, the Percussion Group and the Rock Band need to arrive at the Front Desk by 5pm with their instrument and music and in full school uniform. The Rock Band can wear clothes of their choice. The choirs need to wear white shirt or white top. Children that attend the Night Owls will be sent to their ensemble's allocated classroom by a member of staff.

FoW Summer Fair Volunteers

Please complete the volunteer opportunities sign-up form if you are able to give a few hours of your time on **Sunday 23rd June**.



Vacancies

We are seeking a **Part Time Receptionist/Admin Assistant**, **Finance Administrator** and **Learning Support Assistant** to join our team. Please see the **Vacancies** page of our website for further information and an application pack.

Whitchurch Book Fair

We shall be holding a book fair throughout the week of **24th to 28th June** during library sessions. Children will be able to purchase a book for **£1**.

Summer Transitions Parental Coffee Morning

Our therapeutic lead Tom (Schools Counselling Partnership) will be hosting a coffee morning for parents and carers on **Wednesday 3rd July from 9am-10am**.

Please
take part in the
UCL survey:
**Evaluation of
Free School
Meals**

Follow us on
Instagram:
WhitchurchPS



Dates for your Diary

Summer
2nd



Monday 17th June	Year 5 BMX Cycling Show and Cycle Skills Workshop
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 with The Chocolate Museum (5PA 10.30am-12pm; 5SC 1.30pm-3pm)
Sunday 23rd June	FoW Summer Fair (12pm-4pm)
Monday 24th to Friday 28th June	Whitchurch Book Fair
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 with The Chocolate Museum (5ET 10.30am-12pm; 5SK 1.30pm-3pm)
Wednesday 3rd July	Summer Transitions Parental Coffee Morning (9am)
Thursday 4th July	Year 3 Recorders Concert (9.15am and 10.15am) Year 4 visit to Cineworld Wembley
Tuesday 9th July	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 10th July	Parents' Evening



Dates for your Diary

continued

Summer
2nd



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)

Year 6 visit to Fairlop Outdoor Activity
Centre has been cancelled (alternative
arrangements to be confirmed)



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 Aarushi
RNW Leopards Kian
RRV Lions Sid
RPS Jaguars Abraham

1ST Parin
1BP Lana
1SM Adam
1CL Whole Class

2HD Sthefany
2KB Nitya
2SA David
2AR Tatiana

3NL Rithvi
3MS Krishay
3LA Whole Class
3SM Rishay

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Hashir
4XL Ocean
4SF Florin
4CM Karishma

5PA Sophia
5SK Darius and Areeb
5ET Ioana, Shrien and Kian
5SC Mila

6HH Olivia
6AS Asmin
6EH Kira
6MO Jason

Library helpers
shout out:
Dhiya (3NL),
Idris (3SM),
Ashen (6MO),
Ahmed and
Aisha (5SC)

Attendance Stars

This week's
attendance
stars are
PM Nursery
(98.9%)

Most
improved
attendance
RNW and
1BP

Whole
School
92.9%

Nursery Reading Corner

Nursery
are exploring
minibeasts
this half term



Mad About Minibeasts by Giles Andreae

"I like about the ladybird because they crawl and will go everywhere." Saba

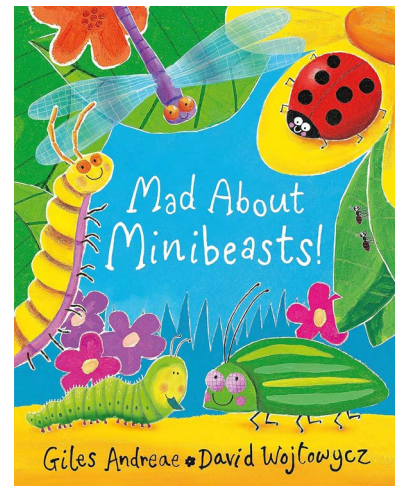
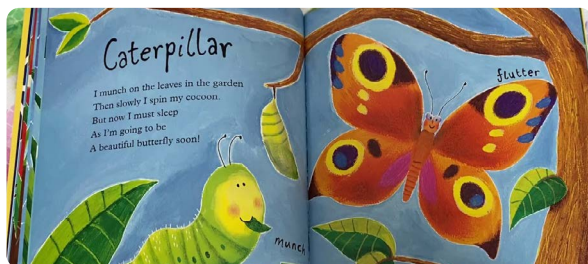
"I like the spider because it makes spider webs." Sophia

"I like the worms." Eesa

"I like the bumble bees because they fly." James

"I like the ants because they run." Mishv

"I like ladybird because it is too cute." Mannat



Nursery have started to learn about Minibeasts this half term. We began with talking about what children already know about minibeasts. Our focus story this week is 'Mad about Minibeasts' where children explored different types of minibeasts and their names. The children loved looking for different minibeasts in the outdoor area and in their gardens. We then read 'Snail Trail' and used the snail's trail to make a story map. For creative arts we made snails and ladybirds using paper plates and pebbles. We finished the week by going on a Minibeast hunt in the Eco-Garden. It has been a really interesting week to see children develop their learning, reading lots of minibeast stories and learning the song 'Incy Wincy Spider'. *Mrs Patel (Nursery)*

Nursery Reading Corner



"I like reading books because its fun." *Zain*

"I like books and the colours."
Antonia

"I like reading books because the pictures are nice." *Maryam*

"I like to read books when I am sleeping. Reading is fun." *Sheldon*

"My favourite story is Cinderella because she is beautiful and nice." *Alisha*

"I love reading because I read before going sleep." *Nella*

"I like reading because my mummy reads to me." *Vaneeza*

Spotlight on Chess Club

Enrichment



Success for Whitchurch Chess Team (Premier Chess Coaching)

On Thursday 6th June, Whitchurch participated in the U11 section of the 1st Premier Chess Coaching Hillingdon Schools tournament at St Helen's School in Northwood. Despite a very high level tournament, Whitchurch managed 3rd place - qualifying for the National PCC final which takes place in Kensington on 30th June.

The tournament was 5 players per team. The Whitchurch team was made up of Saavir D, Veer S, Veer V, Kian M, Dylan V. The highlight for the team was an excellent 3-2 win over St Johns followed by a very exciting last round 2.5-2.5 draw with Northwood College.

Support for Families

Wellbeing



Fair Play and Friendly Competition

According to Statista, 69% of children currently engage in competitive sport, either in or out of school. Thanks to the Euros, it's very possible that percentage will see an increase in the coming weeks. Enjoying sport and revelling in healthy competition can have a fantastic impact on children's development - but when presented with the idea of a winning side, emotions can sometimes run high and feelings can be hurt.



A healthy approach to any kind of game or contest - not just the sporting variety - is an important quality to teach to children and young people.



#WakeUpWednesday

Please refer to the poster attached for tips on how to emphasise the value of playing fair and dealing with both victory and defeat in a reasonable, mature manner.

The Elms Tennis Camps

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

£40 for a single day, £152 for a 4-day camp or £190 for a 5-day camps. Early Bird rates are available. Visit the [Support for Families](#) page of our website for details.



Damp and Mould

Living in a home with damp and mould issues can have a serious impact on health and wellbeing. For more information on tackling these issues promptly and effectively please visit: www.harrow.gov.uk/dampandmould

Practical Advice

Homeless prevention

If you are likely to become homeless in the next 8 weeks, contact Harrow Council for help now: www.harrow.gov.uk/wf_housingadvice

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Less drama, more connection

Here is a list of ways to help you connect more with your child and decrease drama and meltdowns at home. It may be a good idea to hang these up somewhere handy as a reminder!

- Put 'special time' aside with your child every day - even if just for 10mins!
- Be present and put your phone aside when you are with your child.
- Pause and take a deep breath whenever you feel the urge to yell.
- Move and play together - let your child take the lead on a game and get them laughing every day!
- Choose empathy first: set limits to behaviours and allow them to have their emotion.
- Choose empathy to help your child feel understood.
- Find the YES behind the NO: tell them what they CAN do instead.
- Look after yourself and make sure your cup is full.
- Give yourself a break: good enough really is enough and most ruptures can be repaired.
- Ask for support when things feel hard: from a partner, from other parents, or from a professional if necessary.

Summer Transitions Parental Coffee Morning Wednesday 3rd July from 9am-10am



The Summer holidays can be a time of great fun and relaxation for families, it can also be a time of stress and confusion. One of the biggest challenges is transitioning into a Summer schedule, which can involve changes in routine, sleep patterns and social interactions.

To help a smooth transition into Summer, our Therapeutic Lead Tom will be running a coffee morning for parents. All parents are welcome to join a relaxed environment to discuss and share ideas for the upcoming Summer holidays.

Please RSVP to the office if you would like to attend - minimum numbers needed for the workshop to commence.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FAIR PLAY AND FRIENDLY COMPETITION

In school sports, fair play and friendly competition are important for character development. Fair play embodies respect and integrity while good-natured competition balances rivalry with camaraderie. This guide addresses potential challenges – like the pressure to win – and offers practical tips on instilling values of fair play and cultivating a positive sporting environment for young athletes.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Parents, carers and teachers should try to exemplify fair play: demonstrating respect for opponents, coaches and officials. Children frequently learn by observing adult behaviour, so displaying a sense of fair play sets a powerful precedent for them to follow in their own actions on and off the field.

2 EFFORT OVER OUTCOME

Encourage children to focus on giving it their all, rather than basing their entire performance on whether they win or not. This fosters a growth mindset, where the journey and the process of improvement are valued just as much as the end result. It also reduces the pressure to “win at all costs”, which can be a harmful outlook in some situations.

3 SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Establish clear guidelines and expectations for behaviour before, during and after sporting events. Ensuring that children understand what is considered acceptable conduct helps prevent misunderstandings and promotes a positive, respectful atmosphere.

4 HIGHLIGHT COOPERATION

Underline the value of teamwork and cooperation in achieving success. Success isn't just about individual achievements, but about how well the team communicates, encourages each other and works together towards a common goal. A strong focus on cooperation fosters camaraderie and mutual support among players.

5 DISCUSS ACCEPTING DEFEAT

Help children to understand that they can't win every contest – that losing occasionally is a natural part of both sport and life in general. Teaching them to accept defeat gracefully and learn from their mistakes promotes resilience, humility and the ability to bounce back stronger from setbacks. Taking a loss in one's stride is also an admirable trait and can help children and young people garner respect in their future life.

6 ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Promote an environment where all children feel welcome and valued, regardless of their skill level. Prioritise the importance of participation and enjoyment over winning, creating a supportive atmosphere where every child can thrive and develop their abilities without unnecessary pressure.

7 FOSTER CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS

Teach children how to resolve conflicts peacefully and respectfully, both on and off the field. Providing them with strategies for effective communication and problem-solving helps build stronger relationships and enhances their ability to navigate challenges, which can be a huge boon to them throughout their adult lives.

8 TEACH RESPECT

Emphasise to children the importance of respecting everyone involved in the game, regardless of the outcome. Respect for your teammates, opponents, coaches and officials helps to create a positive, inclusive sports environment where everyone can feel valued and appreciated.

9 GIVE CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK

Offer feedback that focuses on areas for improvement rather than unfiltered criticism. Praise what a child has done well and advise on how to improve, rather than simply pointing out shortcomings. Encouraging a growth mindset and highlighting progress helps children to develop confidence, resilience and a desire to continue striving for excellence.

10 CELEBRATE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

Try to avoid solely drawing attention to children's physical performance on the field. Recognise and celebrate acts of sportsmanship, fair play and kindness, too. By spotlighting positive behaviour, you reinforce the importance of such conduct and inspire children to practise this in the future, creating a culture of respect and camaraderie within the sports community that does wonders for morale.

Meet Our Expert

Caroline Holder is a PE consultant based in Staffordshire. Having worked across all age ranges delivering PE in schools, she now trains teachers and works with schools to develop their provision and ensure it achieves maximum impact for pupils. She passionately believes in the impact that PE, sport, and activity can have on children.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/friendly-competition>



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