

Whitchurch Weekly



Message from the Headteacher

5th July
2024
Issue 37



Dear Whitchurch Families,

It has been a fantastic week at Whitchurch hosting our first transition session in preparation for the next academic year. We welcomed our new staff and all pupils across the school had the chance to meet their new teachers and get to know one another. All pupils did amazingly well and even had the chance to create their new aspirational target for what they want to achieve in the future and the steps they need to take next year to achieve their goals.

I would like to congratulate our Year 3 pupils for their stellar recorder concert demonstrating everything they have learnt across the year. We would like to thank Fae Simon from Harrow Music Service for her support (alongside Mrs Leutfeld) and we hope this inspires them to learn more instruments in the future.

We have many exciting events planned between now and the end of term and hope that many of our families can join us, particularly the sports days scheduled for the week beginning 15th July as I am sure many parents/carers are in training ready to compete with one another on the big day!

Finally, we look forward to welcoming parents/carers to our parents' evenings next week as this will be an opportunity to get an update on your child's progress linked to the targets we set in their academic reports published last term, as well as view all the learning that has taken place in their books across the year.

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Martin Thompson-Lawrie
Interim Headteacher



General Notices and Highlights



Events for the week ahead

- Parents' Evening on Tuesday and Wednesday
- Year 6 visit to Hollywood Bowl on Wednesday morning
- LAMDA exams on Thursday

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th July

Parents' Evening will take place this coming Tuesday and Wednesday after school. Please remember to arrange your time slot via the School Spider booking form by Sunday evening.

Annual Survey for Parents and Carers

Thank you to those of you who have already taken part in our annual survey. Please remember to complete this School Spider survey by Sunday evening.



Class Teacher Allocations

Please see **page 4** for class teacher allocations for September 2024.

Book Fair

Thank you to the children who bought books at our recent in-house book fair. With your help we raised **£206** for the library!



Scholastic Book Fair (during Parents' Evenings)

We shall be holding a Scholastic Book Fair at Parents' Evening next week on 9th and 10th July. You will be able to pay for books by card or book fair gift vouchers. For more information please visit:

Parent Hub (browse book titles)

Gift vouchers



Childcare Provision from September

From September we will be outsourcing Early Birds and Night Owls childcare provision to an external provider. After meeting with several providers, we have carefully selected a very reputable and highly esteemed childcare provider who will offer an outstanding service to children. We would like to reassure you that both the price and the hours will be unaffected by the change and current service users will be prioritised for bookings as usual. We are currently in consultation with existing staff to move over to the new provider which will offer a good level of continuity to your children. Further information about the provider and bookings will be available in due course.

Dates for your Diary

Summer
2nd



Tuesday 9th July

Parents' Evening

Wednesday 10th July

Year 6 visit to Hollywood Bowl,
Watford Woodside (AM)
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)

Class Teacher Allocations

September
2024



Current Class	New Class	Class Teacher
	Nursery	Ms P Szabo
	RWD Leopards	Miss N Ward / Mrs R Dodia
	RTP Tigers	Mrs T Patel
	RLS Lions	Mrs P Leigh / Mrs S Rock-Simmons
	RBP Jaguars	Miss B Patel
RRA Tigers	1RA	Mrs R Ahmed
RNW Leopards	1SM	Miss S Miraftab
RPS Jaguars	1PD	Mrs P Doshi
RRV Lions	1IN	Miss I Nur
Mixed Classes	2ST	Mrs S Tezel
	2KK	Miss K Karia
	2SA	Mrs S Akhund
	2DN	Ms T Doshi / Ms M Nickson
2AR	3NL	Miss N Lakhani
2KB	3SM	Miss M Shameem
2HD	3LA	Ms L Aid
2SA	3SH	Mrs M Selby / Mrs E Hill* (Mrs K Amar)
3NL	4BS	Mrs B Solanki
3MS	4PC	Mrs R Price / Mrs S Chentouf* (from Autumn 2)
3LA	4XL	Miss X Liu
3SM	4ND	Mrs N Darr
4SF	5SK	Mrs S Khan
4CM	5TG	Miss T Goldsmith
4BS	5SC	Ms S Cumming
4XL	5RC	Miss R Chauhan-D'Souza
5ET	6HH	Miss H Hogberg
5SC	6CM	Mrs C Marin
5PA	6ET	Miss E Thomas
5SK	6HA	Mrs H Ahtti

* initially on maternity leave

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** Rosalie
- RNW Leopards** Hadiyah
- RRV Lions** Dhyana
- RPS Jaguars** Valentina

- 1ST** Saam
- 1BP** Naomi
- 1SM** Iosif
- 1CL** Safa

- 2HD** Reeva
- 2KB** Ali Mehdi
- 2SA** Anass
- 2AR** Sultan, Lavinia and Aasiya

- 3NL** Mohamad H
- 3MS** Shaista and Hussain
- 3LA** Aarav
- 3SM** Aaryan

- 4BS** Dominick
- 4CM** Estrella
- 4XL** Diya
- 4SF** Whole Class

- 5PA** Halima
- 5SK** Thomasina & Anika
- 5SC** Jinay
- 5ET** Saavir

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

All of Year 6 for production rehearsals and enterprise efforts

Attendance Stars

Did you know?
15 minutes late each day equals two full weeks of school missed every year!

This week's attendance stars are PM Nursery (100%)

Whole School 93.7%



Year 1 Curriculum Spotlight

Year 1
are learning
about the
The UK in
Geography



Geography: The United Kingdom

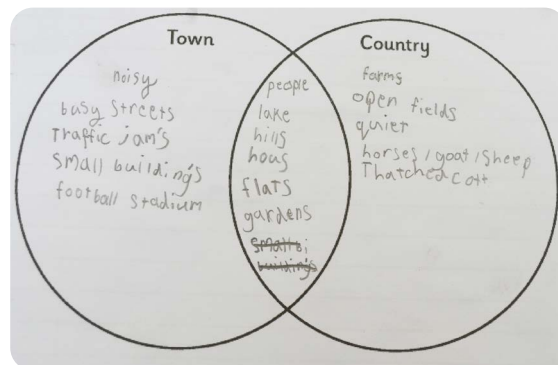
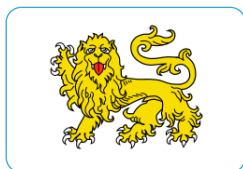
“We are learning about countries, towns and capital cities. I like learning about England because it is the biggest country in the UK. I like Wales - the national animal is a dragon!” Shay (1CL)

“We learnt all about the United Kingdom and the capital cities. The capital city of Scotland is Edinburgh, they think there is a Loch Ness monster over there! I really enjoyed learning about the different countries. My favourite country is Wales because there is nice food there!” Hansin (1ST)

“In Geography, we have been learning about the four different countries that are in the UK. My favourite country is England because I live there and it’s got famous people living here!” Saajan (1BP)

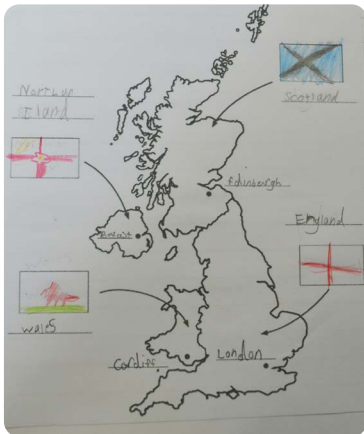
“I like this topic because we learnt all about the countries and capitals and we learnt about some facts about each country. The London Underground is very old that’s why it makes a lot of noise! All countries have a different flag - Scotland and Wales have the same design but it’s a different coloured flag!” Akshara (1BP)

“In Geography, we are learning about the town and countryside. I live in a town, I like it here because I like all the buildings and there so much to do in London.” Dhanushka (1CL)



Year 1 Curriculum Spotlight

Year 1
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The UK in
Geography



Year 1 have been learning about the UK in Geography this half term, including the features of towns and the countryside and the differences between them. We have discovered interesting facts about England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, such as their flag and national symbols, and highlighted these countries and capital cities on a map of the UK.

We also had the opportunity to be tour guides and present a country or capital city to the rest of the class, persuading our friends to visit! We are thoroughly enjoying this topic and can't wait to see the London Eye (a landmark they have been learning about) on our trip to the London Aquarium in a couple of weeks! *Mrs Tezel (Year 1)*

Spotlight on Music

Year 3 Recorder Concert

This week's Recorder Concert was the last music concert of the school year. All Year 3 pupils were offered a valuable performing opportunity, for many their first one. This was an excellent introduction to developing music reading and ensemble skills, as well as transferable playing skills. Next year, all Year 4 children will participate in the Bb programme, playing clarinets and trumpets. A special thank you to our HMS teacher, Miss Simon, who prepared the children for this concert.



Mrs Leutfeld
Director of Music

Support for Families

Online Safety



Trolling Online

Trolling is the act of making inflammatory comments or behaving in an abusive manner online to hurt the feelings of others or provoke a reaction from them. It is estimated that in 2022, over a third (34%) of people in the UK who suffered online abuse were specifically victims of trolling. The repercussions of this type of online abuse can be severe, which is why it is imperative that parents and educators have the tools to mitigate the risk of harm to children and young people.

Please refer to the poster attached for information about trolling and advice on how to protect children and young people if they encounter it themselves, helping them to minimise the impact of this hurtful behaviour.



Holiday Activities

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.

Barnet FC Community Fun Day

Saturday 13th July (11am to 3pm) *Free entry*

Summer Fun Fair in Canons Park

Sunday 4th August (11am-6pm) *Free entry*

Edgware Juniors Cricket Club Summer Camp

12th to 16th August (9am-3pm)
£40 for a single day, £150 for the week



Please visit the [Support for Families](#) page of our website for further details.

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Is your child behaving younger than usual?

When children feel worried or stressed, they can often behave in ways they used to when they were younger. This can be because of changes in their routines and the worries in and around them. You may have noticed that they are having trouble sleeping or focusing. Perhaps your child has become more clingy to you and need more reassurance than usual or they may burst into tears or fits of anger more easily. So, even if they may not be telling you directly that they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, their behaviour is their way of letting you know. They are feeling big feelings and are finding it more difficult to cope than usual.

The most important way to help a child feel less stressed is to reassure them both emotionally and physically. First, you may want to ask less of them and take away any extra pressures. When they are having their big feeling, bursting into tears or getting angry, it is helpful to empathise with how challenging things are for them and then help them with what they are finding difficult to do: "Oh, everything just seems like too much at the moment... You are having such a hard time. Don't worry, I am right here to help you..."

You can also make sure to keep 'filling their buckets' by giving them lots of snuggles, creating things together, playing, spending some time outside and moving and dancing together. It is also good to have regular time listening to their worries. This change in behaviour can feel difficult for parents, so take a deep breath and try to remember this is their way of saying: "I need your help."

Summer Reading Challenge - 'Marvellous Makers'

The official Marvellous Makers book collection is full of books about creativity, using your imagination and telling amazing stories. Each book has been chosen specially by an expert group of readers for this year's Challenge.



Visit your local library and the Summer Reading Challenge website to get involved in the scheme: www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Support for Families

Parenting



Family Learning Hub Parenting Programme

10 Week online course starting Wednesday 25th September (9.45am to 11.45am - plus 30 mins Q&A in first session).

This course offers parents and carers many positive, fun and practical ways to help children to manage their feelings and behaviour.



THE FAMILY
LEARNING HUB
GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

Please visit www.thefamilylearninghub.com for more information and email info@thefamilylearninghub.com to book your place now.

HAF
Holiday
Club

HAF in Harrow

Bookings for the HAF in Harrow holiday club scheme are now open.

There are thousands of free places for 10 days at participating holiday clubs across the borough. To be eligible, children must be aged 5 -16 and in receipt of income-related free school meals. If you are eligible, you should have received a HAF code (by email) that you will need in order to book an activity.

All activities can be booked at www.youngharrowfoundation.org

If you have not received your unique code, you can request one via:

www.youngharrowfoundation.org/haf-unique-codes-hub

HAF
IN HARROW

FREE HOLIDAY SCHEME PLACES

Fully funded Holiday Club places are available in Harrow this Summer - all include a free nutritious meal.

Children from Reception to age 16, who are in receipt of income-related free school meals, are eligible to attend a participating holiday club for 10 days.

Haven't received your HAF code? Request one HERE

To book, scan the QR code below or go to the website: youngharrowfoundation.org



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

ONLINE TROLLING

The term "Trolling" refers to sending hurtful or provocative comments – often done anonymously online – to provoke a reaction or cause emotional distress. Anonymity can embolden people into saying things they wouldn't dare say in person. Euro 2024 and other tournaments tend to put an emphasis on this, with the abuse of both players and fans often increasing during such events.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ESCALATION

Many trolls begin with silly, banal comments before moving on to a broader pattern of offensive messages and posts. They can also turn their attention very quickly to a new target if they grow bored with an existing one, which makes engaging with one fruitless at best – and potentially dangerous at worst.

HIDING BEHIND A SCREEN

Because trolls tend to use anonymous profiles, they enjoy a lack of accountability. This also means they'll often have multiple profiles, potentially switching between them regularly or posting across several of them at the same time, making a target feel as though there's no escape. After all, once you block one account, what's to stop them reappearing elsewhere?

24/7 CONTACT

The Internet has given us the ability to remain in contact at any time, from almost anywhere in the world. A troll having the ability to reach you whenever they want can leave you feeling like their abuse is unavoidable. While they don't see you in real life, they can message you at any time, reach out to your peers online and even try to discover your personal information to scare you.

HATE SPEECH

Sadly, many trolls resort to spewing racial slurs, homophobic attacks and awful stereotypes, as these often stand the best chance of causing emotional harm. This can add a hefty degree of weight to their attacks, moving from what might charitably be described as "teasing" into a genuine hate crime. After Euro 2020, three England footballers were racially abused, resulting in several prison sentences.

IMPACT ON VICTIMS

It's not uncommon for the victims of trolls to shut down their accounts, disappear from public life, and try to stay out of the crosshairs for a time – with some even leaving social media forever. This can have a severe impact on children and young people's connections to friends and the world at large, and may not even actually stop the troll. The victims' families, for example, may have online profiles that trolls can still access.

NORMALISATION OF TROLLING

It is, regrettably, inevitable that some people will go too far in their criticisms or comments, both online and in the real world. This can lead to many people seeing trolls and their abuse as part and parcel of social media – an inherent risk of interacting with others online. This doesn't mean, however, that it should be considered "normal" or even tolerated.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media platforms (where most trolling tends to happen) aren't always helpful when responding to abusive behaviour, parents can set up screen time limits, so children only get to use certain apps at certain times. There's always the potential for trolling to occur anyway – such as friends showing screenshots to one another – but this would minimise the likelihood of children seeing it.

DON'T ENGAGE WITH ABUSE

A well-known adage on social media is "don't feed the trolls". Fundamentally, if a child identifies a potential troll online, it's best not to engage with that individual directly. Instead, consider setting up a log to gather evidence for reporting them later on, including screenshots and quotes where possible.

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

While every professional athlete aspires to maintain high standards, it's important to separate the player from the person. A player's performance doesn't make them worthy of abuse, and that can often be forgotten by younger children who simply see the colour of the shirt without considering the person wearing it. For all the rivalries between teams, it's essential children understand that players are still human beings, with families and lives outside of sport.

BLOCK AND REPORT

While anonymous accounts make it difficult to block trolls permanently – or even for very long – it's still good practice to help children learn to control who can engage with them online. It's not worth "feeding the trolls", and it's more helpful to block them, report them, and try to move on. Blocking and reporting is an anonymous process, too, so there'll be no indication of who specifically blew the whistle.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A long-time fan of Arsenal, he's a parent who understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer whose work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/online-trolling

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