

# Whitchurch Weekly



13th Sept  
2024  
Issue 2

## Meet the Team!

**Name:** Tia Goldsmith



**Role:** Year 5 Class Teacher

**All about me:** Hi everyone, it's me - I'm back! Last year I went to teach at a school in Fulham but I missed Whitchurch too much, so here I am! About me - I was born in Brent and grew up in Kensal Rise. My mum is Irish and my dad is Jamaican. I have a brother called Kai, we are very close and get on well.



After school I went to college in Harrow and then studied Politics at Nottingham University (I wanted to be Prime Minister when I was growing up!) Fun fact - I once worked at Kidzania in Westfield! That was lots of fun. I also volunteered at a school in Fiji, which was an amazing experience and marked the start of my teaching journey.

**Hobbies and interests:** Outside of school I love travelling; this Summer I visited Bali and Singapore and had a wonderful time. I also enjoy reading and have recently purchased a Kindle. One of my favourite authors at the moment is Freida McFadden, who writes exciting mystery novels. Wicked and Matilda are a few of my favourite plays (I have seen Wicked 5 times!) and I also went to see one of my pupils perform in an adaptation of Grease. At weekends I enjoy a spot of brunch, shopping for shoes and catching up with my friends!



**Best part about my role:** As a teacher it is great getting to work with a range of children, each with their own personalities and talents. It is worthwhile to see them make progress and develop into well-rounded individuals - and to know that I am a part of that is rewarding.

# General Notices and Highlights



## 'Meet the Teacher' Sessions

Parents and carers are invited to attend one of our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions next week to find out about the curriculum for the year ahead and to ask any questions. Please enter through the playground gates and make your way towards your child's classroom (at the patio entrance).

There is a choice of two sessions:

**Monday 16th September (9am-9.30am)** *please wait outside until registers are taken*  
**Tuesday 17th September (3.30pm-4pm)**

## Headteacher's Coffee Morning Thursday 3rd October (9am-10am)

Parents and carers are invited to attend a coffee morning with Ms Inniss on Thursday 3rd October (9am-10am). There will also be an opportunity to meet our lunch provider, Coombs, who will share information on their food provision and answer any questions.

Please contact the school office if you will be attending:  
[office@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:office@whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)



## Vacancies

We have a vacancy for a **Welfare Assistant** to work as part of our team in a varied role, comprising welfare, clerical and general duties. Please see the Vacancies page of our website for more details.

Apply  
here

## Booking Routine Appointments

Please remember to book routine appointments (e.g. medical/dental appointments) for your child outside of school hours or term time.

## Library Wallets

Please ensure that your child has a large plastic wallet for their library session - they will need this in order to borrow a book from our library. If you do not have anything suitable at home, children can buy a zipped wallet for £1 on their library day.

# General Notices and Highlights



## Childcare Booking - Junior Adventures Group

Please ensure that you book your before and after school childcare via the Junior Adventures Group website.

Book  
here



Junior  
Adventures  
Group

## Holiday HQ - Junior Adventures Group

Starting this October half term, Junior Adventures Group are introducing **Holiday HQ**.

The week features a **Special Event** and a **Make and Take** session, allowing children to take home the joy and memories of camp. Additionally, with two unique **Daily Themed Activities** tailored to the day's theme, every day offers fresh and imaginative experiences that guarantee plenty of fun.



10% off  
early  
bookings

Holiday HQ  
information  
and booking  
here

## Music Scholarships

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the music scholarships survey at the end of last term. We are thrilled to share that a large number of children qualified for the programme, reflecting both the high quality of music provision at Whitchurch and the children's unwavering commitment to their musical development. Although the school is unable to support the scholarships initiative at this time, we remain hopeful and committed to exploring opportunities to make this valuable programme a reality in the near future.

Mrs Leutfeld  
Director of Music



Follow us on  
Instagram:  
WhitchurchPS



# Dates for your Diary

Autumn 1st



Wednesday 18th September	6CM and 6HA visit to Imperial War Museum
Friday 20th September	6HH and 6ET visit to Imperial War Museum
Tuesday 24th September	Harrow Mental Health Support Team Coffee Morning (9am-10am)
Tuesday 1st October	3SM and 3SH visit to London Transport Museum Year 5 visit to Buckingham Palace
Thursday 3rd October	Headteacher's Coffee Morning (9am-10am)
Tuesday 8th October	3NL and 3LA visit to London Transport Museum
Thursday 17th October	International Day / Evening
Monday 21st October	2SA and 2ST visit to Woodland Forest School
Tuesday 22nd October and Wednesday 23rd October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 24th October	2KK and 2DN visit to Woodland Forest School

## Autumn Class Assemblies

View our calendar for assemblies - [click here](#)

Thursdays Years 4 to 6 (9.05am to 9.45am)

Tues 1st Oct	3NL
Tues 15th Oct	2ST
Tues 22nd Oct	1RA
Tues 12th Nov	1SM
Tues 26th Nov	2DN

Tuesdays Reception to Year 3 (9.05am to 9.45am)

Thurs 10th Oct	6HH
Thurs 24th Oct	4BS
Thurs 14th Nov	5SK
Thurs 28th Nov	6CM

# 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

1RA Alaina  
1SM Hadiyah  
1PD Valentina  
1IN Omar

2ST Livia  
2KK Bhavyaa  
2ND Abhay  
2SA Sofia

3NL Joel  
3SH Sebastian  
3LA Tej  
3SM Kayleigh

Respect  
Responsibility  
Resilience  
Honesty  
Generosity  
Aspiration

4BS Rose  
4XL Niam  
4PC Tia  
4ND Freya

5SK Kabir  
5SC Whole Class  
5TG Estrella  
5RC Diya

6HH Ioana  
6ET Halima  
6HA Anika  
6CM Ahmed and Adrian



## Attendance Stars

### Top tip!

Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day.

This week's attendance stars are Nursery (100%) and 5SC (98.5%)

Whole School  
94.6%

# Spotlight on Early Years

Reception  
have been  
settling in  
to school



## Reception are here!

What an exciting week it has been as we welcomed our new Reception class to school! The children have been busy settling in, learning the new routines and exploring all the wonderful resources available to them. From discovering the classroom environment to trying out different activities, they have embraced each new experience with enthusiasm.

The children have also been making new friends, engaging in group activities and practising how to share and play together. Learning the names of their new friends and teachers has been a fun and important part of the week, and it has been heartwarming to see friendships starting to form.

A special highlight for many was enjoying their very first school lunch! Sitting together, chatting and trying new foods added to the excitement of their first days at school. We can't wait to see how they continue to grow and flourish over the coming weeks!

*Miss Ward (Assistant Headteacher for Early Years)*



# Spotlight on Early Years

Reception  
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**Reception are here!**

**"I like to play outside with friends." Arya, Leopards**

**"I like playing with the Paw Patrol." Archer, Leopards**

**"I like to come to school so I can make new friends and play with all the fun activities." Naysha, Jaguars**

**"I like to come to school to play outside with my friends." Neeva, Lions**

**"I love the pegboards and put the colours in the hole." Maya, Tigers**

**"I like going to a new class." Vanessa, Tigers**



# Support for Families

Wellbeing



## Conflict Resolution

One of the most valuable skills a child can carry into adulthood is conflict resolution. From simple playground spats to much more serious fights, handling these disagreements in a mature, constructive way can sometimes be uncomfortable and can also prove rather tricky. This is especially important to remember when it comes to children, who could be experiencing this kind of situation for the very first time.

Bringing effective, reasonable solutions to disputes is a difficult talent to learn and an even harder one to master. It's vital that parents and educators know how to support young people in developing this critical skill.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for advice on how best to help children manage conflicts.



### 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.

Please visit [www.thefamilylearninghub.com](http://www.thefamilylearninghub.com) for more information and email [info@thefamilylearninghub.com](mailto:info@thefamilylearninghub.com) to book your place now.



# Support for Families



## Harrow Mental Health Support Team

Harrow Mental Health Support Team are Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP), who work in schools supporting the wellbeing of families by helping to manage children's anxiety and challenging behaviour.

For more information please see the poster on the Support for Families page of our website.



## Harrow Mental Health Support Team Coffee Morning Tuesday 24th September, 9am-10am

You are invited to meet our Senior Mental Health Practitioner, Samiat Dabiri. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how the Harrow Mental Health Support Team can assist pupils, staff, and parents with their wellbeing. We will also discuss common challenges and issues that parents and children may be facing. Please join us for an informal chat over tea, coffee and biscuits. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Brilliant Parents Online Workshops



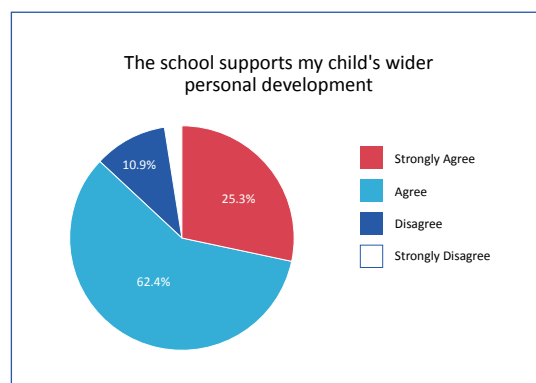
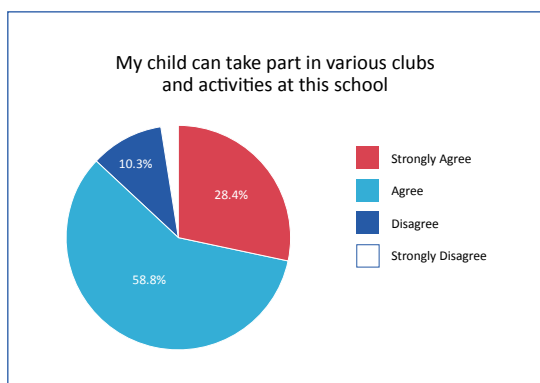
- Dealing with Disobedience (Monday 7th October)
- Managing Fighting and Aggression (Monday 14th October)
- Hassle Free Shopping with Children (Tuesday 15th October)
- Developing Good Bedtime Routines (Friday 18th October)

For more information please see the leaflets on the Support for Families page of our website.



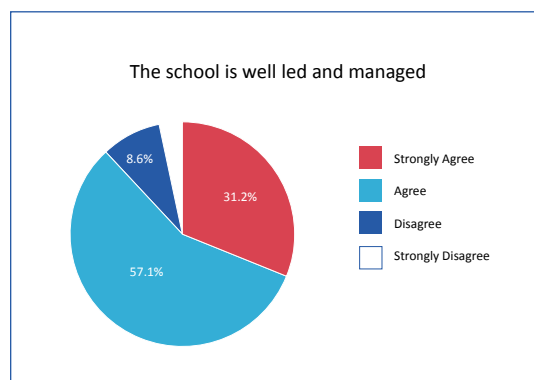
# Parental Survey Findings

Summer 2024



**“Discipline and behaviour of children in older year groups needs to be monitored more closely.”**

As a school we are in the process of reviewing our Behaviour and Relationships policy to ensure that staff are equipped with the understanding and tools that they need to resolve behavioural issues.



## Useful Signposting

Quick Links

[Senior Leadership Team](#)

[Support for Families](#)

[School Meals - Lunch Menu](#)

[School Office Email](#)

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO MANAGE CONFLICT EFFECTIVELY

Disagreement is a natural part of human interaction. This can seem particularly true when dealing with the sensitive issues that arise for secondary-aged pupils. This guide brings you 10 top tips which can help prevent conflicts arising or mitigate their impacts when they do.

### 1 INSPIRE RESPONSIBILITY

The best approaches to conflict resolution are restorative. This means that rather than adults imposing their own solutions on children who have had a disagreement, they should work with them. Allowing them to handle it can feel empowering to young people and will hopefully teach them to manage their own disputes as they move towards adult life.

### 2 ACTIVELY LISTEN

Remember to give every child the opportunity to voice their opinion, regardless of their age, stage of development, special educational needs, or other individual requirements. This can be done using a variety of different communication methods. For example, some children find it easier to express how they're feeling using pictures and drawings, while some prefer to write their ideas down.

### 3 BE CURIOUS

Demonstrating how to approach conflicts with a mature and empathetic mindset can set a good example to children, which can prove a useful skill for them later in life. Model this by asking inquisitive-yet-respectful questions about the issue at hand. Really try to understand where all parties are coming from, and share information between them when and where appropriate. This should encourage young people to mirror your behaviour, teaching them to be curious about the other sides of a conflict, and thus being more willing to hear them out.

### 4 PROMOTE DIFFERENCES

Children and young people may come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures or have protected characteristics which may cause them to see things from various angles. Having a school and community culture which celebrates and embraces diversity in all things – including diversity of opinion – means people are more likely to feel heard and understood.

### 5 BE SUPPORTIVE

Discussions may be sensitive or, in some cases, even trigger negative emotions. Pupils may have mixed feelings about the issue at hand. They could be nervous or anxious before even coming to the table to talk about it. Try and create a space where all parties feel safe, welcome and comfortable. Allow breaks and time-outs if the conversation gets heated, to prevent anyone from saying something they might later regret.

### 6 MENTALLY PREPARE

Think of how you can approach the conflict in a calm and regulated manner. Consider taking some extra time to prepare beforehand and finding somewhere quiet to relax. Even if you're not directly involved with the conflict, mediating can be a stressful experience in its own right. Make sure you're hydrated, fed and comfortable, and do the same for the young people involved. These may seem like insignificant factors, but it's important to remember that physical discomfort can trigger dysregulation, which can make it much harder to have a calm, productive conversation.

### 7 GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Make sure you have all the facts, figures and timelines of the situation prior to the discussion. This should be done as objectively as possible with the aim of resolving the ongoing issue. You may want to risk assess any problems that may arise and look for possible solutions during your preparation time.

### 8 STICK TO THE POINT

Make the reason for, and purpose of, any meetings or communications clear prior to setting them up. Provide an agenda. Act as a neutral chairperson who can keep all parties on track. Make sure everyone has a chance to air their concerns about the issue being discussed and try to avoid talking about unrelated incidents. Close off with some action points, detailing what everyone can do to resolve the conflict.

### 9 BE SOLUTION FOCUSED

It's often said that the art of diplomacy is about giving others ladders to climb down. This means the main aim of any meeting or correspondence should be finding mutually acceptable and amicable solutions. Parents, carers, teachers and pupils should be aware there may need to be a compromise for the common good – and, most importantly, the good of the children you're supporting.

### 10 DON'T IGNORE OR AVOID CONFLICT

No one benefits from allowing concerns and grievances to fester, as this can lead to further division and mistrust, and ultimately doesn't help the children involved. Use our tips to open meaningful lines of communication. These should help you find a suitable resolution and minimise the number of conflicts you're faced with mediating overall.

### Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and advisory teacher. She founded her company, Neuroteachers, to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She works with nurseries, schools, colleges and businesses providing consultancy, training and mentoring to create belonging and understanding for people with the full range of neurotypes.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-manage-conflict-effectively>

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