

# Whitchurch Weekly



27th Sept  
2024  
Issue 4

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Instagram!



WhitchurchPS



# General Notices and Highlights



## Class Assemblies

Class assemblies will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.05am, starting with 3NL this coming Tuesday. Parents/carers are invited to attend and should wait outside the main reception five minutes early.

## Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absences

Please ensure that you refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for guidance on the recent updates to fines for unauthorised absences. Term time holidays will not be authorised.

## Updated Lunch Menu and Allergens

Please refer to the updated menus and allergens on our website.

The Sweet and Sour Chicken with Rice (Tuesday, Week 1) was incorrectly labelled (V) to denote vegetarian. Additionally, the FSA is advising those with a peanut allergy to avoid consuming foods that contain or may contain mustard, mustard powder or mustard flour as they may have been contaminated with peanuts. If you would like to make a change to your child's lunch booking based on this information, please contact the school office.

[View here](#)

## School Meals - Booking

Please remember to book your child's school meals for the week via ParentPay. If they do not have a school meal booked they will need to bring a packed lunch.

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

Parents and carers are invited to attend the coffee morning on Thursday with Ms Inniss, who will share her vision for the school. Our caterers Coombs will also discuss 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)



# General Notices and Highlights



## International Evening

We shall be holding our annual International Evening on **Thursday 17th October from 5pm to 7pm**. Please see **page 6** for more information.

## ESOL Classes

Stanmore College are running free ESOL classes for parents/carers at Whitchurch on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm-3.30pm (from 4th Oct to 7th Feb). You will need to book online before you enrol at the college. Please refer to the School Spider message for further details.



Book here  
(+19 and  
adult)

## Secondary School Applications - Workshop

We shall be holding a workshop for Year 6 parents/carers on **Friday 11th October from 9am-10am** focusing on how to apply for secondary school places. This is aimed at families who have not yet started the process and may need assistance. The closing date for secondary school applications is Thursday 31st October.

Apply  
here

## Jewellery

A reminder that children should not be wearing hooped earrings to school. Small plastic studs may be worn but must be removed for P.E. lessons.

### Asda Cashpot for Schools Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards

1. Download the Asda Rewards app
2. Choose 'Whitchurch Primary School and Nursery'
3. Shop in-store across Asda & George *and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout*
4. Shopping Online? *Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account*

**Asda will do the rest! They will donate ££s to us every time you shop, so that we can spend this money on what we need.**



Register  
here

# Dates for your Diary

Autumn  
1st



Tuesday 1st October	3LA visit to Pizza Express Stanmore 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 4PC and 4XL Viking Workshop
Wednesday 9th October	Road Safety Shows (Years 1 to 6) 4ND and 4BS Viking Workshop
Thursday 10th October	Year 2 Church Visitor
Friday 11th October	Secondary School Applications Workshop for Year 6 Parents/Carers (9am-10am)
Thursday 17th October	International Day / Evening (5pm-7pm)
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 class  
assemblies on  
our calendar  
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 Star Pupils



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

1RA Aarya  
1SM Levi  
1PD Yasir  
1IN Viaan

2ST Aiysha  
2KK Matthias  
2ND Roma  
2SA Daniel

3NL Stefania  
3SH Marian  
3LA Sthefany  
3SM Eva

Respect  
Responsibility  
Resilience  
Honesty  
Generosity  
Aspiration

4BS Whole Class  
4XL Fehintola  
4PC Wyel  
4ND Krish

5SK Omar  
5SC Yusuf  
5TG Nicole  
5RC Stavyaa

6HH Niah  
6ET Kiara  
6HA Niyam  
6CM Lara



## Attendance Stars

### Did you know...

Young people who regularly miss school are more likely to become isolated from their friends.

This week's  
attendance  
stars are 5TG  
(99.26%)

Whole  
School  
94.48%

# International Evening



## 'Connecting Our Cultures'

Tickets  
£1 each  
(per adult  
and child)

Thursday, 17th October 2024

5pm-7pm in the school hall (via the side entrance)

Come and enjoy a variety of delicious foods from around the world along with some fun, cultural entertainment!

FOOD donations from our community are essential in order for our annual event to be successful...WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

This is another opportunity for children and families to show us your authentic dishes made together and shared with others!

Please look out further for details on this from TEAM FOW over the next few days!



Tickets on sale  
Wednesday 2nd  
& Thursday 3rd  
October in both  
playgrounds  
from 3.15pm

DON'T  
MISS OUT!  
Limited  
availability

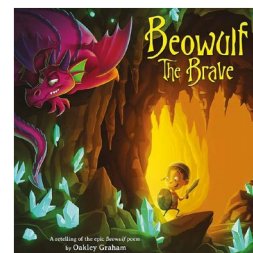
# Spotlight on Year 4

Year 4  
are reading  
Beowulf the  
Brave



## Beowulf the Brave

This half term, in relation to our Autumn theme Myths and Legends, Year 4 pupils have been immersing themselves in the very famous Anglo-Saxon story of Beowulf. The original poem is written in Old English and consists of 3,182 lines! Although the children's re-told version by Oakley Graham is considerably shorter, the children were amazed that they were reading and exploring a thousand-year-old poem!



The children started their journey exploring the plot and characters using the structure of a Story Square where each child was given a scene from the poem to re-enact. They then delved deeper into the characters, their emotions and motives through a 'Role on the Wall' activity. They've also enjoyed learning new ways of using expanded noun phrases, figurative language and rhyming patterns to write their very own Narrative Poem about Beowulf!

*Mrs Solanki (Year 4 Leader)*



## Year 4 Views

"Beowulf was a really nice poem which I very much enjoyed. It was about a boy called Beowulf and he has to save his kingdom from a dragon and a monster called Grendel." Rafi, 4ND

"I've enjoyed learning about the main characters in Beowulf and taking part in acting a part of the poem and story." Aarav, 4BS

"I've enjoyed writing a narrative poem for Beowulf using rhyme, alliteration and expanded noun phrases to make my poem more interesting for the reader." Krish, 4BS



# Spotlight on Year 4

Year 4  
share their  
own reading  
choices



## Year 4 Reading

“My favourite book is ‘Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets’ because it is mysterious. Harry, Ron and Hermione have to work out clues to figure out who opened the chamber of secrets.” Jasmine, 4PC

“My favourite book is called ‘Marcus Rashford, The Breakfast Club Adventures’. It is basically about a treasure hunt in which Markus and his friends have to look for treasure, and whilst doing so they find a monster!” Rishay, 4ND

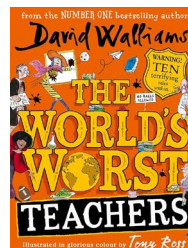
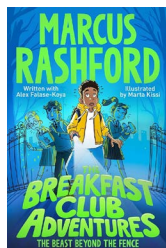
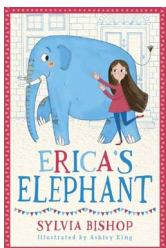
“My favourite book is ‘James and the Giant Peach’ or ‘Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator’. Roald Dahl is my favourite author because he uses a lot of adjectives.” Devan, 4PC

“I recommend a book called ‘Erica’s Elephant’ by Sylvia Bishop because it includes many emotions and is very different from what you would expect in the real world!” Krish, 4BS

“One of my favourite books is ‘The BFG’ by Roald Dahl. I like Sophie because she is adventurous and she saved everyone from an attack of giants. My favourite part was when all of the giants get dumped into the hole!” Jia, 4XL

“My favourite books are ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ and ‘The World’s Worst Teachers’ because they are interesting to read, they make me laugh and generally books help me to learn more about life as I get older. I sometimes re-read books or parts of books to focus more on words that I couldn’t understand the first time round.” Aarav, 4BS

“My favourite book is Ratburger by David Walliams. I like it because Zoe’s enemy becomes her friend!” Summer, 4XL





# Support for Families



## Instagram

Instagram is one of the most well-known social media platforms around, frequented by users of all ages all over the world, and allowing them to share photos and videos with friends, family and the wider public if they wish. The site has many younger users, allowing people as young as 13 to create an account and engage with its community.

As a popular choice of platform for teenagers, it's vital that parents and educators understand the risks associated with the site and what can be done to mitigate them.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for the most prominent safety concerns on Instagram and expert advice on how to make young people's experiences on the app as secure as possible.



## Reach Out - Schools Counselling Partnership

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@schoolsounsellingpartnership.co.uk**



# Support for Families



## 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)



## Football Sessions at The Hive

**Saturday Soccer School**  
Weekly mixed football sessions (Saturdays)

**Girls Only Football**  
Weekly mixed football sessions (Thursdays and Saturdays)

Book at [www.thehivefoundation.com](http://www.thehivefoundation.com)



# Useful Signposting



Senior Leadership Team

Support for Families

School Meals - 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](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

follow

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Instagram is a highly popular social media platform with over 2 billion active monthly users. The app is continuously updating and adding new features to meet the wishes of its audience, allowing them to upload images and videos to their Instagram feed, create interactive 'stories', go live, exchange private messages or explore and follow other accounts that catch their eye.

## ADDICTION

Many social media platforms, Instagram included, are designed to keep us engaged on them for as long as possible. They encourage scrolling often and scrolling more in case we miss something important – in essence, a fear of missing out. On Instagram, young people can lose track of time when aimlessly scrolling and watching videos posted by friends, acquaintances, influencers and possibly strangers.

## UNREALISTIC IDEALS

Children sometimes compare themselves to what they see online: how they look, how they dress, and the way their life is going in comparison to others on social media. However, most people only share the positives about their lives online and many use filters when sharing pictures of themselves. A constant comparison with unrealistic ideals can lead to insecurity over one's own appearance and lifestyle.

## GOING LIVE

Livestreaming on Instagram allows users to connect with friends and followers in real time. Risks increase if the account is public, because that means anyone can watch the broadcast, which could result in further contact from strangers. Additional dangers of going live include an impulse to act inappropriately to draw more viewers, as well as being exposed to harmful content or offensive language.

## INFLUENCER CULTURE

Social media influencers are sometimes paid thousands of pounds to promote products, services, apps and more. When celebrities or influencers post such content, it often says 'paid partnership' above the post. In April 2024, Ofcom found that over a quarter of children (27%) believed in influencer marketing, accepting their endorsement of products wholeheartedly. So it's perfectly possible for young people to be taken in by this kind of content.

## PRODUCT TAGGING

Product tags allow users to tag a product or business in their post. This tag will take viewers directly to the product detail page on the shop where the item can be purchased. Children may also be encouraged by influencers to purchase products that they advertise.

## EXCLUSION & OSTRACISM

Youngsters are highly sensitive to feeling excluded, which comes in many forms: not receiving as many 'likes' as expected; not being tagged in a friend's photo; being unfriended; not receiving a comment on their post or a reply to a message they sent. Being excluded online hurts just as much as offline. Young people have reported lower moods and self-esteem when excluded in this way, feeling as if they don't belong and aren't valued.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### AVOID GOING PUBLIC

If a young user wants to share their clothing style, make up or similar and use product tagging to show off the items in their post, they may be tempted to change their settings to public. This leaves their profile visible to everyone, which carries the risk of strangers getting in touch with them. Set a child's account to private and explain the importance of keeping it this way.

### HAVE AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Talk to children about the positives and negatives of social media, including the risks involved and how they can view or create content safely with family and friends. Explain how safety settings will ensure only followers can view them, and why this is so important. Also, if you find a child continuously uses filters on their photos, ask them why and impress on them that they don't need it.

### MANAGE LIKE COUNTS

Due to the potential impact on mental wellbeing, Instagram allows users to hide the total likes on their posts, to prevent people from obsessing over that number in the corner. Users can hide like counts on all the posts in their feed as well as on their own posts. This means others can't see how many likes a person gets. This can be done by going into Settings > Notifications > Posts > Likes > Off.

### USE MODERATORS

Instagram Live has implemented a mechanic called 'Moderators', meaning that creators can assign a moderator and give them the power to report comments, remove viewers and remove the ability for certain viewers to comment at all. Consider this if a child in your care wants to go live on the platform. It's also recommended to keep devices in communal spaces so you're aware if a child does go live or watch a livestream.

### FOLLOW INFLUENCERS

Following influencers will allow you to monitor what they're sharing as well as being able to discuss anything which you deem inappropriate. Talk to children about who they follow and help them to develop critical thinking skills about what the influencer is trying to do. For example, encourage the child to ask themselves if an influencer is trying to sell them a product when they make a video endorsing it.

### BALANCE YOUR TIME

Instagram has a built-in activity dashboard that lets you control how much time is spent on the app. Make sure children sign in to the platform with the correct age, as Instagram's 'Teen Accounts' afford much more control for parents and carers over how long they can use the app each day. Talk with young users about how much time they spend on Instagram and work together to set a healthy time limit.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/instagram-2022>

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# Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absences

2024  
updates:  
what you  
need to  
know

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for unauthorised absences that occur after 19th August 2024.

## 5 consecutive days of Term Time Leave

Fines  
will be  
issued  
for:

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days *(or for fewer days where this has happened before)*.

## 10 sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10 week period

Penalty Notice fines will be considered where there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10 week period.



Fines  
will be  
issued  
to:

## Each parent/carer - for each child

Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent/carer, for each child who was absent.

*For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in each parent/carer receiving 3 separate fines.*

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

**£160 per parent/carer,  
per child when paid  
within 28 days.**

*(reduced to £80 per  
parent/carer, per child  
if paid within 21 days)*

### Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

**£160 per parent/carer,  
per child when paid  
within 28 days.**

*(no option to pay  
at £80 level)*

### Third Offence (and any further offences within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. the case will proceed to the Magistrates' court.

**Magistrate's fines can  
be up to £2,500 per  
parent/carer, per child.**

Please refer to our Attendance and Punctuality Policy and speak with the school if you are thinking of taking your child out of school during term time. You will need to make a written request to take your child out of school and any leave of absence will need to be agreed by the Headteacher before it is given.