

Whitchurch Weekly



4th Oct
2024
Issue 5



Name: Rachelle Francis-Dottin

Role: Assistant Headteacher for Years 1 to 3



All about me: I was born in Canada and moved to West London when I was in Year 5, where I attended primary and secondary school in the London borough of Ealing. After completing my degree in English Language, I spent a year working in retail to fund my passion for travelling! I have been fortunate enough to visit all of the continents, apart from Antarctica - and that's not on my list, as I definitely prefer sunny trips! After my time travelling, I went on to complete my PGCE and a few years later, I earned a Masters in Educational Leadership. It was an exhausting two years whilst teaching full time, but definitely a proud moment!

My family roots are Grenadian, and Caribbean food has always been a huge part of my life. It is my absolute favourite cuisine, nothing beats home cooked food! I have maintained strong friendships from my primary and secondary school days, and those friends have grown with me into adulthood. They are truly like family. Whether it's a quick catch-up, a holiday together, or celebrating one another's successes, spending time with them is something I really value.

Hobbies and interests: In my spare time, I enjoy partaking in yoga and pilates. It gives me a chance to have some uninterrupted, peaceful moments. Additionally, I love listening to music and podcasts in the car. It is my way of unwinding, switching off, or even learning something new.

Best thing about my role: The best part of my role is collaborating with like-minded teachers to help children learn and grow. There is nothing more rewarding than witnessing that "ah ha!" moment when something finally clicks for a student. Seeing their eyes light up when they understand something new is truly magical and reminds me why I love what I do. Having carried out much of my teaching in the London borough of Ealing, I am now excited to learn and grow with the Whitchurch community and to help the children here thrive and reach their full potential.

General Notices and Highlights



Road Safety Shows

Children in Years 1 to 6 will be seeing a road safety show on Wednesday morning: 'The Cross Green Toad' (Years 1 to 3) and 'Red Man, Green Man' (Years 4 to 6).

Google School

We are beginning the first stage of our journey to becoming a Google school. Stage 1 of the implementation includes moving all our internal and external email communications to the Google platform. This means that all staff email accounts and mailboxes will change. The changes are relatively simple and should not cause too much confusion. Please keep a look out in future editions regarding the new email addresses for your information.

Headteacher's Coffee Morning and Coombs Catering

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the coffee morning on Thursday with Ms Inniss and our caterers, Coombs. We hope you found the session useful.

Year Group Learning

Please remember to refer to the year group pages on our website for access to curriculum overviews and news and topic plans for the half term.

[View class pages here](#)

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](#)

General Notices and Highlights



Secondary School Applications - Workshop

A reminder that 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.

School Meals - Booking

Please remember to book your child's school meals for the week via ParentPay. If you need support with ParentPay, please contact the main reception. If your child does not have a school meal booked they will need to bring a packed lunch.

Wet Play Colouring Books

Your child is welcome to bring to school a colouring or activity book for your child to use during wet play sessions. This would remain in school and be one of many activities pupils can complete when they are unable to go outside due to adverse weather conditions.

6HH Class
Assembly on
Thursday
at 9.05am

Follow us on
Instagram:
WhitchurchPS



HSCP: London Winter Walk Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th January 2025



Help Schools Counselling Partnership to raise much needed funds by joining the London Winter Walk. We are looking for participants to walk, jog or run: *Full Marathon / Half Marathon / 10K / Sunday Family 5K*

- Start and Finish at Oval Cricket Ground
- Rest stops and hot food provided
- All entrance fees paid for
- Medal at the end!



To sign up please contact info@schoolsounsellingpartnership.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Autumn 1st



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 (PM)
Friday 11th October	Secondary School Applications Workshop for Year 6 Parents/Carers (9am-10am)
Thursday 17th October	Individual Pupil and Sibling Photographs International Day / Evening (5pm-7pm)
Friday 18th October	Individual Pupil and Sibling Photographs
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 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 Rebeca
1SM Leah
1PD Evelyn
1IN Eliza

2ST Mivaan
2KK Esandi
2DN Adam
2SA Anna

3NL Whole Class
3SH Aqsa
3LA Radhika
3SM Dhyaan

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Jayden and
Mohamad H
4XL Adam
4PC Niam
4ND Lukas

5SK Moss, Lina,
Riu and Raisa
5SC Krishiv
5TG Dylan
5RC Robert

6HH Luca
6ET Neel
6HA Reyansh
6CM Param



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 1IN (99.29%)

Whole School 94.68%

Spotlight on Year 6

Year 6
are reading
The Boy in
the Striped
Pyjamas

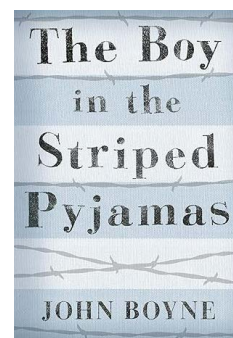


The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

Year 6 have been reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' written by John Boyne. The story is about a 9-year old called Bruno who faces huge changes to his life and home. He and his family move away and everything changes. I won't give too much away because you should read this story without knowing what it is about... it adds to the suspense.

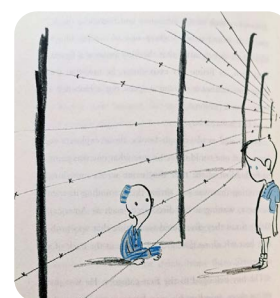
This text has leant itself for Year 6 to develop their comprehension skills - specifically clarifying and inference. Alongside developing their reading skills through Whole Class Reading, discussions and soon to be debates. It has given them opportunities to write in character and produce setting descriptions that transport you to the scene of the story.

Miss Hogberg (Year 6 Leader)



Year 6 Views

"This is an informative, devastating story following Bruno. We have learnt so much about his life and a viewpoint from a child during WW2 - we know it is fiction but it does talk about elements of WW2. This story is funny because Bruno and his sister can't stand each other but also really sad." Ioana, 6HH



"The book is interesting and makes me want to find out what is happening next." Leon, 6CM

The book has a mysterious plot." Param, 6CM

"The book is amazing because it let us know what happened in the past." Avni, 6CM

"I think the book will have an unexpected ending." Mohamad, 6ET

Spotlight on Year 6

Year 6
share their
own reading
choices



Year 6 Reading

“My favourite book series is ‘A Series of Unfortunate Events’. It is so interesting that it makes me want to read more and find out what happens next. I am nearly at the end of it and don’t know what I will read next.” Fariha, 6HH

“I am currently reading Cristiano Ronaldo’s autobiography. He is my favourite player and has scored the most goals so I liked reading about his life.” Siddiq, 6HH

“My favourite book is ‘Dog Man’, it is extremely funny and has a lot of action.” Aaron, 6CM

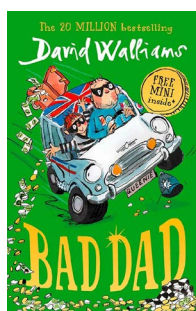
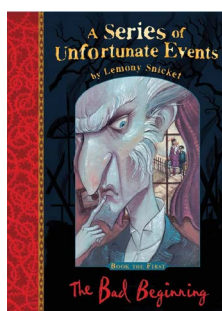
“My favourite book is ‘In Time’, it is very interesting and ends with a cliffhanger which makes me to feel curious to find out more.” Tasnim, 6CM

“I really enjoyed the story ‘Bad Dad’ by David Walliams. My favourite part was when Dad and Frank busted into Mr Big’s safe and stole all the illegal money that he had stashed away!” Neel, 6ET

“I enjoyed reading ‘The Famous Five’ series of books. I liked it when Anne, Dick and Julian reacted with shock and surprise when they first met Timothy.” Anisha, 6ET

“I have enjoyed reading ‘Anne of Green Gables’. I like how the author shows Anne as a fiery, short tempered girl but as she grows older she changes into a kind and calm person.” Kahini, 6HA

“My favourite story is ‘Coraline’. I like how she explored the small door inside her new house and discovered a long mysterious tunnel!” Preesha, 6HA



Support for Families



In-Game Chat

Online gaming enjoys an apparently ever-increasing level of popularity, and many players are eager to connect with one another as they enjoy a friendly competition or go for the win side by side. Whether it's to strategise and coordinate, or simply have a chat as you indulge in your hobby, the fact remains that plenty of games now offer means for their players to talk to one another, be that in a text or voice format.

Unfortunately, this functionality - which is used to connect with strangers just as often as it is with friends - poses several risks to younger players, and it's vital for parents and educators to understand these safety concerns.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for expert advice on the issues that may arise when using in-game chat and how to safeguard children as they make use of this technology.



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)



Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



A Space to Talk

As we welcome a new year sometimes it's good to have a little reminder, many of you will already know about SCP and the services they offer to our school. Tom is the Therapeutic Lead and he is here to support your child/ren, you and also our staff.

The Space Every Wednesday, Tom offers an afternoon drop-in for children who want to talk about any feelings or worries they may be struggling with. This is a safe, confidential space where children can feel listened to in order to feel better or to better understand their emotions. If you would NOT like your child to make use of this service, please notify the school as soon as possible.

1:1 counselling We have one other counsellor who works with specific children who may benefit from more regular support, using therapeutic play and creative arts.

Parents and carers Every Wednesday at 9-10am, Tom holds a safe and confidential space to meet with parents/carers who would like some support. He is here to help you to either think through some of your concerns with one of your children, or to support you with a personal struggle, such as grief or loss, for example. If you would like to make an appointment you can call/text Tom on **07799 028461** or email him at **tom@schoolsounsellingpartnership.co.uk**

Mental Health Awareness Online Parental Workshop Friday 11th October, 9am-10am

Please refer to School Spider message for access



Join
meeting
here

Our Senior Mental Health Practitioner, Samiat, is hosting an online workshop all about parental mental health awareness, diving into the real challenges that parents deal with and why taking care of your mental health is super important. You'll pick up some handy coping strategies, find out about great resources, and connect with other parents who understands what you're going through. Don't miss out on this chance to boost your wellbeing and help your family thrive.

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 IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.10.2024