

Whitchurch Weekly



11th Oct
2024
Issue 6



Name: Patti Szabo

Role: Nursery Class Teacher



All about me: I was born in Budapest, Hungary and moved to London at the age of 14. I always loved music, so after I finished my GCSEs I decided to join a rock band as a singer. We travelled all over England and even had some gigs in Japan. It was later on in life I decided to go back to studying. I have always been a bookworm so I decided to study English Literature at the Open University and later completed my PGCE at the University of Hertfordshire.

Hobbies and interests: Outside of school I love running, last week I ran my very first 10 Km race in Southend! I also really enjoy reading articles and books about psychology and like to understand how environments and events can shape people. I am also a bit of a crazy cat lady, I own two cats, Trixi and Ruby and I dream of opening a cat sanctuary one day. At weekends I enjoy spending time with my partner and children, catching up with friends and binge watching true crime movies on Netflix.

Best thing about my role: I absolutely love seeing the children smile as they enter the classroom and it is great to see them enjoy activities that we have set out for them. It is also very satisfying to see them develop over time and gain confidence in their abilities.



General Notices and Highlights



International Evening - Food Donations

International Evening is this coming **Thursday**. Please bring your authentic cuisine food donations to school on the day, preferably in disposable containers. Please label the dish name, list all ingredients and allergens. Strictly **NO NUTS**. Thank you.

Cold dishes - drop off in the morning (at the gate)

Hot/warm dishes - drop off at the end of the day (to classrooms)

Staff Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a **Learning Support Assistant**. For more information and to apply please see the Vacancies page of our website.

Apply
here

2ST Class
Assembly on
Tuesday
at 9.05am

Parents' Evening

A reminder that Parents' Evening will take place on **Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October** after school. Sign up details to follow.

Follow us on
Instagram:
WhitchurchPS



Scholastic Book Fair

We shall be holding a Scholastic Book Fair during the Parents' Evening on 22nd and 23rd October (from 4pm to 6pm).

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



ESOL Classes

ESOL Classes run by Stanmore College have been rearranged for Monday afternoons (from **Monday 21st October, 1.30pm-3.30pm**) to February 2025. Enrolment for this course is at Stanmore College on Wednesday 16th October; please refer to the School Spider message for details.



Strangers - safety advice to share with your children

- Never approach strangers. If someone you don't know speaks to you from a vehicle or approaches you on the street, do not engage or approach them.
- Stay in groups where possible. It's safer to walk with friends or in groups, especially in quieter areas.
- Trust your instincts. If something feels wrong or uncomfortable, leave the area immediately and find a safe place such as a shop or a well-lit, busy area.
- Know where to get help. Be aware of the closest places you can go for help, such as local shops, schools, or neighbours you trust.
- Report anything suspicious. Encourage your child to inform a trusted adult or contact the police if they experience or witness anything concerning.
- Practice walking a safe route. Reinforce with your children which routes are safest for them to take, avoiding shortcuts through secluded areas.

Holiday HQ - Junior Adventures Group

This 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.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for more information.



Holiday HQ
information
and booking
here

Dates for your Diary

Autumn 1st



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 Year 6 Holocaust Visitor
Friday 25th October	Year 6 Holocaust Visitor



Half term
28th Oct to
1st Nov

More dates can be viewed on our calendar here

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

International Evening



'Connecting Our Cultures'

Thursday, 17th October 2024
5pm-7pm (school hall)

5pm	Food and Drink
5.25pm	Welcome - Mr Thompson-Lawrie
5.30pm	Trumpets - Dylan (6CM) and Martha (6HH) 'German Tune' and 'Oh, When the Saints'
5.40pm	FoW speech - Rupa (FoW)
5.45pm	Sax - Emily (6HH), Saavir (6HH) and Aman (6ET) 'Coal Hole Cavalry'
5.50pm	Electric Guitar - Adrian (6CM) 'Lonely Boy' and 'Summer of 69'
6pm	Interlude
6.10pm	Stagecoach performance
6.20pm	Romanian children performance
6.30pm	DJ taking requests - Sej (FoW)
6.55pm	Close - Ms Inniss and Rupa (FoW)



Food Donations - on the day

Bring our cultures together by sharing our authentic cuisines!
Please bring food donations to school **ON THE DAY** in disposable containers. Ensure all dishes, ingredients and allergens are clearly labelled - strictly **NO NUTS**. Thank you for your support.

Cold dishes - *drop off in the morning (at the gate)*
Hot/warm dishes - *drop off at the end of the day (to classrooms)*



Whitchurch Star Pupils



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

1RA Rihan
1SM Iosua
1PD Manveer
1IN Anaya

2ST Naomi
2KK Harshiv
2DN Lana
2SA Arya

3NL Nia
3SH Joselyn
3LA Whole Class
3SM Subhan

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Ariana
4XL Aanya
4PC Cattley
4ND Shanaya

5SK Elay
5SC Deumari
5TG Chiziri
5RC Ella

6HH Whole Class
6ET Meharma
6HA Preesha
6CM Surina



Attendance Stars

Top Tip!

Book holidays outside of school dates - term time holidays will not be authorised!

This week's attendance stars are RBP (100%)

Whole School 95.83%

Spotlight on Year 1

Year 1
are reading
'Class Two
at the Zoo'

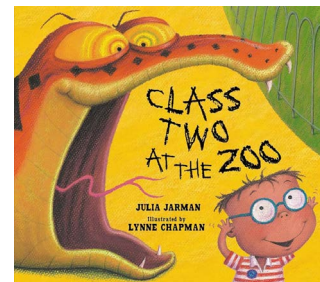


Class Two at the Zoo

Year 1 are sharing the story of 'Class Two at the Zoo' by Julia Jarman. It has colourful, exciting illustrations and lots of rhyming text. The story is all about Class Two wandering around the zoo (iust like when we went on our zoo trip in Reception!) The class see all sorts of animal antics but don't notice the anaconda slipping up behind, determined to make a meal of them! Don't worry though as Class Two are a resourceful and brave bunch. They come up with a great rescue plan.

This text allows us to be imaginative and use lots of adjectives in our writing. We have been role playing the story, creating story maps, making a story board and using time related vocabulary to sequence the story. For our 'Big Write' we shall be writing a recount of the story in our own words.

Mrs Ahmed (Year 1 Leader)



Year 1 Views

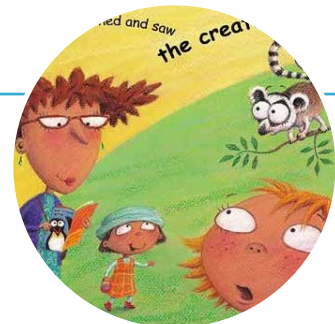
"The story is exciting! I love the giant anaconda!" Elias, 1RA

"The anaconda ate the children!" Adan, IPD

"We're reading James and the Giant Peach at story times - I cant wait to hear what happens next!" Dina, 1RA

"I like the story of Class Two at the Zoo, its a bit scary! The anaconda is eating the children and the teacher!" Maysa, 1SM

"I like it when the girl puts the sturdy stick in the snakes mouth! She is brave!" Dhanush, 1IN



Spotlight on Year 1

Year 1
storytime
reading!



James and the Giant Peach

1RA are reading 'James and the Giant Peach' by Roald Dahl at story times.

James is very lonely until one day something peculiar happens... At the end of the garden a peach starts to grow and GROW AND GROW. Inside that peach are seven very unusual insects - all waiting to take James on a magical adventure. This story has ignited our imaginations with the detailed descriptions and we have been empathising with James's character who has been treated unfairly by his horrid aunts - Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker.

We are now up to the part where James meets the giant minibeast inside the peach and their adventure begins!

"We're reading James and the Giant Peach at story times - I can't wait to hear what happens next!" Dina, 1RA

"The peach is fluffy and juicy and huge! I want to eat it." Emma, 1RA



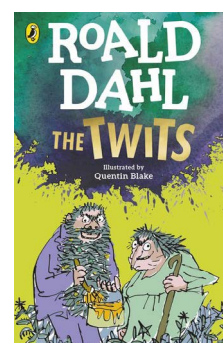
The Twits

1PD are enjoying the story of 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl and we can't wait until the end of the day! The Twits are so ghastly and evil that they even keep Muggle-Wump the monkey and his family captive in their garden. But not for much longer! The monkeys are planning to trick the terrible Twits so that they can escape and put a stop to the frightful pair once and for all!

"Mr Twit is disgusting!" Manolis, 1PD

"This book is so funny, I want to read more!" Roza, 1PD

"Mrs Twit likes to play tricks." Yasir, 1PD



Support for Families



Teaching Children Fire Safety

A Home Office study has found that approximately 350 children are injured in accidental fires every year. Naturally, this highlights the importance of educating young people on fire safety - ensuring they're aware of what precautions they can take to keep themselves protected around flammable materials and naked flames.

Whether it's during a major event like bonfire night or simply while using a heater on a chilly day, fire safety is a vitally important topic on which to educate children and young people. One mistake with fireworks, electronics or open flames can have catastrophic consequences: damage to property, serious injury or even worse.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for expert advice on how to educate children about fire safety and the precautions that can be taken to keep them as safe as possible when exposed to fire-related dangers.



Brilliant Parents Online Workshops

- 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



Reach Out - Schools Counselling Partnership

Parents and Carers

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**.

The Space

Every Wednesday afternoon, Tom offers a drop-in for children who want to talk about any feelings or worries they may be struggling with.

You can call/text Tom on **07799 028 461** or email him at **tom@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk**



Schools
Counselling
Partnership

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



Schools
Counselling
Partnership

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@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk**

Junior Adventures Group - Holiday HQ



HOLIDAY HQ
DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Send your children to a cosmos of creativity this October Half Term!

Scan to find out more and secure your spot.




Introducing Holiday HQ Destination Imagination!

Holiday HQ is the ultimate destination for kids looking for an unforgettable break from the school routine this Autumn!

Join us for a journey to imagination and beyond this October Half Term. Whether you're testing your sports skills, learning magic tricks, or heading out on exciting excursions, every day is an adventure waiting to happen.


Check out some of the exciting activities on offer

- SUPERHERO**
Dress up as your favourite superhero! Make your own comic and enjoy superhero themed activities as we support, and raise money for, Action for Children.
- IMAGINATIVE INVENTOR**
Create and showcase your own invention at our science fair.
- ADVENTURE QUEST**
Design your own magical map, craft a custom compass, and join in some spooky-themed adventures!
- SPEED RACER**
On your marks, get set, go! We've teamed up with scientists for a thrilling experiment, where you'll build your own race car and track to take home.
- IMAGINATION PARTY**
Celebrate the last day of Holiday HQ with an epic glow-in-the-dark bowling bash and a party packed with fun! Enjoy charades, theatre sports, and lots of exciting activities with your friends.

JOIN US IN THE COSMOS!

Scan to find out more and secure your spot.






JAG HHQ
October Half Term Activity Schedule
Dates & Times Apply please check the website for your desired venues specific operating details

hello@junioradventuresgroup.co.uk
0333 577 1533

For more detailed information about our programme and Special Events, please contact our friendly customer care team.


HOURS: 8:30AM TO 5:30PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY



Scan for further information and to secure a spot in one of our HHQ programmes today!

Week 1 Schedule Imagine if you are...

MONDAY



AN INVENTOR
Create and showcase your own invention at our science fair.

TUESDAY



A SUPERHERO
SPECIAL EVENT: ACTION FOR CHILDREN FUNDRAISER
Dress up as your favourite superhero! Make your own comic and enjoy superhero-themed activities as we support, and raise money for, Action for Children.

WEDNESDAY



A SPEED RANGER
MAKE & TAKE: SPEED RACER CAR
On your marks, get set, go! We've teamed up with scientists for a thrilling experiment, where you'll build your own race car and track to take home.

THURSDAY



ON AN ADVENTURE QUEST
Gear up for an exciting journey! Design your own magical map, craft a custom compass, and join in some spooky-themed adventures!

FRIDAY



AT AN IMAGINATION PARTY
Celebrate the last day of Holiday HQ with an epic glow-in-the-dark bowling bash and a party packed with fun! Enjoy charades, theatre sports, spooky-themed fun, and lots of exciting activities with friends.

Fire Safety

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 TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children these techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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