

Whitchurch Weekly

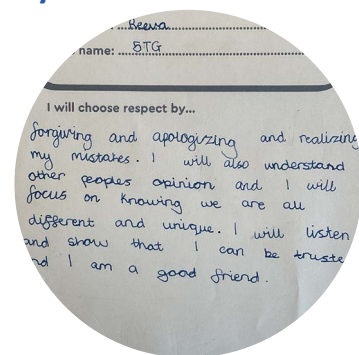
15th Nov
2024
Issue 10



Anti-Bullying Week: Choose Respect

This week was Anti-Bullying Week across the country. We took part in a range of activities throughout the week including PSHE sessions and an assembly relating to this year's theme 'Choose Respect'. Odd Socks Day on Tuesday was a fun and light-hearted way to encourage children to embrace individuality and celebrate each other's differences.

It was great to see the children develop their understanding of anti-bullying through role play, discussion and writing pledges of how to choose respect and be a good friend to others!



Spotlight on Music



HMS Band Festival

Well done to our brass and woodwind pupils who participated in the HMS Band Festival this week. After a whole day of rehearsing alongside five more schools at the Harrow Arts Centre, they performed as part of a youth band at the evening concert featuring a diverse and vibrant repertoire.

Martha (6HH) - Trumpet

Emily (6HH), Saavir (6HH) and Aman (6ET) - Saxophone

Kian (5SC) and Alexis (5SC) - Clarinet

Ella (5RC), Rian (5RC), Anahi Lily (5TG), Shayan (6HH) and Mila (6CM) - Flute

Winter Music Concert

A reminder that our ensembles will be performing at our Winter Concert on **Wednesday 4th December at 5pm**. The Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble, Wind Band, Percussion Ensemble, Rock Band, Junior Choir and Senior Choir are expected to arrive at school by **4.30pm** with their instrument and music, wearing full school uniform. Further details will be sent out to the performers' parents via School Spider. Free tickets will be handed to the members of the ensembles during the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 27th November. Each family will receive two tickets and siblings can attend without a ticket. We look forward to seeing you there.



Carol Concerts

All children are busy rehearsing for the carol concerts on **16th, 17th and 18th December**. Please refer to the dates for your diary in this newsletter to find out when your child will be performing. We look forward to a festive season ahead!

Mrs Leutfeld

Director of Music

General Notices and Highlights



Friends of Whitchurch AGM Thursday 21st November, 6.30pm (school hall)



Come along to the FoW Annual General Meeting to find out what Friends of Whitchurch is all about and how you can get involved and make a difference! There will be an election if you would like the opportunity to join the team! We look forward to seeing you there.

Book Fair Rewards

Thank you for stopping by at the Book Fair during parents' evening to buy books. We sold £677.49 worth of books and earned rewards for our school worth **£271!**

Photo Orders

Please remember to order your individual and sibling photos by next Wednesday to be eligible for free delivery (orders will incur a £5 delivery charge after this).

Using the Toilet

We have spoken to children about making sure they use the toilets if they need to go. Please help to reinforce the message that they should not be going anywhere else on school grounds (or in general).

Riya's Rainbows Fundraising Event

Riya's Rainbows are holding a fundraising evening on **Saturday 30th November from 6pm-1am at The Hive.** For more information and to book tickets please see the link.

Penalty Notice Fines for Unauthorised Absences

Please refer to the 2024 penalty notice fines for unauthorised absences attached to this newsletter.

Save the Date!
FoW Winter Fair
Thursday 12th
December,
5pm-7pm



Book
your tickets
here

Spotlight on Year 2

Year 2
are exploring
Africa in their
topic this
half term



Africa Day

Celebrating Africa for International Day was an exciting and memorable experience for Year 2! We immersed ourselves in African culture by making creative lion faces, each one unique and full of character, bringing the spirit of the African savannah to life.

Tasting fruits from Africa was a real treat; we had the opportunity to explore new flavours and textures, which was a delicious adventure for our taste buds. Making a vibrant fruit salad together added to the fun, letting us combine the different fruits we tried into a colourful dish!

We also learnt a new African song in Swahili - filling the air with music and energy. It was a wonderful day of learning, creativity and connection!

Miss Doshi (Year 2 class teacher)



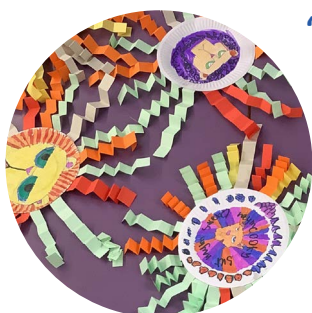
Year 2 Views

“My favourite activity was trying lots of African fruits. I enjoyed cutting into the plum and taking the seeds out of the different fruits. I found the papaya a bit peculiar but the pomegranate was tasty.” Georgia (2SA)

“I liked cutting the fruits and mixing them together to make a fruit salad.” Emily (2DN)

“I enjoyed trying the different fruits.” Abhay (2DN)

“I liked folding the paper to look like hair to make the lion’s mane.” Moise (2DN)



Year 4
spotlight
next week

Dates for your Diary



Monday 18th November	Year 5 visit to St John's Church, Stanmore (5SC and 5TG - AM; 5SK and 5RC - PM)
Thursday 21st November	5TG visit to The Ragged School Museum
Friday 22nd November	5SC visit to The Ragged School Museum Year 6 Forensics Workshops
Wednesday 27th November	5SK and 5RC visit to The Ragged School Museum
Wednesday 4th December	Winter Music Concert (5pm-6pm)
Thursday 5th December	Year 1 Visit To Stanmore Baptist Church (AM)
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 12th December	FoW Winter Fair (5pm-7pm)
Monday 16th December	Reception Carol Concert (9.15am)
Tuesday 17th December	Carol Concert (1PD, 1IN, 2SA, 2DN, 3NL & 3LA at 9.15am; 4BS, 4ND, 5RC, 5SC, 6ET & 6CM at 2.30pm)
Wednesday 18th December	Carol Concert (1SM, 1RA, 2ST, 2KK, 3SM & 3SH at 9.15am; 4XL, 4PC, 5TG, 5SK, 6HA & 6HH at 2.30pm)



Autumn Class Assemblies

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

Tues 26th Nov 2DN

Thurs 28th Nov 6CM

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

Whitchurch



Star Pupils



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



1RA Khush
1SM Ariana
1PD Miriam
1IN Kiaan

2ST Dua
2KK Omer
2DN Ruhi
2SA Austin

3NL Keren
3SH Dinara
3LA Mattia
3SM Navya

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Aisha
4XL Diane
4PC Krishay
4ND Rafi

5SK Yusuf
5SC Ella
5TG Krishen
5RC Melisa

6HH Siddiq
6ET Kian and Karan
6HA Iqra
6CM Elias

Attendance Stars



This week's attendance stars are 1IN, 5SK and 6HA (100%)

Whole School
95.9%

Did you know?

Our attendance expectation is 96% for the whole school.

Staff

Snapshot

Name: Ann Curl
Role: Midday Assistant
(SMSA)



All about me:

I lived in Northolt until I was 12 years old before moving to Southall. I have been living in Edgware for 20 years where I live with 28 budgies inside my house and 30 pigeons in an aviary in my garden.



Hobbies and interests:

My main hobbies are playing computer games, making and fixing things (including my aviary) as well as helping to rescue and rehabilitate sick or injured animals. I have rescued baby coots stuck in a lake and reunited them with their mother and also two pigeons from school called Roobin and Penguin. I found Roobin in the playground last year when she was a baby. I took her home and fed her by hand as she tamed to me. She now lives in my aviary and hopes to be a mum one day. Penguin, who was named by my daughter, was found behind an air vent in the school after falling out of his nest. I took him home and hand fed him; he is very tame and cannot be released due to being hand raised as a baby, so he lives in the aviary with Roobin and my other pigeons. I have also rescued a seagull who was found by staff members in school during a heatwave; I put him in the shade and gave him a drink - he flew off home later that day once he had recovered!



Best thing about my role:

The best thing about my job that I have been doing for years is playing games with children. I take games and equipment such as skipping ropes and hula hoops out for them to play with at lunch time and enjoy teaching them all sorts of new and exciting games to play!

Support for Families



Teaching Cycle Safety

Figures from Cycling UK tell us that only 2.2% of UK schoolchildren currently cycle to school despite the majority owning a bike. Encouraging young people to get into this hobby can be a great way to keep them active and cut down on their screen time - while potentially providing them with a healthy and convenient way of travelling to and from school or getting around in general.

Of course, it's imperative that children and young people know how to keep themselves safe while riding from A to B, if we want to avoid the risk of injury or other unpleasant experiences that could discourage them from continuing with the hobby.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter, providing you with expert advice on teaching cycle safety to children and young people.



Using Your Local Library

We encourage you to take full advantage of your local libraries. They offer a wide range of opportunities for your child to explore, learn and grow. Enrolling in the library is easy and free of charge.



Simply register online or visit your local library with your child to sign up. If you need any assistance, a member of the library staff will be more than happy to help you!

Support for Families



What to do when you feel your temper rising...

We all have triggers - our children certainly do and so do we! So, what can you do when you feel your temper rising? We often feel an urgent need to DO something, but that is our emergency response system operating. Quite often, however, you do not need to DO anything... other than notice what you are feeling, breathe your way through it and restore yourself to calm before you act.

First of all, know your triggers. Notice them, as well as what happens in you when your buttons have been pushed. If you can catch it early, you are more likely to feel you have a choice in your response. If no physical intervention is required (in safety situations), just hold still and breathe. Resist taking action for now and work hard to see things from your child's point of view: what do they need your help with? Finally, always choose love, not fear; set a limit but do it with empathy, move into a playful mode and always be ready to offer a hug!

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@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk**



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.

To sign up please contact **info@schoolscounsellingpartnership.co.uk**



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.

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 CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Getting started can sometimes be daunting, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to a bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

1 CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING

Courses like Bikeability are extremely useful, and training in general has come a long way since cycling proficiency began; there are Bikeability courses for adults, too. Cycle training teaches invaluable skills (such as good road positioning, signaling and visibility), and can help both parents and children feel more at ease on busy streets.

2 USE A SUITABLE BIKE

Find a bike of an appropriate size for its rider and resist the temptation to have children 'grow into' theirs by buying one too large for them. A bigger bike will be heavier and more difficult to control, making accidents more likely and potentially putting youngsters off cycling forever. If your child has any specific physical needs, or has dyspraxia, then try out a trike, handcycle or other adaptive cycle to see what works best.

3 TRY A CARGO BIKE

Cargo bikes, particularly the box-bike style, are ideal for transporting small children around. Depending on the type of bike chosen – as well as the size and age of the children – it can be possible to transport up to four little ones in this way, with additional space for other cargo as well.

4 INSPECT YOUR CYCLE

It's a good idea to do some routine checks on any bike before going for a ride to make sure everything's working correctly. The 'M check' is particularly useful: assessing the condition and position of the bike's wheels, handlebars, brakes, pedals, chain and saddle, working from front to back. Online tutorial videos can also teach you how to carry out basic repairs if needed. For more complicated fixes, head to your local bike shop.

5 BRING SUITABLE GEAR

Ensure whatever you're wearing, and any attachments for your bike, are suitable for the ride. A waterproof jacket will let you cycle safely in almost any weather. Make sure any helmets are fitted correctly. If you're riding after dark, remember to fit your bikes with a white front light, a red rear light and a red rear reflector. These are required by law.

6 STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN

Take a smooth, flat route if possible, so it's more suitable for younger cyclists. You might be surprised by how many quiet roads or back streets there may be in your area. Don't be put off by an indirect but easier path as opposed to a shorter, busier one. Look out for the National Cycle Network, canal towpaths and even parks that you can cut through.

7 STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS

For maximum protection and visibility, ride in a line with children in the middle and adults at either end. If you're the only adult present, take up a position at the rear to ensure all children remain in your sight. Don't be tempted to hug the kerb if cycling on the road – riding approximately a metre out will make you more noticeable to other road users, and you'll also stay clear of any debris in the gutter.

8 AVOID PARKED CARS

When riding past parked cars, try to stay at least a metre away, just in case anyone inside opens a door unexpectedly or the vehicle itself starts to move. This precaution will also deter anyone driving behind from trying to squeeze past you when there isn't enough space, so don't be afraid to ride in a prominent position.

9 START A 'BIKE BUS'

Cycling to school with other families is a potentially fun experience – one which comes with the added benefit of safety in numbers, in case anything goes wrong along the way. Team up with other parents, carers and educators and pick a day to cycle to school together. Who knows – maybe, in time, you'll have other folks asking to join you?

10 HAVE FUN!

Keep in mind that cycling should be fun! A good bike ride can be really enjoyable for adults and children alike, while also being a superb form of exercise. Ease children into the hobby by starting them off with shorter journeys – such as a trip to the park – and build them up to longer, more complicated outings. Some children may get bored on a longer ride, so try to keep a conversation going with them.

Meet Our Expert

Sophie Gordon is the campaigns manager at Cycling UK, a charity which inspires and enables people to start cycling. She has spent six years campaigning for safer roads and more protected cycle paths, while supporting communities to call for better cycling conditions where they live.

we are
cycling
uk

#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College®

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

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