

Whitchurch Weekly

29th Nov
2024
Issue 12



Year 5 visit to The Ragged Museum

Year 5 have been busy learning all about the Victorian era during History, including how Victorian people have helped to shape Britain. We went to the Ragged School Museum in London to explore what life was like for Victorian people in the 1800s - investigating historical artefacts and taking part in a traditional school lesson!



Spotlight on Sport

Badminton Festival and Cross Country



Year 5 and 6 Cross Country

Year 5 and 6 cross country took place on Tuesday at Newton Park. The children braved the wet and muddy fields and raced against other children from Harrow schools. All of the children did very well and one of our Year 5 pupils came third in her race!

Badminton Festival

On Thursday some of our Year 4 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to take part in the London Youth Games Badminton Racket Festival at Redbridge Sports Centre. They took part in an 8-activity carousel which involved different badminton games! All of the children had great fun.

Miss Byrne and Miss Wong



General Notices and Highlights



Illness

Please do not send children to school if they are really unwell. If children have had diarrhoea or vomiting, they need to be kept off school for 48 hours following no symptoms.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a space on the Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Please refer to the School Spider message for more information about the role and how to nominate yourself or another parent (for the latter, please seek their consent first). The closing date for nominations is **Monday 9th December**.



Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

We shall be having our annual Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 11th December**, which is also our Christmas Jumper Day. We look forward to seeing children and staff wearing their best Christmas jumpers!

[View Christmas lunch menu here](#)

Positive Communications

It has come to my attention that some parents are communicating with staff in an aggressive or argumentative manner. We expect all staff to be treated with dignity and respect and we will do our best to resolve any issues you have brought to our attention in a timely way amongst the many competing pressures within a busy school environment. - Ms Inniss

Please see our Positive Communications Policy on our website to update yourselves regarding positive communication expectations.

[View our policy here](#)

Penalty Notice Fines for Unauthorised Absences

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



[Follow us on Instagram: WhitchurchPS](#)



Friends of Whitchurch



Festive Bake Off Competition (in readiness for the Winter Fair)

**FESTIVE
Bake Off
Competition**

Win 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize with your bake!

All bakes will be displayed at the Winter Fair on Thursday 12th December for admiring & eating!

Help us raise funds for the school & our children

READY... SET... BAKE!

BAKE OFF RULES

Bring your bakes to school - Thursday 12th Dec at Drop Off (AM)

Hand them to the class teachers

Please label your bake clearly with Childs Name & Class

Disposable packaging/containers ONLY

STRICTLY NO NUTS

Food, games,
Santa's grotto
and more at
the Winter
Fair

**GOOD
QUALITY
TOMBOLA
GIFTS NEEDED**
(details
to follow)

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR
WINTER FAIR**
(look out for
sign up details)

Follow us on
Instagram
for regular
updates

Junior Adventures Group

Click here
for booking



Join JAG for festive fun and activities this December

A reminder that our wraparound clubs are gearing up to bring festive sparkle during December. Every day will shine with seasonal games, activities and crafts from our Adventure Programme, including the following events:

Antarctica Day (w/c Mon 2nd December)
Christmas Jumper Day (Thurs 12th December)
Christmas Celebrations (w/c Mon 16th December)



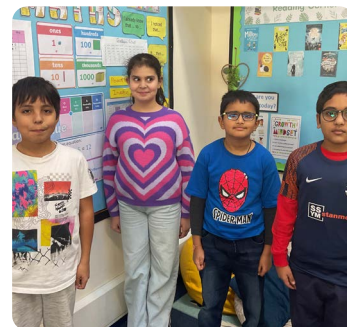
Riya's Rainbows



See Riya's
Rainbows
website
here

Riya's Rainbows Non-Uniform Day

Thanks to everyone for dressing up in bright rainbow colours to celebrate Riya's Rainbows and to everyone who has made a donation. Funds raised will be used to support medical care at Great Ormond Street Hospital and grieving families.



Spotlight on Year 6

Year 6
are exploring
Pop Art in
Art this
half term



Pop Art

This half term, Year 6 have been diving into the vibrant world of Pop Art! This bold and colorful art style is named after its inspiration - popular culture. The children have created amazing pieces of Art work inspired by a number of artists.

Our budding artists have created incredible pieces influenced by some of the most iconic Pop Art figures. They explored the work of Andy Warhol, the American print artist who transformed everyday items like soup cans and celebrities into masterpieces. Warhol showed the world that art could come from the most unexpected places!

Next, they studied the bright, comic-inspired paintings of Roy Lichtenstein. Famous for his use of onomatopoeia and bold dots, Lichtenstein brought the excitement of comic strips to life on canvas. Take a look at Year 6's amazing artwork - they've truly captured the spirit of Pop Art!

Mrs Ahti (Year 6 Class Teacher)

Year 6 Views

"I have really enjoyed learning about Pop Art and creating my own artwork in the style of Andy Warhol."

Ianis (6HA)

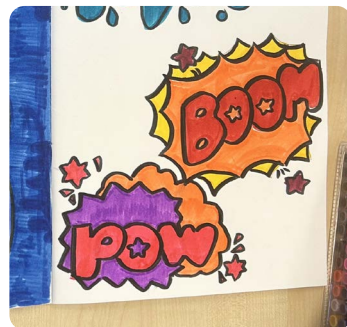
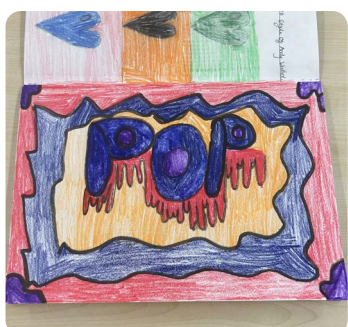
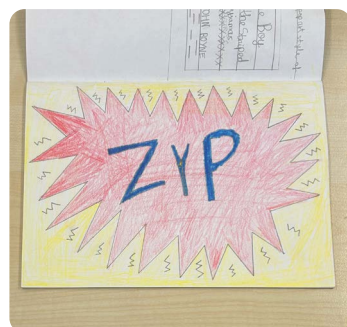
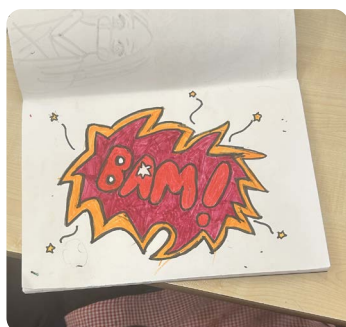
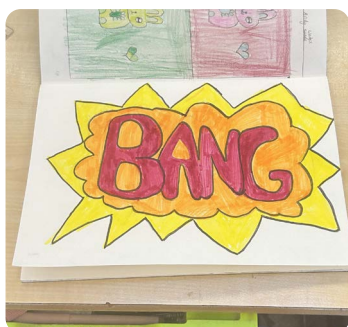
"I have really enjoyed drawing and repeating the same picture, inspired by Andy Warhol, using different colours to make it stand out." Meera (6HA)

"I really like all the vibrant colours used in this art form and my favourite lesson so far has been sketching the cans just like Andy Warhol." Neel (6ET)



Spotlight on Year 6

Year 6
are exploring
Pop Art in
Art this
half term



"I have enjoyed the work of Roy Lichtenstein the most because he creates beautiful artwork using onomatopoeia words in a cartoon-like style with vibrant colours. He is my favourite artist that we've looked at so far." Aman (6ET)

"I have enjoyed Pop Art so far because you are allowed to get really creative with what you have been given, put your own stamp on it like Roy Leitchstein." Halima (6ET)

"All the different colours that we can use makes the artwork look nice and makes me feel happy." Tisha (6ET)

"I enjoyed using all the bright colours in my own work and how they look when you finish the piece." Sophia (6ET)

Year 1
spotlight
next week

Dates for your Diary

Autumn
2nd



Wednesday 4th December	Winter Music Concert (5pm-6pm)
Thursday 5th December	Year 1 Visit To Stanmore Baptist Church (AM) 5RC and 5SC Hope Road Drama Workshops (PM)
Friday 6th December	5SK and 5TG Hope Road Drama Workshops (PM)
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper 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)



Spring Class Assemblies

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

Tues 14th Jan	3SM
Tues 28th Jan	2SA
Tues 11th Feb	1PD
Tues 25th Feb	3SH
Tues 11th Mar	2KK
Tues 25th Mar	1IN

Thurs 16th Jan	6ET
Thurs 30th Jan	4PC
Thurs 13th Feb	6HA
Thurs 6th Mar	5TG
Thurs 20th Mar	4XL

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

<p>1RA Alexandru 1SM Ethel 1PD Rayn and Stasio 1IN Daniel</p> <p>2ST Michelle 2KK Abdullah 2DN Whole Class 2SA Dhanushka</p> <p>3NL Amos 3SH Nicolas 3LA Reggie 3SM Prince</p>	<p>Respect Responsibility Resilience Honesty Generosity Aspiration</p>	<p>4BS Laurance 4XL Jayden 4PC Maycon 4ND Niam</p> <p>5SK Beren 5SC Sephora 5TG Ibrahim 5RC Whole Class</p> <p>6HH Diyen 6ET Dhillon 6HA Ashvir 6CM Avir</p>
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Attendance Stars



This week's attendance stars are
5SK (99.62%)

Whole School
94.3%

Did you know?
Good attendance and punctuality helps to give children the best chance of success.

Staff

Snapshot

Name: Naomi Mandici
Role: Welfare Assistant



All about me

Hi, I'm Miss Mandici, the Welfare Assistant here at Whitchurch. It's such a privilege to work in the same school where I spent my own primary years. Working here feels like coming full circle since I was once a pupil here. I love being part of a team that cares so much about the children, and it's great to see the school still feels so welcoming and full of life.

Hobbies and interests

I love Autumn - it's my favourite season! I find it so peaceful to walk outside and see the trees glowing with different shades of red, orange and gold. I don't know if you have ever had the chance to see mountains during Autumn - it truly is breath-taking. I love the crisp, chilly air that comes with Autumn and Winter. There's something so cosy about wrapping up warm and enjoying the colder months.



Best thing about my role

The best part of my role is connecting with the children, whether it's helping them feel better, a little reassurance, a first-aid check-up or just being a listening ear. I enjoy creating a safe and positive environment where they feel cared for and supported. No two days are the same, which keeps things interesting and rewarding!



Support for Families

Online Safety



Snapchat

As one of the most popular messaging apps available, Snapchat sees an enormous amount of usage across the globe - with a significant number of those utilising the platform being under 18. For that reason, it's important to understand the potential risks to younger users when spending time on this app.

Of course, it can be difficult to identify every hazard associated with the platform, let alone what can be done to mitigate these concerns.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter, which lays out the key online safety risks of Snapchat, as well as how to safeguard young people while they use the app.



Brilliant Parents Online Workshops



- Managing Fighting and Aggression (Monday 2nd December)
- Dealing with Disobedience (Friday 6th December)
- Developing Good Bedtime Routines (Monday 9th December)
- Stress Free Shopping with children (Friday 16th December)

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

Click here for leaflets

Support for Families



A really helpful parenting tool

Parenting can feel so hard. There will be moments when your buttons are pushed and you feel stressed, overloaded, and exhausted, maybe now more so than ever. However, there is a tool that can help you get through those difficult moments and that can keep you from saying things that you will feel sorry about later.

Use your PAUSE button. Whenever you start to feel angry or irritated with your child's behaviour, stop what you are doing and take three deep breaths - or as many as you need! Take a moment to use an image or a thought that will help you to feel calmer. Remind yourself that this is not an emergency and think of something you really love about your child. Once you feel calmer, you will be able to choose a response based on connection, rather than react in anger or worry. It does get easier with practise!

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**



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. To sign up please contact **info@schoolsounsellingpartnership.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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97
DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their Friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>



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