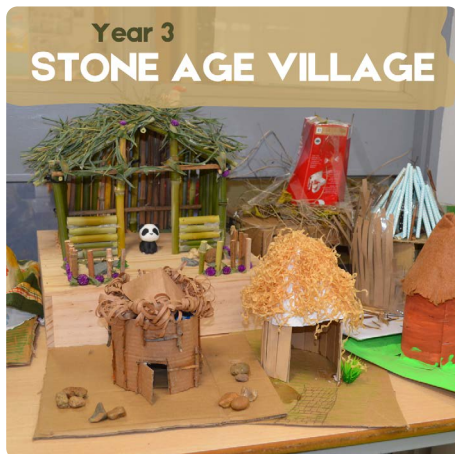


Whitchurch Weekly

10th Jan
2025
Issue 16



Follow us on Instagram!
WhitchurchPS



Whitchurch Woodland

Project
update



What's the project?

We have been very busy bringing our woodland area back to life. As many of you will have seen from WhatsApp posts sent in December, our aim is to create a safe, purposeful environment for children to develop life skills and a love of learning in nature. So far we have used the very kind donations sent in by our school community.

A special thank you to:

- Irina and family from Leopards who bought gloves, a wheelbarrow, digging items and much more.
- Ravi for helping on a Saturday to tidy up the woodland and for the pallets.
- Nikhil and family for dropping off lots of items for children to use.
- Jennifer and family for the playhouse.
- Dipika and family for the pallets.
- Ameet and family for the pallet.
- Hina and family for the playhouse.
- Kookie and family for the artificial lawn.
- Railean family for their generous donation.

Thank you to everyone who has shown interest, helped in any way they can and for the supplies - we cannot do this without you!



After

Before



Needs
Work



Whitchurch Woodland

Project
update



What's next?

We are going to apply for a grant and are hoping that we are successful. We are also going to fix the pond area and decking (possibly with the grant). Then we will start taking small groups in and eventually roll out a whole school timetable for all pupils to enjoy the Woodland and outside learning.

If you are interested in getting involved, we will be opening the area on **Sunday 26th January** (weather permitting) from 12pm-2pm. Come along and get involved, even if just for half an hour!

Please email Mrs Portou if you are able to come along:
kportou@whitchurchps.co.uk

Below are items we still need. If you can help with anything, please contact Mrs Portou.

- Steel fire lighters
- Plant pot makers (wooden)
- Bags of cotton wool
- Foil platters
- Seeds and label sticks
- Large water butt
- Watering cans
- Plastic gardening baskets
- Towels for the sink area
- Old bowls, tubs, cutlery and saucepans
- Mobile fire pit or low level BBQ
- Wooden BBQ sticks
- Outdoor cushions



Contact
Mrs Portou
here

View our
Amazon
wish list
here

Items can be found on our Amazon wish list if you would like to make a donation to the school.

Thank you for your support in helping us to renovate and grow our woodland area to provide outdoor learning for all pupils at Whitchurch!

General Notices and Highlights



Topic Maps

Please remember to view the year group pages of our website for an overview of learning this half term.

View
topic maps
here

Spring Lunch Menu

A reminder that the Spring lunch menu (and allergens) can be viewed on the School Meals page of our website.

View
Spring lunch
menu here

Car Parking

A reminder to please be considerate to each other when parking in the car park. As a school, we do not have jurisdiction over the car park, but would encourage parents to report dangerous behaviour to the police and Harrow council.

Next Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 6th February at 9.15am**, where we will be sharing our school development plan.

3SM and
6ET Class
assemblies
next week

Schools Counselling Partnership - Fundraising

At the end of January we have a team of teachers, parents and children participating in the London Winter Walk. The aim of the walk is to raise much needed funds for our counselling service. As we are sure you are aware the mental health needs in this country have grown exponentially since Covid with waiting lists for Childrens' and Adolescent Mental Health Services around between 8-18 months. We are fortunate enough to have the Schools Counselling Partnership who offer support to the whole school community which includes one to one therapy, group work, classroom interventions, response to critical incidents and advice. Obviously this comes at a cost and school budgets are becoming more and more stretched. Please, please help us to keep this service in schools by donating whatever you can afford via the link.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025.
Schools Counselling Partnership



Schools
Counselling
Partnership

Please
donate
here

Spotlight on Reception

Reception are learning all about Winter and Arctic Animals



Winter

This half term our topic is Winter and it has been exciting to see snow falling this week! To introduce the topic we have been exploring different signs of winter, sharing our current knowledge and exploring items related to the season. We recognise that the weather is cold, frosty and icy and that we have to wear warm clothes such as coats, hats and scarves.

We have started to create winter art including snowflakes and trees using various materials such as tissue paper, playdough, paint and glitter. In maths we have been singing five little snowflakes and learning about the number zero.

Over the coming weeks we are looking forward to sharing stories about winter and exploring non-fiction texts to learn more about Arctic animals.

Mrs Patel (Reception leader)

Reception Views

“Winter is when it is cold and you put on your jacket and scarf.” Malav

“I make snowman and it’s Christmas.” Nella

“I see reindeers and snow owls.” Vladimir

“It can snow.” Tiyaan

“You wear your coat when it’s Winter.” Antonia

“The snow melts.” Santiago

“Ice is cold.” Saba

“Snow comes and it starts to melt with water.” Avyan

“In Winter it’s cold and freezing.” Zach

“The Penguins live on ice.” Eesa



Dates for your Diary

Spring
1st



Monday 13th January	Year 2 Harrow Recycling Workshop
Tuesday 14th January	3SH visit to Pizza Express Stanmore
15th and 16th January	Year 4 African Art Workshop
Wednesday 22nd January	6ET visit to the Natural History Museum
Thursday 23rd January	6HH visit to the Natural History Museum Year 4 Tropical Animal Workshop
Friday 24th January	6HA visit to the Natural History Museum
Monday 27th January	1RA and 1PD visit to Windsor Castle
Tuesday 28th January	6CM visit to the Natural History Museum
Wednesday 29th January	HMS Guitar Festival
Thursday 30th January	Year 2 Fire Brigade visit
Friday 31st January	1SM and 1IN visit to Windsor Castle
Monday 3rd February	5SC and 5TG visit to The Science Museum
Wednesday 5th February	6CM and 6HH visit to Harrow Central Mosque
Thursday 6th February	6ET and 6HA visit to Harrow Central Mosque
Friday 7th February	5RC and 5SK visit to The Science Museum
Tuesday 11th February	Year 5 visit to Bentley Wood (Oliver!)
Wednesday 12th February	FoW Bake A Heart Sale (3.20pm)

Spring Class Assemblies

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

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

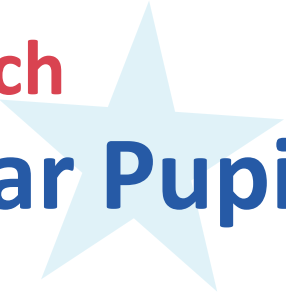
Thurs 16th Jan	6ET
Thurs 30th Jan	4PC
Thurs 13th Feb	6HA
Thurs 6th Mar	5TG
Thurs 20th Mar	4XL
Thurs 1st May	1PD

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 Rosalie
1SM Aaliyah
1PD Roza
1IN Cristine

2ST Krrish
2KK Yahya
2DN Aaron
2SA Whole Class

3NL Naiya
3SH Hridini
3LA Ariana
3SM Abbas

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Ziyen
4XL Ionut
4PC Dua
4ND Zain

5SK Riu and Benjamin
5SC Hashir
5TG Dev
5RC Mathias

6HH Angad
6ET Umair
6HA Aahil
6CM Sereh

Attendance Stars



This week's
attendance
stars are
1IN (97.5%)

Whole
School
92.2%

Top Tip

Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so that your child is prepared for the school day.

Support for Families



NHS Pharmacy First Service

An NHS service being provided by pharmacies across England for children and adults

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition	Patient eligibility
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

NHS Pharmacy First Service: In pharmacies in England only. Subject to availability. Treatment is subject to suitability assessment. Normal NHS prescription charge rules apply.



Support for Families

Online Safety



JusTalk for Kids

JusTalk Kids - billed as a child-friendly version of the JusTalk social networking platform - boasts a strong community of younger users, with approximately 20 million accounts having been created on the app.

In theory, a social media site designed specifically for children and young people should avoid many of the usual risks associated with other platforms. In practice, however, it's important to note that JusTalk Kids has its fair share of online safety concerns

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for expert advice on the hazards in the app and how you can safeguard the children in your care as they use it.



Srishti Dance Workshops available - view flyers here

Family Learning Hub Parenting Programme
10 week course starting Tuesday 21st January (online) or Wednesday 22nd January (in person)
9am to 11.30am



THE FAMILY LEARNING HUB
GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

This course supports parents and carers with useful strategies for positive discipline, stress management and improving family dynamics.

www.thefamilylearninghub.com

Click here to register on this course

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Building Stronger Sibling Bonds

If your children are having a hard time together, it's only natural that you try to help them resolve things peacefully. However often this can feel very exhausting for you... and perhaps at times you might worry they will never get along. Studies have shown that couples need five to seven positive interactions to counter-balance one negative interaction. Now this may feel like an impossible task when your children argue six times a day! So why not simply change your goal to helping your children have as many positive interactions as they can?

Remember that a smile counts as a positive - so these don't all need to be major interactions for them to count as a positive! It is also helpful to notice and encourage the activities that get your children playing together and try to avoid interrupting happy play. You can start using "Special Time" between your children, during which they can spend 10mins doing something that makes them laugh, create or move around together.

Finally, how about creating a Family Kindness Journal to record acts of kindness with each other and reflect on at the end of each week?



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**



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 JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

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.



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



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