

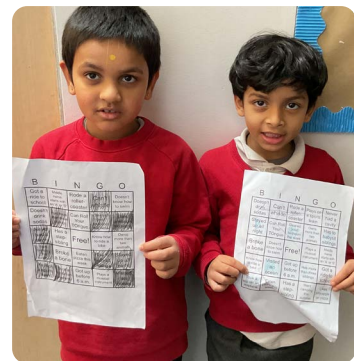
Whitchurch Weekly

7th Feb
2025
Issue 20



Children's Mental Health Week

To celebrate Children's Mental Health Week, children explored the importance of self-awareness and expressing emotions through the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. They designed their own island of personality - representing their likes, dislikes, similarities and differences - and related to the characters of Pixar's Inside Out and Inside Out 2 to help them grow, develop and build resilience. In assemblies they learnt that mental health is just as important as our physical health and that it is ok to talk about emotions and ask for help. Furthermore, the non-uniform day and bookmark sale helped us to raise awareness and funds for Schools Counselling Partnership.



Enrichment Highlights



Sport

Year 5 and 6 Football and Hockey

Football

This week the Year 5 and 6 Girls' football team took part in a Watford FC Primary Stars Football tournament. The girls were incredibly lucky to play in the dome at Watford's training ground. They demonstrated their talent and we are incredibly proud of their commitment and hard work. The day was a great experience and the girls had the opportunity to meet some of Watford's first team players!



Hockey

This week a team of Year 5 and 6 children played in a hockey tournament against other schools in Harrow. They thoroughly enjoyed playing at Harrow School and one of our children even scored a hat-trick! Well done to everyone involved.



Miss Wong and Miss Byrne

Writing Workshop

Authors Abroad Workshop: AIM High

Children from Years 3 and 4 were selected for a special day-long workshop (in collaboration with Authors Abroad) at Marlborough Primary School with one of the UK's leading performance poets, Neal Zetter. They first built a draft of ideas and then wrote their own poems based on their interests!

Mrs Portou

"I had such a fun day. We planned our work and then worked on our main piece. It was exciting to meet a real author!" Niam



Enrichment Highlights



Year 5 visit to the Science Museum

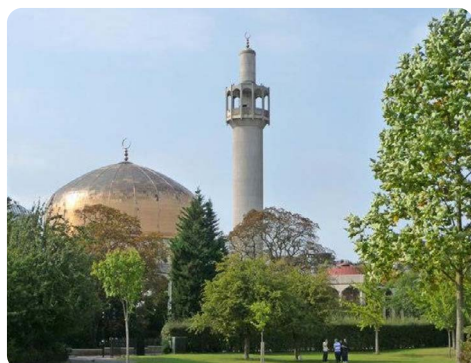
Year 5 had a wonderful time at the Science Museum this week, where they explored the Space Gallery as an introduction to their upcoming Space topic. They learnt more about technology in the Technician's Gallery and engaged with interactive investigations in the Wonderlab to deepen their scientific knowledge!



Visits

Year 6 visit to London Central Mosque

Year 6 visited London Central Mosque to enrich their learning about Islam in R.E. The children visited the exhibition rooms and were given a presentation and guided tour of the mosque, including the main prayer room. They asked lots of thoughtful questions to further their understanding. The day was made even better by walking through Regent's Park on the way to and from the mosque!



General Notices and Highlights



Coffee Morning Update

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our coffee morning yesterday, where Ms Inniss shared our School Development Plan and the Senior Leadership Team gave an update on our current projects around Inclusion, Reading, OPAL, Forest school and our use of Google Classroom. An overview of our School Development Plan can be viewed on the School Development page of our website.

View School
Development
Plan here

Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Presentation

Thank you to the Year 4 parents and carers who joined our online multiplication tables check virtual workshop. The presentation can be viewed on the Year 4 page of our website.

View MTC
presentation
here

6HA class
assembly
next week

Friends of Whitchurch Bake Sale: Bake Memories Wednesday 12th February, 3.15pm-4pm (in the infant playground)

It's time to get the baking tins out and bake a cake for FoW's Bake Sale next week! Children should bring these bakes into school with them on Wednesday morning, preferably within a disposable container. All bakes must be clearly labelled with ingredients - strictly NO NUTS.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to sampling your bakes!
Please see the FoW poster on the next page for information.

Whitchurch Woodland Community Project Donations

Please us to renovate our Whitchurch Woodland for outdoor learning by making a donation via our Amazon wishlist.

View our
Whitchurch
Woodland
Amazon wish
list here

Penalty Notice Fines for Unauthorised Absences

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

Friends of Whitchurch



FoW Bake Sale: Bake Memories



BAKE MEMORIES

EVERY BAKE HAS A STORY

Wednesday 12th February, 3:15pm

Infant
Playground

It's that time once again to get the baking tins and oven gloves out. Why not bake a treat from your heart in memory and appreciation of those you love.

Cash & Card
Accepted

Take this opportunity to bake and create sweet treats together with your children to sell at our bake sale.



Wednesday
12th February
3:15 - 4pm

Bake drop off:
Wednesday
12th February
(children to bring
bakes into class
with them)



All bakes
must be clearly
labelled with
ingredients

Strictly
**NO
NUTS**

Disposable
containers
preferred

Follow us
on Instagram
for regular
updates

Spotlight on Year 2

Year 2
are learning
about the
Great Fire of
London



The Great Fire of London

In Art, Year 2 have been working towards creating the Great Fire of London using various techniques showing houses being engulfed by fire. Initially, we learnt how to mix colours to create different tones and then created various shades and tints of orange, red and yellow. These colours were then used to create a blazing fire behind a silhouette of buildings!

Mrs Akhund (Year 2 class teacher)



Year 2 views

“I enjoyed learning about how colours are mixed together to create lighter and darker shades. That was really interesting.”

Jeremy

“The final artwork looked really special. We cut out buildings using a black card and suddenly it looked like buildings from a distance.”

Leya

“The colours used to make the fire were so vibrant and I really enjoyed using paint to blend them all in and create different shades and tints.” Ella

“I never knew that when you add white to colours they become lighter and by adding grey they become darker. I enjoyed learning something new.” Joshua



Dates for your Diary

Spring
1st



Tuesday 11th February

Year 5 visit to Bentley Wood: Oliver – PM

Wednesday 12th February

FoW Bake Sale - 'Bake Memories' (3.15pm-4pm)

Thursday 13th February

Reception children invite a loved one to 'Come and Read' (8.40am-9.05am)
Year 3 Roman Day



Half Term
Break
17th to 21st
February

Staff
Training Day
Monday 24th
February (no
children)

Spring Class Assemblies

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

Tues 11th Mar	2KK
Tues 18th Mar	3SH*
Tues 25th Mar	1IN
*rescheduled	

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 Andrei
1SM Kourosh
1PD Yasir
1IN Sid

2ST Akshara
2KK Riana
2DN Moise
2SA Ella

3NL Akira
3SH Sophie
3LA Muaz
3SM Grace

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

4BS Siyana
4XL Maria
4PC Rebecca
4ND Arjun

5SK Raisa
5SC Nathan
5TG Whole Class
5RC Ayesha

6HH Krish
6ET Amrita
6HA Eshal
6CM Sidra K

Attendance Stars



This week's
attendance
stars are 5SC
(99.63%)

Whole
School
93.09%

Did you know?

Parents and carers of children aged 5-16 who are enrolled in school are legally required to make sure they attend.

Support for Families



Scams and Fake News

'Fake news' is a widespread issue in the digital world, and it's overwhelmingly likely that both children and adults will be exposed to it online.

In fact, a study from the Alan Turing Institute has found that 94% of people in the UK have encountered misinformation on social media and that's only the ones who were aware of it!

However, while some fake news is shared mistakenly by well-meaning individuals, it's also shared by scammers and other cyber-criminals to lend legitimacy to their con. While this presents a clear risk to children and young people online, the question remains as to how we can protect them against such tactics.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for expert advice on the specific ways scammers use misinformation and how to safeguard younger users against these techniques.



The Elms INSET Day Tennis Camp Monday 24th February, 9am-3pm (£30 per child)

The Elms Tennis Club in Stanmore will be hosting an all day tennis camp on **Monday 24th February**, featuring tennis drills and skills in the morning and games/match play in the afternoon.

For more information please see the leaflet on our website. Booking via The Elms website: www.theelms.co.uk



Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Dinner: Nurturing Family Connection

Often, dinner can feel like such a chore, even a mission, that you just want to get through. However, studies show that having dinner together as a family is a top predictor for how well children will do in school and in adolescence. The ritual of sharing food with those we love offers children the security of belonging, being nurtured and a space to talk and share.

Try to have at least a few nights a week when you can all eat together. Keep that space sacred, safe and positive and, most importantly, switch off the TV and all devices - including your own phones!

It is helpful to keep dinner fun and playful and to engage everyone in preparing the meal and/or setting the table. Think of rituals you can put in place and try to make the discussions interesting for everyone. The first secret is to keep the food healthy but *simple*: look after yourself and save your energy for connecting with your family.

Dinner is better when we eat together!

Hope Harrow
Sibling Rivalry
Workshop on
Tues 25th Feb
- view here



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**



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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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