

Whitchurch Weekly

14th Mar
2025
Issue 24



Year 3 VR Volcano Workshop

Year 3 took part in an exciting virtual reality workshop about volcanoes as enrichment for their Geography learning and topic 'Natural Disasters' this half term. They have been learning about different volcanoes around the world, how they are formed and how they cause earthquakes. The VR experience took them around the world to visit a number of different volcanoes and witness a volcanic eruption. The also caught a glimpse of the world's most powerful volcano in Yellowstone National Park. It was a fantastic experience for the children!



Enrichment Highlights



Spring Music Concert

Our Spring Music Concert on Wednesday afternoon provided another wonderful performing opportunity this half term. Children from Year 3 and above showcased their talents across orchestral, non-orchestral and Indian instruments, with performers ranging from pre-Grade to Grade 5. Congratulations to our 26 young Whitchurch musicians who impressed us with their dedication and skill.

A heartfelt thank you to our HMS teachers for guiding and preparing our pupils. Most importantly, we deeply appreciate the families for their unwavering support and encouragement of their children's musical journey.

Mrs Leutfeld
Director of Music

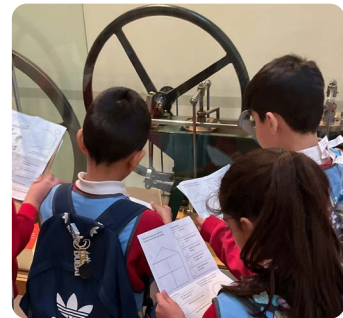


Enrichment Highlights



Year 4 visit to The Science Museum

Year 4 visited The Science Museum as enrichment for their topic 'Adventures and Inventions', where they are designing torches in DT and exploring electricity in Science. The children visited exhibitions to learn more about the work of engineers and inventors - including James Watt and his steam engine.



Year 1 Bug Hotels

Year 1 have been learning all about minibeasts as part of their topic Nature Detectives. Take a look at their impressive models of bug hotels, which are currently being displayed at the exhibition area within the school!



Enrichment Highlights



Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival

This week Year 5 and 6 children took part in a tag rugby festival playing against other Harrow schools. This was the first time we have taken part in this sport and the children enjoyed learning and working together as a team, winning all their matches. Well done to those involved!

Miss Wong and Miss Byrne



Year 5/6 Boys Football League

As part of the boys football league, we travelled to Bannisters Sports Centre to complete this year's fixtures. The boys battled through all weathers during the afternoon and worked incredibly hard as a team to gain some important points. Well done boys!

Miss Wong and Miss Byrne



General Notices and Highlights



Invacuation Drill/Test

We will be testing our invacuation procedure on **Wednesday 26th March at 11am**. This is for us to practise what to do in the event of a lockdown.

Google Classroom Workshop for Year 4 Parents/Carers

Year 4 parents and carers are invited to a workshop about Google Classroom on **Monday 24th March at 2.30pm**. Find out about where we are with Google Classroom and how you can use it to support your children at home. We look forward to seeing you.

3SH and
4XL class
assemblies
next week

Applications for Instrumental Lessons

A reminder that the application period for instrumental lessons for the next academic year is still open. All children from Year 2 upwards will have the opportunity to receive weekly instrumental lessons delivered by highly skilled specialist teachers from the Harrow Music Service (HMS). Please refer to the recent School Spider message for more information.



FoW Celebrate Your Female Hero - Wednesday 26th March

Friends of Whitchurch will be holding a gift sale on **Wednesday 26th March** after school in preparation for Mothering Sunday. More details to follow.



Junior Adventures Group - Easter Holiday Club

Junior Adventures Group are running Holiday HQ this Easter. Please see **page 6** for more details.



Nursery Places

We have places available for our Nursery intake for September. Please contact the school office if you or someone you know is interested in applying.

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

Junior Adventures Group

Click here
for booking



Holiday HQ - World Explorers

**Venture into the big wide world with Holiday HQ:
World Explorers this Easter Holiday!**



Pack your bags and join us on an epic journey across continents! Each day brings new discoveries - from ancient mysteries and breathtaking landscapes to vibrant cultures and incredible traditions. Build pyramids in Egypt, trek through the Outback, dance at a Spanish fiesta, and brave the Arctic chill! This is an adventure like no other - no passport needed, just endless excitement at your local club this Easter holiday.

Key Features

- Embark on a 10-day global adventure - travel the world without leaving town!
- Discover a new culture each day through exciting, themed activities.
- Get creative with weekly make and take experiences.
- Compete in an inter-club special event for ultimate explorer glory!
- Team up to solve challenges and navigate the world together.
- Engage in hands-on crafts, sports, and games inspired by global traditions.
- Make new friends and put your explorer skills to the test.
- Enjoy flexible payment options, including weekly booking discounts.



Science Week

Upcoming
Curriculum
Week



Whitchurch Science Week - Change and Adapt

Science Week will take place on the last week of term between **31st March to 4th April** with the theme 'Change and Adapt' - highlighting the importance of adaptability in scientific exploration.

All children will participate in engaging Science projects throughout the week (outlined below) to enhance their observation, experimentation and modelling skills. We look forward to an exciting week of Science exploration!

Miss Nickson, Science Co-ordinator

Reception: Growing and Changing - Nature scavenger hunt

Exploring nature and seasonal changes

Year 1: Animal Adaptations - Animal adaptations workshop

Understanding animal adaptations

Year 2: Plant Adaptations - Life cycle of a plant

Seed germination, growth stages and adaptations to environment

Year 3: Changing Seasons - Weather forecasting

Understanding weather types and their impact on living things; creating a weather chart

Year 4: Rocks and Soil - Rock cycle

Understanding the rock cycle process; rock cycle models

Year 5: Human Adaptation - Environmental change project

Impact of pollution, deforestation, adaptation of organisms and local environmental issues

Year 6: Evolution and Natural Selection - Science of evolution

Natural selection and the evolution of species



Spotlight on Music

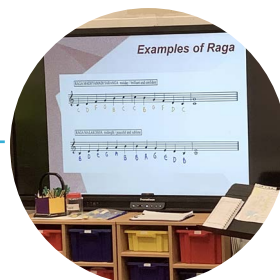
Year 5 are learning about Indian Classical Music



Whole Class Programme - Indian Classical Music

Year 5 pupils are exploring World Music for the remainder of the term, focusing specifically on Indian Classical Music. They are examining its key characteristics, including structure, instruments, patterns and terminology, while further developing their listening skills. Additionally, they are engaging in melodic improvisation using Indian scales (raga) and practising rhythmic patterns (tala) with classroom instruments.

Mrs Leutfeld, Director of Music



Year 5 views

“In Music this week, we listened to and compared different sections of Indian classical music. We discussed the beat, the tempo (speed) and the instruments. We also learned how to play patterns of Indian classical music on the glockenspiels, but without following a steady beat.” Shaima



“This week in Music, we explored the key characteristics of Indian classical music, including instruments such as the harmonium, tabla, and sitar. We watched performances by Indian classical musicians and practiced playing traditional patterns on the glockenspiels.” Yashvi



“This week, we listened to Indian Classical Music and learned about Ravi Shankar, a famous sitarist. We also played two ragas (scales with 6 notes) on the glockenspiels - a joyful one for midday and a peaceful one for midnight.” Anahi-Lily



Dates for your Diary

Spring
2nd



Tuesday 18th March	2DN visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Wed 19th to Fri 21st March	Year 6 Residential Visit to Danbury
Thursday 20th March	2ST visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Friday 21st March	2KK visit to Florence Nightingale Museum
Monday 24th March	Year 4 Parents/Carers Workshop - Introduction to Google Classroom (2.30pm-3.15pm)
Tuesday 25th March	Year 5 Ancient Greece Day (with Drama workshop)
Wednesday 26th March	HMS String Festival FoW Celebrate Your Female Hero (3.20pm)
Thursday 27th March	Year 4 and 5 Road Safety Show (2.15pm)
Mon 31st Mar to Fri 4th Apr	Science Week Schools' Football Week
Wednesday 2nd April	Year 3 visit to Canons Park (rescheduled)



Class Assemblies

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

Tues 18th Mar 3SH
Tues 25th Mar 1IN

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

Thurs 20th Mar 4XL
Thurs 1st May 1PD

Whitchurch Star Pupils



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

Tigers Aiza
Leopards Vian
Lions Sadaf and Emanuel
Jaguars Maanvika

1RA Elias
1SM Aaisha
1PD Ayesha
1IN Andrei

2ST Guga
2KK Whole Class
2DN Emily
2SA Parin

3NL Aarshay
3SH Aliza
3LA Isuka
3SM Antonia

4BS Ishaan
4XL Summer
4PC Siya
4ND Sarah

5SK Taiyan
5SC Dylan
5TG Aaron
5RC Jayden

6HH Hladini
6ET Faith
6HA Kayla
6CM Adrian

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

Attendance Stars

This week's
attendance
stars are
5SC (98.5%)

Whole
School
95.1%



Did you know?

Our attendance
target for the
whole school is
96%.

Reading Corner

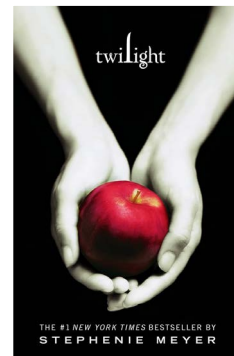
reading for parents
and carers

Year 5
teachers share
their favourite
books for parents
and carers to
enjoy



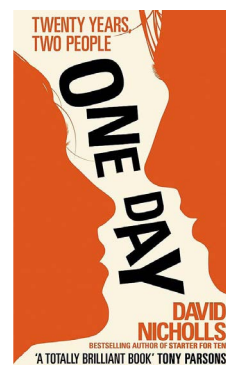
'Twilight' by **Stephanie Meyers** *Miss Goldsmith*

'Twilight' is an enchanting mix of romance and the supernatural that completely captivated me as a teenager. I loved how vampires were portrayed - elegant, powerful and mysterious. The Cullens fascinated me, and I couldn't help but wish I were one of them. My favourite character was Rosalie Cullen. While she seemed distant at first, her strength and complexity made her stand out. Her backstory added depth, making her one of the most compelling characters in the series. Meyer's storytelling made the world of Twilight feel real and I was completely hooked from start to finish.



'One Day' by **David Nicholls** *Mrs Cumming*

This isn't my only favourite book but its up there within my top 5. This is a book I read when I was at university, and it has stayed with me ever since. 'One Day' by David Nicholls follows Emma and Dexter, revisiting their lives on the same date each year. It's a beautifully written, bittersweet story about love, timing, and personal growth. The characters feel incredibly real, with all their flaws and triumphs. The mix of humour and heartbreak makes it an emotional rollercoaster. If you enjoy character-driven novels that explore relationships and life's unpredictability, this is a must-read. It's a book that lingers long after the final page.



More to follow...

Reading Corner

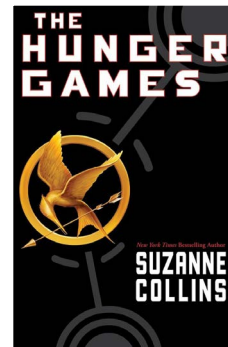
reading for parents
and carers

Year 5
teachers share
their favourite
books for parents
and carers to
enjoy



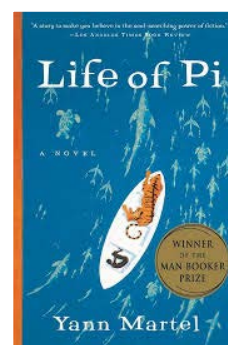
'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins *Miss Chauhan-D'Souza*

One of my favorite books has to be 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins. It's part of a powerful series that follows Katniss Everdeen, who bravely volunteers to take her sister's place in a brutal competition where kids are forced to fight for survival. I first read it back in high school, and I was completely drawn in by Katniss's strength and resilience, as she becomes a powerful symbol of standing up for what's right. The author is releasing a new book at the end of this month and I am looking forward to reading it immediately!



'Life of Pi' by Yann Martel *Mrs Khan*

I read this extraordinary book recently and decided it is my favourite book this year. A young boy called Pi, short for Piscine Patel (piscine meaning pool in French), who lived in India, was travelling on a ship to emigrate to America with his family, including their animals from their zoo (yes, his dad owned a zoo in Pondicherry, India!) Unfortunately, the ship sank. The only survivors, on a lifeboat, were Pi, a zebra, a hyena and Richard Parker, the tiger. For most part of the story, it was about how Pi and Richard (you can guess what happened to the other animals!) endured the hardship and challenges of being lost at sea. They learnt how to live together. Martel told the story so beautifully with a pinch of very clever humour and creativity and it depicts how resilient and resourceful Pi was. I find this book very compelling as it has a concoction of imagination, wit, adventure, faith and hope. Obviously, Pi is my favourite as he is the hero of his own survival and saved Richard Parker as well!



Support for Families

Online Safety



Roblox

Online multiplayer games like Roblox are enjoyed by millions across the world and can be a great way for friends to socialise; however, they can also expose young people to variety of potential harms. Roblox is a multi-platform game that enables people to play anonymously, which can often be something that attracts people to misuse the game and put younger players at risk of harm.



In addition to interacting with random strangers across the world, it's important to be aware of other risk factors, such as in-game purchases and potential scams that can put young people at risk financially.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for expert advice about what can be done to ensure that young people have a safe and enjoyable experience with Roblox.



Hope Harrow Online Workshops

Parenting for Separated Parents - Tuesdays, 18th March to 6th May

Living with Teens - Wednesday 19th and 26th March

Gaining Family Cooperation - Monday 28th April

Setting Limits Defining Boundaries - Monday 12th May

[View leaflets here](#)

Harrow's Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme

Harrow's Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme is now open, offering eligible families the opportunity to book a free place for children at a participating holiday club.

For more information and booking places please refer to the Harrow Young Foundation website.

[View Harrow's HAF Programme here](#)

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



When you argue in front of your children

Conflict is a part of every human relationship, which means that arguments between adults may sometimes come up in front of children especially with heightened feelings and limited space. When they hear angry yelling, studies have shown that their stress hormones shoot up and can take some time to diminish. Naturally, since a child's parent is their source of security, they feel scared when they seem out of control. Their fear can often turn into anxiety or misbehaviour and some children may think that yelling is the grown-up way of resolving conflict.

It is great for children to see healthy and respectful disagreements between adults. Therefore, try to model listening to the other person's needs without making them feel they are wrong. What is even more healthy is for the child to see you repair and reconnect quickly. It is a good idea to come up with a code word or signal with your partner in advance, so that when one of you starts to feel particularly triggered, you know to take a pause and continue later, away from the children.

'It is great for children to see healthy and respectful disagreements between adults. Therefore, try to model listening to the other person's needs without making them feel they are wrong.'



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

ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dating and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at @GAMINGbible.



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