

Whitchurch Weekly

28th Mar
2025
Issue 26



Year 5 Ancient Greece Day

Year 5 children celebrated their topic about Ancient Greece with an amazing themed day! They dressed up as Ancient Greek gods, goddesses, heroes and even ordinary Greek men and women, complete with props and jewellery that they designed to adorn their costumes. They also participated in a collaborative drama workshop and learnt more about various Ancient Greek myths, the life of Spartans and the Athenians, as well as Greek architecture and the Olympic Games. It was an enriching day for everyone and the dressing up made it all the more exciting!



Enrichment Highlights



Year 4 Road Safety Show

Year 4 children attended a special Road Safety show, which explored the dangers of crossing a road and gave children lots of tips on how to stay safe. It also helped to raise awareness of issues including the impact of cars on our health and the environment. The children found the performance very informative, engaging and memorable!



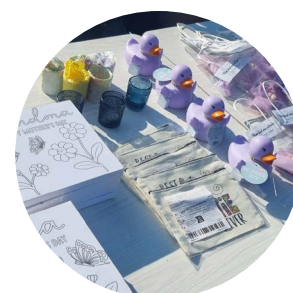
TfL Ambassadors

Our TfL Ambassadors attended a productive session in Stratford this week to plan ways of encouraging more children at school to travel more actively. We look forward to seeing some of their ideas!



FoW 'Celebrate Your Female Hero'

On Wednesday we held a special gift stall in preparation for Mothering Sunday, to help everyone to celebrate their female hero. The selection of gifts were a hit with families! Happy 'Female Heroes Day' to all who are celebrating - enjoy your special hand-picked gifts! **Team FoW**



Enrichment Highlights



HMS String Festival at Harrow Arts Centre

Many congratulations to our more advanced string players who thoroughly enjoyed participating in the HMS String Festival this week. They rehearsed for a whole day alongside fifteen other schools and performed in an evening concert as part of a youth string orchestra at Harrow Arts Centre.



Rock Band

What a fantastic way to finish our week! Our school Rock Band performed in front of our Year 4, 5 and 6 children at the Music Assembly today. The band happily accepted my request to learn and perform 'Memories', one of my favourite songs. A special treat for everyone - well done Rock Band!



Mrs Leutfeld, Director of Music

Basketball at Salvatorian College

Children from the basketball team went head to head with other schools in Harrow this week and worked hard as a team, showing great determination all afternoon!

Miss Wong



General Notices and Highlights



Science Week - 'Change and Adapt' 31st March to 4th April (next week)

A reminder that next week is Science Week. We shall be holding an exhibition of children's work and activities during the week for parents and carers on **Thursday 3rd April at 2.45pm**. We look forward to seeing you then!



Summer Lunch Menu

The lunch menu for the Summer term (and list of allergens) can be found on the School Meals page our website. You can also view the menu on **page 8** of this newsletter.



Mini London Schools Marathon & Schools' Football Week

We will be taking part in the following sporting events:

Schools' Football Week - 31st March to 4th April

Mini London Schools Marathon - 22nd April to 2nd May



Junior Adventures Group - Holiday HQ

A reminder that Junior Adventures Group are running Holiday HQ this Easter. Please see **page X** for details.



Penalty Notice Fines for Unauthorised Absences

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

Whitchurch Woodland Community Project Donations

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



Spotlight on Music

Year 6 are
learning about
Latin American
Music



Whole Class Programme - Latin American Music

This term Year 6 children have been exploring the main characteristics of Latin American music, including syncopated (off-beat) rhythms, traditional instruments, and its origins. This week, the children identified these features in Villa-Lobos' orchestral music and prepared a whole-class performance of an 8-bar melody. They will next learn to play a samba piece, combining syncopated rhythms and following musical cues.

Mrs Leutfeld, Director of Music



Year 6 views

"This term, I have enjoyed studying Latin American music and identifying the different instruments used by Andean indigenous tribes. We also learned about various Latin American genres, such as samba and salsa, and played Latin American tunes on the glockenspiels." Tasnim

"This week we listened to an orchestral piece of music, The little train of Caipira, and learned how different instruments are being used to create the sound effects of a steam train. We also learned how to play the main melody of this piece on the glockenspiels." Surina

"This week we listened to the Little Train of Caipira by Villa-Lobos and commented on the tempo (speed) and the dynamics (volume). We also learned how to play the melody of this piece and discussed about different Latin American instruments." Naiah

"This week we carried on working on Latin American music and played the melody of the Little Train of Caipira, an orchestral piece of music, which was challenging. We have also been commenting on musical elements such as tempo (speed) and structure." Lara



Dates for your Diary



Mon 31st Mar to Fri 4th Apr	Science Week (<i>Science Exhibition for parents/carers on Thurs 3rd April at 2.45pm</i>)
Tuesday 22nd April	3NL visit to Pizza Express, Stanmore
Mon 28th to Tues 29th April	Year 5 residential visit to Woodrow High House
Tuesday 6th May	Year 5 (Girls) Discovery Day at Northwood College
Friday 9th May	Year 4 Trumpets/Clarinets (9.15am and 10.15am)
Monday 12th May	3SH and 3SM visit to Hindu Temple
Monday 19th May	3LA and 3NL visit to Hindu Temple
Tuesday 20th May	5SK and 5RC visit to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 21st May	Year 6 visit to the Paradox Museum (2 classes)
Thursday 22nd May	Class Photographs Year 6 visit to the Paradox Museum (2 classes)
Friday 23rd May	Class Photographs 5SC and 5TG visit to Kew Gardens

Class Assemblies

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

Tues 29th April	3LA
Tues 20th May	RBP
Tues 10th June	RLS
Tues 24th June	RTP
Tues 8th July	RWD

Thurs 24th April	4ND
Thurs 1st May	1PD
Thurs 8th May	5RC
Thurs 22nd May	5SC

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

Tigers Zain & Urvi
Leopards Hana
Lions Sulayman
Jaguars Mervin

1RA Adam
1SM Shayan
1PD Mikhail
1IN Hannah

2ST Kevin
2KK Avira
2DN Layla
2SA Parin

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

3NL Riya
3SH Rayyan
3LA Emma
3SM Avyaan

4BS Zolay
4XL Sophia
4PC Zarrakhan
4ND Raiya

5SK Moss
5SC Hitarth
5TG Dhanish
5RC Leila

6ET Maya
6HH Shayan and Siddiq
6HA David, Tabark and Rhys
6CM Avni and Kiyam

Attendance Stars

This week's
attendance
stars are
3LA (99.3%)

Whole
School
95.2%

Did you know?

Good attendance and
punctuality can have
a positive impact on
academic achievement.

Summer Lunch Menu



Allergens are listed on our website (click here)

Salad bar and bread available daily



	WEEK ONE 21/4, 12/5, 9/6, 30/6	WEEK TWO 28/4, 19/5, 16/6, 7/7	WEEK THREE 5/5, 2/6, 23/6, 14/7
MONDAY MAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Hot Dog, with Potato Wedges & Garden Peas Grilled Cheese Sub, with Potato Wedges & Garden Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Burger with Jacket Wedges & Green Beans Vegetable Burger with Jacket Wedges & Green Beans (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Cornflake Cake (Ve) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBQ Chicken & Sweetcorn Pizza with Diced Potatoes & Peas Margherita Pizza with Diced Potatoes & Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Banana Bread Traybake
DESSERT	Fruity Flapjack (Ve)		
TUESDAY MAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey Korma Curry, with Jewelled Rice & Green Peas Vegan Lentil & Chickpea Keema Curry with Rice & Green Beans (V) (Ve) Pasta and Tomato Sauce (Ve) Tropical Fruit Salad (Ve) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef Hot Pot with Potatoes & Broccoli Macaroni and Cheese with Garlic Bread & Broccoli (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Tropical Fruit Salad (Ve) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild Lamb Chilli with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Mild Vegan Mince Chilli with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (V) (Ve) Pasta and Tomato Sauce (Ve) Tropical Fruit Salad (Ve)
DESSERT			
WEDNESDAY MAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef Bolognese, with Pasta & Broccoli Vegetarian Meatballs in Tomato Sauce, with Pasta & Broccoli (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Cherry Shortbread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Sausage & Mash with Gravy, Peas & Carrots Vegan Sausage & Mash, Peas & Carrots (V) (Ve) Pasta and Tomato Sauce (Ve) Strawberry Mousse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, with Carrots & Cauliflower Lentil Cheese & Mixed Pepper Roulade with Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Raspberry Jelly (Ve)
DESSERT			
THURSDAY MAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicken Fajita Wraps, with Diced Potatoes & Sweetcorn Quorn Fajita Wraps, with Diced Potatoes & Sweetcorn (V) Pasta and Tomato Sauce (Ve) Chocolate & Pear Traybake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peri Peri Chicken with Rainbow Rice & Corn on the Cob Peri Peri Quorn with Rainbow Rice & Corn on the Cob (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Jam & Coconut Sponge Cake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sticky Honey Chicken with Noodles & Broccoli Sticky Honey Tofu with Noodles & Broccoli (V) Pasta and Tomato Sauce (Ve) Jam Sponge
DESSERT			
FRIDAY MAINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish Fingers, Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Cheese & Onion Lattice with Chips, Peas or Baked Beans (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Strawberry Jelly (Ve) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battered Fish, Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Cheese & Sweetcorn Puff, Chips & Baked Beans or Peas (V) Pasta and Tomato Sauce (Ve) Vanilla Ice Cream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish Cake Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Cheese & Tomato Quiche Chips & Baked Beans or Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Chocolate Ice Cream
DESSERT			

Allergen Information: Menu descriptions may not list every individual ingredient. We are aware of the presence of allergens requiring labelling, so please ask a member of the catering team should you require any more details. Vegetarian options are indicated by the symbol (V) and Vegan options are indicated by the symbol (Ve).

COOMBS CATERING PARTNERSHIP



Reading Corner

reading for parents
and carers

Year 3
teachers share
their favourite
books for parents
and carers to
enjoy



Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë *Mrs Hill*

I find it hard to pinpoint a favourite book, but this is a novel that inspired me a great deal - it was introduced to me by my A Level English teacher. Set in Victorian England, it is about a young girl who struggles with being poor and 'plain-looking' and how she discovers her own worth and individuality. As an orphan, Jane is shipped off to a cruel boarding school where she learns how to survive in a tough, unforgiving world. She trains as a governess and moves to the mysterious Thornfield Hall to teach a spoiled girl. There she meets Mr Rochester, a grumpy and brooding man, and slowly they begin to develop respect for each other. It is a true gothic romance - with secretive characters, love triangles and 'ghosts' roaming the halls!



1984 by George Orwell *Mrs Amar*

1984 is about a man named Winston who lives in a world where the government control everything. Everyone is constantly monitored and the truth is altered. Winston disagrees with this and resists it. Unfortunately, he is caught, tortured, and forced to love Big Brother.



I love the book because it's gripping, full of tension and is a stark warning of how dangerous it can be to have a government that controls everything, taking away people's freedom. Moreover, it raises modern-day issues which are prevalent today, such as surveillance and propaganda.

Read on for more book recommendations...

Reading Corner

reading for parents
and carers

Year 3
teachers share
their favourite
books for parents
and carers to
enjoy



The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins *Miss Aid*

Whilst many people have seen The Hunger Games movie, reading the book gives you a different perspective. It's a thrilling story about Katniss Everdeen, who volunteers to take her sister's place in a deadly competition. The book dives deeper into Katniss's emotions, the struggles she faces, and the decisions she has to make in a world that is unfair and cruel. What I love about this book is how it makes you think about power, survival, and what it means to be truly free. Katniss's journey is about much more than winning the Games - it's about finding hope and fighting for what's right. The story pulls you in and stays with you long after you finish, showing how books can offer so much more than their movie adaptations.



The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry *Miss Lakhani*

Reading The Little Prince felt like stepping into a dream - whimsical yet deeply meaningful. On the surface, it's about a young prince travelling between planets, meeting strange but familiar characters. But at its heart, it's a reflection on love, loss, and the way adults often forget what truly matters. The conversations between the prince, the aviator, the fox, and even his beloved rose are filled with simple yet profound wisdom. One line that stuck with me is the fox's lesson: "What is essential is invisible to the eye."



This book is both magical and bittersweet, offering something new each time you read it. As a child, it's an adventure; as an adult, it's a reminder to see the world with wonder again. It's short but lingers in your mind long after you finish.

Support for Families

Online Safety



Gummy Bear Alphabet Song

There are several versions of seemingly innocent song on YouTube and TikTok, with lyrics and graphics gradually becoming more inappropriate and harmful (including reference to weapons) - causing upset and fear amongst children. Please be aware of this Gummy Bear alphabet song and animation currently in circulation online and intervene if your child accesses this when playing online.

We strongly advise parents and carers to be vigilant and to supervise children's access to online content - including YouTube and YouTube Kids. Thank you for your support with this matter and for reinforcing key messages of online safety with your children.

BlueSky Social App

BlueSky is a microblogging social media platform that gained popularity after separating from Twitter in 2021. Since accounts must be public, this opens the door to potential trolling, cyberbullying and the spread of misinformation. **Please refer to the poster attached to this letter for more information.**

View leaflets here

Hope Harrow Online Workshops

Parenting for Separated Parents - Tuesdays until 6th May
Gaining Family Cooperation - Monday 28th April
Setting Limits Defining Boundaries - Monday 12th May

Wealdstone Youth FC Girls and SEND football sessions - view here

View Harrow's HAF Programme 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.**

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Questions to ask instead of 'What did you do today?'

Do you ever wish you could be a fly on the wall at your child's school? As a parent, sending your child to school can bring up all sorts of feelings. More than anything, you may be feeling curious: what did they do? How did they behave? How do they act when you are not there? And many of you may also have realised that asking your child "How was your day?" doesn't always encourage them to share their experiences.

Give children some time before asking them lots of questions at pick-up: they may be tired and will need to reconnect with you first. Try to chat casually and to ask open-ended questions. If they aren't ready to answer, just pause and come back to it later: perhaps as you are playing, eating together or during bath time. Here are a few examples of questions you can ask instead:

What was the funniest/silliest thing that happened today?

What games did you play in the playground?

Did anyone do anything super nice for you? What was the kindest thing you did for someone else?

How would you rate your day on a scale of 1-10?

What is something you would have liked to do differently today?

What made you smile today?

Which rule was the hardest to follow?

Did you make a new friend today? What's their name? What do you like about them?

Is there anything you would like help with?

If you were a teacher/head of the school, what would your class/school be like?

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**

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.





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 BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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

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