

Whitchurch Weekly

2nd May
2025
Issue 29



Year 5 visit to Woodrow High House

This week, many of our Year 5 pupils took part in an exciting overnight residential visit to Woodrow High House in Amersham. During their stay, the children embraced a variety of outdoor activities, including orienteering, bushcraft, a challenging obstacle course, bridge building through pioneering and climbing on the high ropes. These activities encouraged teamwork, resilience and a sense of adventure.

After a busy day, the children enjoyed a delicious dinner of pasta and salad, followed by a cosy evening around the campfire. They sang songs, solved riddles, and toasted marshmallows together before heading to the tuck shop, where they picked up fun souvenirs like swirly straw cups and branded bendy men. It was a joyful and memorable evening that brought everyone closer together.

The following morning, the children were up early and ready for more. After a hearty breakfast they took part in two final activities, rounding off their experience with enthusiasm and determination. Pupils returned to school tired but happy, having developed greater independence, strengthened friendships and created memories that will last a lifetime!

Miss Goldsmith



Enrichment Highlights

Follow us on
Instagram:
WhitchurchPS



More Woodrow High House Highlights



Sport

Mini Marathon

This week we have been taking part in the TCS Mini Marathon in Schools and all classes have completed a run during their P.E. session. We are so proud of all them for being resilient especially in the hot weather we have had this week.



Cricket Festival at Lord's Cricket Ground

Today some of our children visited Lord's Cricket Ground to take part in some activities and watch a match between Middlesex & Kent. There was lots of excitement and fun had on a beautiful day!



Enrichment Highlights



A Special Visit from Mr Ivan D'Souza, MLC, Karnataka

We were honoured to welcome Mr Ivan D'Souza, Member of the Legislative Council from the Government of Karnataka, to our school last week. His visit was to understand the workings of an English state school and gain insight into our education system.

Mr D'Souza was particularly struck by the dedication and commitment of our teachers, noting the effort they put into creating a positive and engaging learning environment. He praised the inclusive ethos of the school, recognising how every child is supported to thrive, regardless of background or ability.

What stood out most to him was our creative approach to teaching and learning. He commented that these practices could offer valuable ideas for schools back in Karnataka.

His visit was a reminder that good education is a shared goal across borders. We are proud that our school could contribute to this important conversation and hope that the ideas shared will lead to lasting connections and learning on both sides.

We thank Mr D'Souza for his time and interest, and we look forward to further opportunities for collaboration in the future.

Ms Inniss



General Notices and Highlights



Early May Bank Holiday - School Closed

A reminder that the school will be closed on Monday due to the Early May Bank Holiday.

Phonics Screening Check Presentation

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us on Monday for the online workshop about the Phonics Screening Check taking place in June. Please refer to the English and Phonics page of our website to view this presentation.

View Phonics
Screening Check
presentation
here

FoW Kids' Disco - Thursday 15th May

Friends of Whitchurch are hosting a kids' disco for all children from Reception to Year 6 on Thursday 15th May (timings below).

Children should bring a donation of £1 to the disco. Reception and Year 1 should bring this £1 with them in the morning and wear non-uniform for the day so that they are ready for their disco session straight after school.

Reception & Year 1 - 3.15pm to 4.00pm (non-uniform day)

Years 2 & 3 - 4.15pm to 5pm

Years 4 & 5 - 5.15pm to 6pm

Year 6 - 6.15pm to 7pm



ParentPay issues affecting some parents

We are aware that some parents are affected by ParentPay meal bookings not being visible (although we can see the bookings). There is also an issue with meals being charged. ParentPay are working on a resolution.

View our
Whitchurch
Woodland
Amazon wish
list here

View our
Summer term
menu and
allergens
here

5RC class
assembly
next week

General Notices and Highlights



Instrumental Lessons 2025/26 - Update

Thank you to all families who are still contacting us and requesting to sign up for next year's instrumental lessons. As the school's order has already been submitted to Harrow Music Service and cannot be amended, we now have limited spaces remaining on the instruments listed below. If you are still interested in signing up, please email us at music@whitchurchps.co.uk as soon as possible. Spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

If there is no space available for your chosen instrument, your child's name will be added to a waiting list. Depending on music teacher availability in September, a place may become available.

Cello: 3 spaces for group lessons (from Year 2)
Violin: 2 spaces for group lessons (from Year 2)
Flute: 1 space for group lessons (from Year 3)
Saxophone: 3 spaces for group lessons (from Year 4)
Recorder: 1 space for paired lessons (from Year 3)
Trumpet: 3 spaces for group lessons (from Year 4)
Singing: 1 space for paired lessons (from Year 3)
Guitar: 1 space for group lessons; 1 space for paired lessons (from Year 3)
Piano: 1 space for paired lessons (from Year 2)
Harmonium: 1 space for paired lessons (from Year 3)
Tabla: 1 space for paired lessons (from Year 3)



Year 4 Music Concert: Trumpets and Clarinets

A reminder that Year 4 will be performing for Year 4 parents/carers on **Friday 9th May** as follows:

4XL and 4PC - 9.15am-9.45am

4ND and 4BS - 10.15am-10.45am



Dates for your Diary

Summer 1



Tuesday 6th May	Year 5 (Girls) Discovery Day at Northwood College
Friday 9th May	Year 4 Trumpets/Clarinets (4XL and 4PC at 9.15am; 4ND and 4BS at 10.15am)
Monday 12th May	3SH and 3SM visit to Neasden Hindu Temple 2SA and 2ST visit London Central Mosque / Picnic
Thursday 15th May	FoW Kids' Disco (sessions from 3.15pm to 7pm) 2DN and 2KK visit London Central Mosque / Picnic
Monday 19th May	3LA and 3NL visit to Neasden Hindu Temple
Tuesday 20th May	5SK and 5TG visit to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 21st May	4PC and 4XL visit to London Zoo 6ET and 6HH visit to the Paradox Museum
Thursday 22nd May	Class Photographs 4BS and 4ND visit to London Zoo 6CM and 6HA visit to the Paradox Museum
Friday 23rd May	Class Photographs 5SC and 5RC visit to Kew Gardens

Please note
class swap for
Year 5 visit to
Kew Gardens



Class Assemblies

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

Tues 20th May	RBP
Tues 10th June	RLS
Tues 24th June	RTP
Tues 8th July	RWD

Thurs 8th May	5RC
Thurs 22nd May	5SC

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

Spotlight on Humanities

Year 1
are learning
about The
Olympics



The Olympic Games

In History this term, Year 1 are focusing on the origins of the Olympic Games, key sporting events and famous athletes past and present. We started off learning about Jesse Owens (1913-1980) who was an American track and field athlete who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games. Another athlete we have been learning about is Ellie Simmonds (born in 1994) - a British retired Paralympian swimmer. She came to national attention when she competed in the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing, winning two gold medals for Great Britain. She was the youngest member of the team, at the age of 13.

Year 1 have been thinking about the values and qualities these athletes have and the sheer determination to succeed. All the children were in awe of the athlete's achievements and were motivated towards their own goals like learning to swim, riding a bike or becoming a gymnast!

Mrs Ahmed, Year 1 Leader



Year 1 views

"I want to get better at swimming, I will listen to the swimming teacher." Judith

"I want to become an F1 driver – I will train and read lots of books." Nyle

"I want to get better at hoola hooping, I will get lots of practice." Yusra

"I want to be a marathon runner, I want to go very fast I need to eat lots of healthy food and protein." Abraham

"I want to be a gymnastics teacher, I will have to do a lot of maths and training." Timeea

"I want to be a footballer, I will have to eat healthy food and do lots of training and exercise." Rishil



Spotlight on Humanities

Year 2
are learning
about Climate
and Creatures



Climate and Creatures

This term Year 2 are diving into the fascinating topic of Climate and Creatures. We are investigating the world's different climates - including tropical rainforests, polar regions, deserts, and temperate zones - and discovering how weather and temperature shape the natural world.

Children will be learning to use maps, globes, and atlases to locate continents, oceans, and key countries, developing important geographical skills along the way. We will be exploring how animals adapt to survive in their habitats, looking closely at camouflage, hibernation, migration, and special features like thick fur or water-storing roots.

Throughout the topic, the children will also be building their understanding of seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and around the world. As part of our learning, we are encouraging discussions about how climate change could affect animals and their habitats in the future.

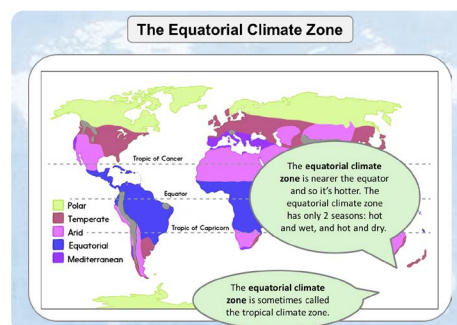
Miss Nickson and Ms Doshi, Year 2 Leaders

Year 2 views

"I am excited to learn about climate change and animals and their habitat." Ruqayyah

"I am looking forward to Geography, because I can't wait to learn new things about climate change." Saman

"I am excited to learn about animals and their habitat." Neeyam



Whitchurch Star Pupils



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

Jaguars Noah and Maryam
Tigers Eesa and Maya
Leopards Charlie
Lions Neeva

1RA Rebeca
1SM Ioshua
1PD Whole Class
1IN Mathias

2ST Aaron
2KK Leya
2DN Benimin
2SA Mario

Respect
 Responsibility
 Resilience
 Honesty
 Generosity
 Aspiration

3NL Thea
3SH Daniel
3LA Advith
3SM Habib

4BS Malak
4XL Azlaan
4PC Jahanzeb
4ND Edward and Nara

All of Year 5 for a great residential visit!
5TG Jay, Lorena and Aaron
5SC Nora

All of Year 6 for an amazing effort in mock SATs!

Attendance Stars

This week's attendance stars are 6CM (100%)

Whole School 95.7%



Did you know?

Regular routines and increased social interaction promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

Support for Families

Road Safety



Safety on the Road

Traffic-related incidents are a major risk for young pedestrians and cyclists - which is why it's so important to equip children with the skills they need to stay safe.

There are many essential, easy-to-teach habits that help children build lifelong road safety awareness and keep young road users visible, vigilant and secure - from spotting quieter electric vehicles to crossing safely at designated points.

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter for practical advice like making 'practise' journeys, wearing reflective clothing and staying focused near roads.



Speech and Language Therapy - Secondary Transition Workshop for Year 6 parents/carers and children

If your child is in Year 6 and receives speech and language therapy, and will be attending a Harrow secondary school in September, you are invited to attend a transition workshop on **Wednesday 28th May** at Alexandra Avenue Health & Social Care Centre (HA2 9DX). If you would be interested in attending this event please call **020 3911 6985** by Friday 9th May to book a place.

Hope Harrow Online Workshops

Parenting for Separated Parents - Tuesdays until 6th May
Setting Limits Defining Boundaries - Monday 12th May

View
leaflets
here

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Have you made mistakes as a parent?

We all have difficult times when we know we are messing up. Sometimes, we get triggered and we forget to see things from our child's perspective. So we lose it, react to their behaviours and can later be left filled with remorse. As this is a particularly busy time of year for many, we can easily feel more stressed, which makes it more difficult to practice patience and calm when faced with challenging behaviours. It is helpful to remind ourselves that most things can be repaired.

Parenting is hard and we are only human - which means that your child doesn't need you to be perfect. In fact, what they need from you is the space to be imperfect too, and to be loved and accepted for who they are. Luckily, we can model how to repair: "I'm so sorry I yelled at you... You don't ever deserve to be yelled at. Let's rewind and try again. Here is what I meant to say..." As long as our ruptures are followed by reconnection and outweighed by positive moments, they become learning opportunities for our children.



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**

A Day in the life

of our Site Manager



As Site Manager my role is to ensure that the fabric of the building is safe for all users and to make sure the building is compliant with health and safety legislation - including gas, fire and electrical safety, security and alarms. Health and safety excites me and I find it rewarding to focus on ways to improve our site.

First thing in the morning I have a coffee before I get started on the day ahead. When I arrive at work at 10am I check my emails to see if there are any issues that require my attention such as cleaning vomit, fixing doors, tables or toilet seats! I will also porter deliveries such as exercise books and furniture around the school.

This morning I have a meeting with a council consultant - we are looking at how to improve our energy efficiency as a school. I also check in with our grounds maintenance and landscaping contractors to ensure that the school remains in good condition. Mid-morning, I help our caretaker to set up the hall for lunchtime. When it comes to lunch, I tend to eat on the go!

This afternoon I have a meeting with a glazing contractor, we are looking at windows around the school that need attention. Later on, I have a meeting with someone who is interested in hiring our facilities, so I show them around the site and discuss their requirements; lettings are important for us as school to generate extra revenue.

At 5.30pm I lock up around the site - checking doors, windows, switching off lights and closing blinds. I then go home for dinner and to catch up with the family. For dinner I enjoy anything hot and spicy - spicy pasta, curry and anything with chilli sauce! I spend time with my 12 year old daughter; we enjoy playing badminton and basketball together. Later on I watch some telly with the 'missus' - she is into 'Married at First Sight Australia' so that's the next hour or so spent. A happy wife means a happy life!

Kevin Pandya, Site Manager



Early Years Reading Corner

Early Years
staff share
their favourite
children's
books!



'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen Mrs Dodia

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' is a fun story about a family that goes on an adventure to find a bear. They go through swishy grass, a deep river, thick mud, a dark forest, and even a snowstorm! When they finally find the bear... they get a big surprise and run all the way back home!



This book is so much fun to read because it has rhythm and repeating words that are easy to join in with. I was taught the story as a child at school then as a teacher and a mother I have read this book over and over again and every time it is just as exciting! The pictures are beautiful, and it makes you feel like you're really on an exciting adventure. Plus, it's a little bit silly and a little bit spooky - just the right mix!

'The Lion Inside' by Rachel Bright and Jim Field Mrs Leigh

'The Lion Inside' is one of my most recommended books for children in Early Years (and beyond). It is a wonderful rhyming story about a little, quiet mouse who wants to find his roar. He visits a confident lion to learn how to be brave, but along the way they both discover that everyone has their own kind of strength - no matter what their size.



It's one of the books that my children ask for, on repeat, before bed. It has lovely illustrations for children to look at and the story is beautifully told. Through the book, we can learn so many important messages: that courage comes in all sizes, everyone has fears, we shouldn't judge by appearances and that we all have something to teach and something to learn.

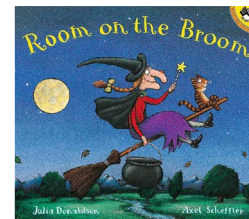
Early Years Reading Corner

Early Years
staff share
their favourite
children's
books!



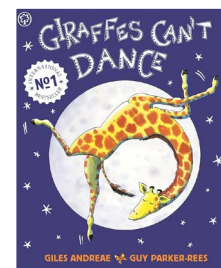
'Room on the Broom' by Julia Donaldson *Mrs Tikam*

'Room on the Broom' is my favourite book because it supports multiple areas of learning in a developmentally appropriate and engaging way. The story is written in rhyming couplets, which helps children develop phonological awareness. The themes of friendship, teamwork and kindness help children understand social values. It also encourages imaginative play and role-play, which are essential for early development.



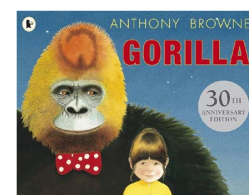
'Gerald Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae *Mrs Patel*

My favourite early years story is 'Gerald Can't Dance'. It teaches children about confidence, individuality and resilience - that it's okay to be different and find your own rhythm which is the beauty of being a child. The colorful artwork really draws children in and supports comprehension. It opens up lovely conversations about emotions, inclusion and trying new things.



'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne *Ms Szabo*

'Gorilla' is one of my favourite children's books - it is a story about a girl called Hannah whose dad doesn't have time to take her to the zoo - but ends up going on adventures with a real gorilla instead! I particularly like the beautiful illustrations and powerful message about the importance of engaging with our children.





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.

Each parent/carer - for each child

Fines
will be
issued
to:

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view, instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

9 REVERSING VEHICLES

Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



The National College®

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.04.2025