

Whitchurch Weekly

20th June
2025
Issue 35



Summer Music Concert

A huge well done to all our pupils for their spectacular performances at this week's Summer Music Concert! A total of 118 children took to the stage with their vocal and instrumental ensembles, representing all instrumental families. After weeks of dedicated rehearsals, their musical progress and hard work truly shone through, and our young musicians impressed us all with their musicality, confidence, and stage presence.

The concert featured several exciting firsts: the Mini Choir (Years 1 and 2) gave a delightful debut performance; the Junior Choir (Years 3 and 4) tackled Grade 3 repertoire; and the Senior Choir (Years 5 and 6) sang in three-part harmony for the first time - a remarkable milestone at their age. The evening ended on a high note with the Orchestra and Rock Band performing together for the first time - a vibrant, collaborative finale that had the whole audience cheering.

As a very special highlight, Ms Inniss joined the orchestra on flute, much to the delight of the children and audience - how exciting! This concert was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the year and a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone involved. Congratulations once again to our fabulous performers, and a heartfelt thank you to our Harrow Music Service teachers for their incredible support and guidance.

Mrs Leutfeld, Director of Music



Enrichment Highlights



More highlights of the Summer Music Concert...



Year 5/6 Athletics Competition at Bannisters

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 Athletics team who took part in the Harrow athletics competition against 20 other schools. Two children came first in the 60m race and another came first in the 400m race. An amazing effort!



Year 6 Tennis at The Elms

Year 6 children took part in a carousel of tennis activities at The Elms tennis centre. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon!

Miss Byrne and Miss Wong



Enrichment Highlights



3NL and 3SM visit to the Verulamium Museum

During our visit to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans, we explored fascinating Roman artefacts and admired beautiful mosaics and remains from the past. A highlight of the visit was the hands-on workshop, where we learned about life in a Roman market. We even got to dress up as Romans, which made the experience even more exciting and memorable!

Miss Shameem, Year 3 class teacher



Enrichment Highlights



2SA and 2DN London Eye River Cruise

Today, children from 2DN and 2SA embarked on an exciting adventure to London. The highlight of the day was a London Eye River Cruise, offering a fantastic opportunity to spot numerous iconic landmarks along the Thames.

The children had a brilliant time from start to finish, beginning their journey with a ride on the London Underground, adding to the authentic city experience. From the river, they marvelled at the impressive architecture of Big Ben, Tower Bridge, The Shard, The Gherkin, and St. Paul's Cathedral. They also caught glimpses of Shakespeare's Globe, the historic Tower of London, the contemporary Tate Modern, and many more of London's famous sights, making for a truly memorable and educational day.

Miss Nickson, Year 2 class teacher



General Notices and Highlights



School Spider Logins

A reminder that your School Spider account now requires you to use your email address to login using your existing password. If you struggle please try the 'forgot password' option and if this does not resolve the issue then please contact the school for support.

Glass Bottles/Containers

For safety, please do not send children to school with any glass bottles or containers.

Staying Safe in Hot Weather

A reminder that the MET Office has issued a Yellow weather warning until Sunday evening. Please refer to the guide attached to this letter (and on our website via the link) for helpful advice on keeping safe in hot weather.

[View guide here](#)

Sports Day (Reception to Year 6)

Sports Day will take place next week on the days and times below. All children should come to school wearing their full P.E. kit and bring their water bottle, wear a sun hat and have sunscreen applied. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reception Sports Day on Monday (9.30am-11am)

Year 1-3 Sports Day on Tuesday (9.30am-11.30am)

Year 4-6 Sports Day on Wednesday (9.30am-12pm)



Class Assemblies

Tuesdays
9.05am-
9.45am

Tues 24th June RTP
Tues 1st July RWD

**RTP class
assembly
next week**

**View our
Summer term
menu and
allergens
here**

Dates for your Diary

Summer 2



Monday 23rd June	Reception Sports Day (9.30am-11am)
Tuesday 24th June	Year 1-3 Sports Day (9.30am-11.30am)
Wednesday 25th June	3SH and 3LA visit to Verulamium Museum AM/PM Nursery visit to Woodside Animal Farm Year 4-6 Sports Day (9.30am-12pm)
Friday 27th June	2KK and 2ST London Eye River Cruise and Picnic
Sunday 29th June	FoW Summer Fair (12pm-4pm)
Monday 30th June	AM Nursery Sports Day (9.30am-11am) PM Nursery Sports Day (1.30pm-3pm) Year 5 Maya Day
Wednesday 2nd July	Transition Day (Children meet their new teacher)
Tuesday 8th July	Year 6 visit to Hollywood Bowl (9am-1.30pm) Parents' Evening (from 3.30pm)
Wednesday 9th July	Year 4 visit to Cineworld Wembley (9.30am-2.30pm) Parents' Evening (from 3.30pm)
Monday 14th July	Reception visit to Hertfordshire Zoo 1RA and 1PD visit to London Aquarium (SeaLife) 6HH and 6ET Production (5.30pm-7pm)
Tuesday 15th July	Year 4 day visit to Woodrow High House 6HA and 6CM Production (5.30pm-7pm)
Friday 18th July	1SM and 1IN visit to London Aquarium (SeaLife)
Monday 21st July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (2pm-3pm) Year 6 Leavers' Party (6pm-8pm)

Playtimes at Whitchurch



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Update

We're thrilled to announce that our **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey officially begins this September!** The **OPAL** programme is designed to transform school playtimes by improving the quality, inclusivity, and variety of play.

Over the Summer and into the new term, we will be transforming our playgrounds into inspiring, inclusive spaces full of exciting opportunities for every child to play, learn, and grow.

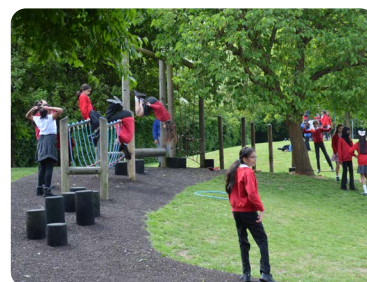
Thank you to all the parents, carers, staff and pupils who have completed the playtime surveys. It is clear from the survey that children enjoy playtime for **socialising, freedom, and physical activity**. It supports their **wellbeing, development**, and provides valuable **fun and relaxation!**

For a detailed summary of these survey findings, please see the June update on our website via the link below.

Miss Ward



View
OPAL June
update
here



Spotlight on Religious Education

Year 2
are learning
about Judaism,
Christianity
and Islam



Comparing Religions

So far this year, Year 2 have been learning about Judaism, Christianity and Islam in RE and visited a synagogue, church and mosque to deepen their understanding of each faith. This half term we have been comparing the similarities and differences of prayer between these religions. We have learnt that there are many similarities such as they all talk to God through prayer or use prayer to say thank you to their God. There are differences in the types of prayer and how often they should pray. We have enjoyed class discussions and sharing our own experiences of prayer and places of worship.

Mrs Bainbridge, Year 2 class teacher

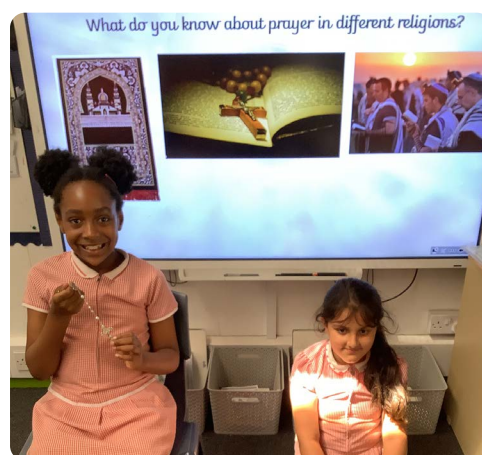
Year 2 views

“Jewish people’s place of worship is a synagogue where they go to learn about the Torah and pray.” Sophia

“On Sundays or Saturday, Christian people go to Church to pray, however they also pray to God before eating and before going to bed.” Georgia

“Christians have to wear clean clothes and go to church to pray, especially during special occasions like Christmas and Easter.” Mario

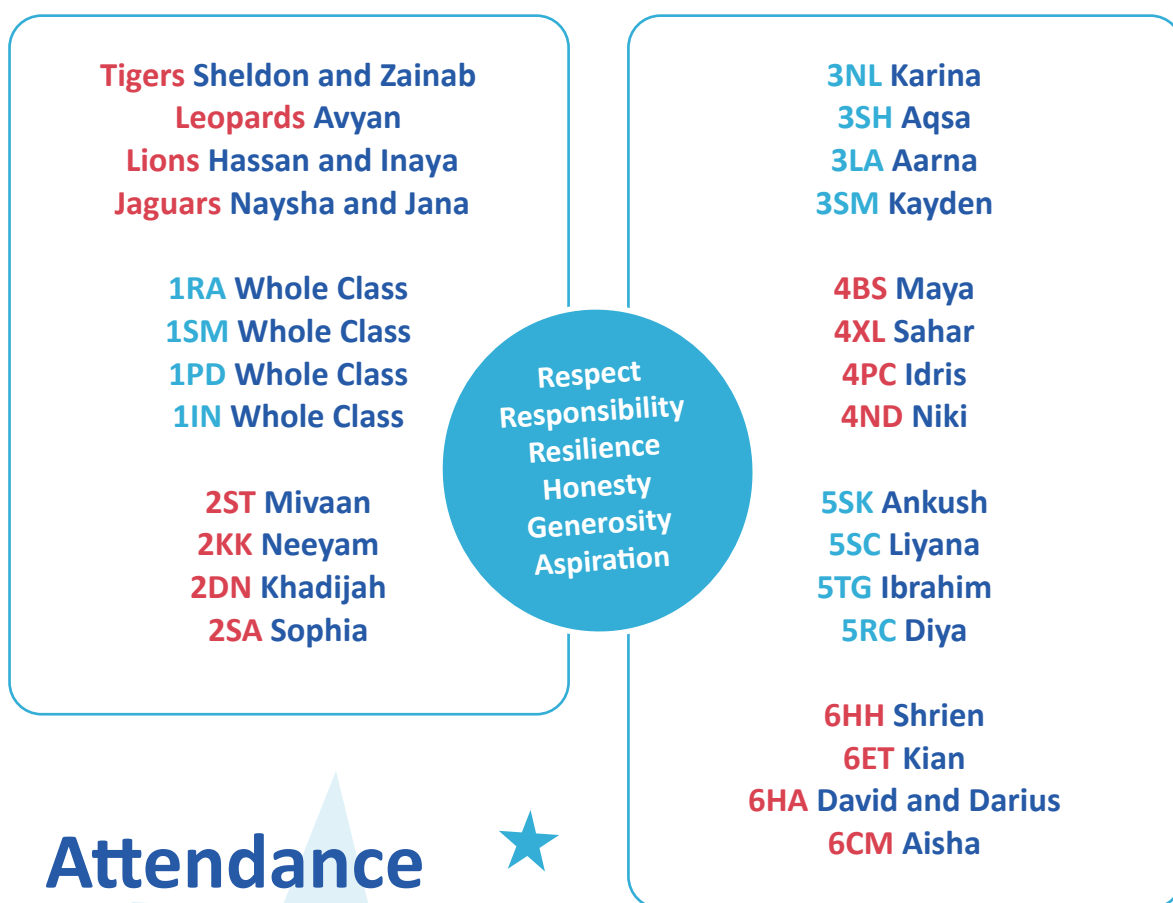
“We learnt in Islam that they pray 5 times a day.” Arya



Whitchurch Star Pupils



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



Attendance Stars



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

Whole School 96.7%

Did You Know?

Good attendance and punctuality can positively impact academic achievement.

Support for Families

Online
Safety



YouTube Kids

YouTube Kids is designed to be the safer cousin of the regular YouTube app; however, built-in risks continue to pose concerns. From targeted advertising to addictive design, there's more going on behind the scenes than many realise.

Whether it's inappropriate content slipping past filters or tech-savvy kids bypassing parental settings, YouTube Kids still needs careful oversight.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for clear, easy-to-follow tips to help adults keep young users protected while still enjoying their favourite videos.



HAF in Harrow

Bookings for the **Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) scheme in Harrow** are now open.

There are thousands of free places for school aged children at participating holiday clubs across the borough. To be eligible, families in receipt of income-related free school meals.

All activities can be booked via the link.



Book
activities
here

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Creating meaningful traditions for your family

Rituals and traditions can help to bring even more joy and connection to your family. It helps to give your child(ren) a feeling of belonging and a sense of security.

The key is to keep things simple, so that you can focus on what really matters. Here are a few ideas to hopefully inspire you to create your own, based on your values:

- Have a special date with each child scheduled regularly in the family diary. Keep a journal with ticket stubs, photos/drawings made together, etc.
- Pick a day every year to take a photo of your child and/or family in the same spot and save them in a photobook.
- Write a letter to your child on every birthday, sharing memories and special events from the previous year and hopes for the next.
- Fill a gratitude jar with notes of things you are thankful for at the end of every day and read them all together on Sunday.
- Have a special way of saying goodbye to each other using a special word or hand signs.



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**

Reading Corner

reading for parents
and carers

Staff share
their favourite
books for parents
and carers to
enjoy



'The Testament' by John Grisham *Mrs Solanki*

My favourite book is 'The Testament' by John Grisham. With my background and previous career in law, I've always been drawn to legal thrillers, and Grisham is a master of the genre. 'The Testament' stands out for its gripping storyline and the way it weaves legal drama with human emotion. I also enjoy many of his other works, such as 'The Firm and The Client' - his entire collection offers something compelling for anyone interested in justice and the law.

'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen *Ms Liu*

'Pride and Prejudice' - which Jane Austen referred to as 'her own darling child' - is one of my favourite novels. It has it all... witty dialogue, engaging characters and exploration of societal norms, particularly the complexities of love and marriage in 19th-century England. The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and her proud beau, Mr Darcy, is splendid as they navigate their initial dislike and eventual love for each other!

'Where's Spot?' by Eric Hill and 'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell *Mrs Chentouf*

Ok so these aren't specifically for adults but I really enjoy sharing lift-the-flap books with my one and a half year-old daughter - they are her absolute favourites! We're currently reading 'Where's Spot?' and 'Dear Zoo' on repeat - she never gets tired of lifting each flap to find what's hiding underneath! It's such a fun and interactive way to build early language skills, and I love seeing how excited she gets when she finds the animals. These books have become a special part of our daily routine.



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.

Fines
will be
issued
for:

5 consecutive days of Term Time Leave

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 YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.



BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.



DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.



SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

Staying Safe in Hot Weather


 


Beat the heat: staying safe in hot weather


Easy Read booklet





About hot weather

 Our weather is getting warmer. In July 2022, temperatures reached 40°C for the first time.

 Hot weather can make people unwell. It can also make an existing health problem worse.

 It also causes:

- heat exhaustion
- heatstroke

 Be prepared. Watch the news and weather forecasts for information.

2

Protect yourself from the sun

 It is important to prevent yourself from getting too hot.

Here are some things you can do:

- stay in the shade between 11am and 3pm
- wear loose clothes, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses
- drink lots of water, and don't drink too much alcohol
- use lots of sunscreen

Check that the bottle says **30+ SPF**. A number bigger than 30 is even better.





How to cool down

 If you get too hot, there are things you can do to cool down:

- move to somewhere cooler
- take off extra clothes, like a jacket or socks
- drink cold drinks or eat ice lollies
- spray your skin with cold water
- put a cold pack under your arms or on the back of your neck
- close any windows or curtains that are facing the sun




4

People at risk

 Some people are more likely to be ill because of hot weather.

People who:


- are over 65 years old
- are 5 years old or younger
- have long-term health conditions
- live alone, are homeless, or need help to look after themselves
- have dementia, mental health problems, drug or alcohol addiction
- are at home during the hottest part of the day






5


Heat exhaustion

 Heat exhaustion is when the body overheats. It is not usually an emergency.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion


- feeling tired, weak or faint
- headache
- muscle cramps
- feeling or being sick
- heavy sweating
- intense thirst

 **Cool down as soon as you can.** Follow the tips on page 4.

 If the person does not cool down, heat exhaustion can turn into heatstroke.


6

Heatstroke


 Heatstroke happens when the body cannot cool down. It can be very dangerous.

Symptoms of heatstroke

- confusion
- lack of coordination, for example, finding it hard to walk or pick things up
- fast heartbeat or breathing
- hot skin, but no sweat
- seizures

 **This is an emergency!**

Call 999! Then, try to cool the person down.



Stay safe when swimming


 Swimming in the sea, rivers or lakes can seem like a good way to stay cool. It can also be dangerous!

- look for warning signs, and only swim where there are lifeguards
- don't swim away from the beach
- never swim after drinking alcohol
- get out as soon as you feel cold - open water can give you cold water shock
- wear a life jacket if you are boating or fishing
- always swim with another person so you can help each other





Help and advice

 **Links to health information**



- [Beat the heat](#)
- [Heat exhaustion and heat stroke](#)
- [Sunscreen and sun safety](#)
- [Keeping your baby safe in the sun](#)

Links to more information and support

Mental health: [Every Mind Matters](#)

If you are worried about a friend, neighbour or family member: [contact your local council](#)

Safe swimming: [Royal Life Saving Society](#)

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