

Whitchurch Weekly

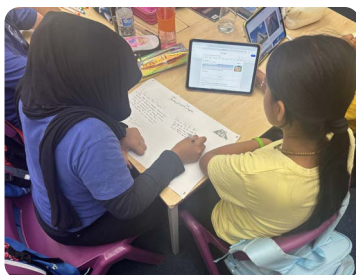
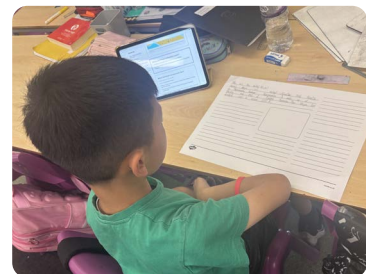
4th July
2025
Issue 37



Year 5 Maya Day

Year 5 participated in a fun and fabulous Maya themed day, featuring a carousel of activities related to our History topic all about Ancient Maya. These included still life drawing of the ancient Maya artefacts including terra cotta plates using pencil and charcoal, researching interesting facts about the Maya civilisation, amazing Aztec inspired painting and making delicious Maya honey corn bites. The day was a brilliant way to connect creativity with ancient culture whilst deepening our understanding of Mayan civilisation.

Mrs Khan, Year 5 leader



Enrichment Highlights



Year 3 Recorders Concert

This week, all Year 3 pupils put together a fantastic end of term recorder concert - a valuable performing opportunity and an exciting first experience for many. The concert served as a great introduction to music reading, ensemble playing, and transferable instrumental skills. Looking ahead, all Year 4 pupils will take part in the Bb Programme, where they will learn to play clarinets and trumpets.

A heartfelt thank you to our HMS teacher, Miss Simon, for her excellent work in preparing the children for this performance.



Mini Choir Performance

There was a special treat in store today for our Year 1, 2, and 3 pupils, as the school's Mini Choir performed beautifully in front of their classmates at our singing assembly! Well done to all our young performers and a big thank you to our fantastic singing teacher, Miss Birch, who leads the choir.

Mrs Leutfeld
Director of Music



Friends of Whitchurch

We raised
£4542
with your
support!



FoW Summer Fair - Thanks Yous

Our Summer Fair on Sunday afternoon was a huge success and lots of fun. Special thanks to everyone who was involved, including...



- Our lovely community for coming to our event, supporting us in raising funds for the children and helping us through another successful event.
- Our sponsors and raffle prize donators. Prizes were absolutely amazing and made people very happy - including EuroKen and Raj (Reeves Accountancy) to mention a few.
- All community volunteers for their dedicated time and support - with thanks to Deepti (Funky Faces), Ali (Mummy's Market) and many more. You did an incredible job.
- Community vendors, for giving to our school and allowing everyone to experience a variety of businesses.
- Family and friends of our extended community, who jumped on stalls willingly where we needed help - it shows what a fabulous community we have.
- Staff members who managed and supported our stalls on the day, as well as staff who helped us to ensure that the day ran smoothly. The children loved seeing their teachers out of their classrooms.



Team FoW

General Notices and Highlights



Parents' Evening

A reminder that parents' evening will take place next week (Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th July). Please ensure that you choose your time slot this weekend via the School Spider message. You will then receive confirmation of your time early next week.



Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday 8th July and Wednesday 9th July (during Parents' Evening). Please come along to buy some books!



View
flyer
here

Reading Competition

Thank you to all the children who entered our book competition to celebrate the books we have been reading this term. Winners from each phase will be announced on Monday - each will receive vouchers to spend at the Book Fair next week.

Rescheduled Sports Day

Sports Day has been rescheduled to take place as follows:

Nursery PM Sports Day – Tuesday 8th July (1.30pm-3pm)

Year 1 to 3 Sports Day – Tuesday 15th July (9.30am-11.30am)



Car Parking - Disabled Bays

A reminder that parents/carers should **not** be parking in disabled bays in the car park without a permit.

Class Teacher Allocations for September

Following Transition Day on Wednesday, children have now met their new class teachers for September. Please see **page 11** for details.

Nursery and Reception Places

We have a limited number of spaces left for our Nursery and Reception September intake. If you know someone who would like to join our school, please advise them apply for a place through Harrow Council.

View our
Summer term
menu and
allergens
here

View our
Whitchurch
Woodland
Amazon wish
list here

General Notices and Highlights



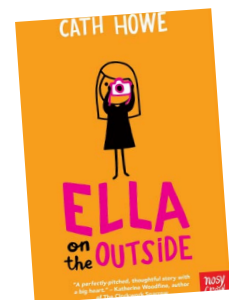
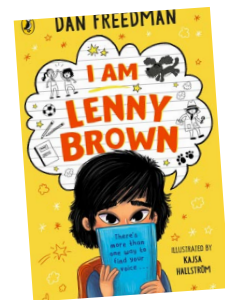
Whitchurch Recommended Reading List

At Whitchurch, we are committed to nurturing a love of reading. From September, each year group will have a Whitchurch Recommended Reading List which consists of a selection of high-quality books that children can enjoy in class, take home and celebrate reading through fun activities and certificates.

To help bring this to life, we have created Amazon Wish Lists for each year group (from Early Years through to Year 6). If you are able to support, we would be incredibly grateful for any book donations, either via the links below or by purchasing the same titles from elsewhere.

Books purchased elsewhere can be dropped off at the school office or brought into school with your child.

We are already so grateful for the generous donations we have received! Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Your support is helping us create fantastic reading spaces and inspire a lifelong love of reading across Whitchurch.



Early
Years

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Dates for your Diary

Summer 2



Tuesday 8th July

Year 6 visit to Hollywood Bowl (9am-1.30pm)
PM Nursery Sports Day (1.30pm-3pm)
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
Year 1-3 Sports Day (9.30am-11.30am)
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)



Spotlight on Computing

Year 4
are exploring
our brand new
Chromebooks



Chromebooks

Year 4 have been using our new Chromebooks to support and enhance learning across the curriculum. We have used Chromebooks to complete our Multiplication Tables Check and to gain access to digital resources on Google Classroom. We have also used them to research on Google and have enjoyed working collaboratively on projects.

Miss Liu, Year 4 class teacher



Year 4 views

“I really like using the Chromebooks because they are very useful. They help us to do things faster and we use a lot of resources to help us with our learning.” Riya

“It is fun to use because you can work in groups to create a poster, story or even a factfile.” Riyaan

“My favourite thing about the Chromebooks is that you don’t need to waste paper on the maths worksheets and English resources. They have helped me to learn new facts every day on Google Classroom.” Aanya

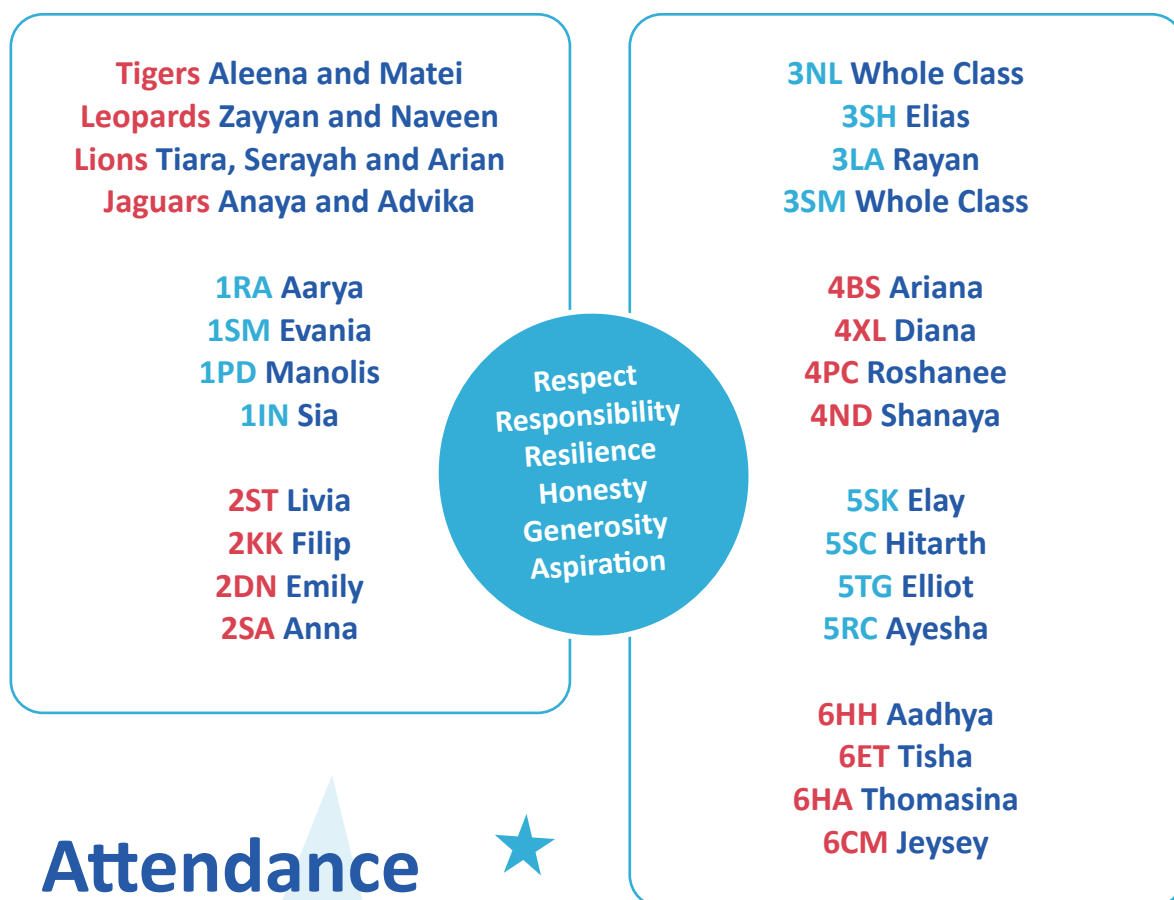
“Since we started using Chromebooks life is so much easier. We have all the resources on Google Classroom.” Diana



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
5TG (99.6%)

Whole
School
93.1%

Did You Know?

15 minutes late each day
equals two full weeks of
school missed every year!

Support for Families

Online
Safety



Apple iPads

iPads are a familiar fixture in many households and classrooms, offering access to educational tools, entertainment, and the internet in one sleek package; however, with great versatility comes notable risk. From accidental spending and data privacy breaches to excessive screen time, there's plenty for parents and educators to consider before handing over the device. Whilst Apple offers built-in safeguards such as 'Screen Time' and 'Family Sharing', these features must be correctly set up and actively managed to be effective.

Please refer to the poster attached to this newsletter for practical advice on how to help keep young users safe and healthy online.



HAF in Harrow

Book
activities
here

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.

Free Community Fun Day at The Hive - This Sunday (6th July)

Family fun! Meet the champions, giant inflatables, football tournament and open training, face painting, player treasure hunt, meet Mr Bumble, stadium tours and live music.
Live football London Bees v Wycombe at 2pm

Find out
more here

Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Is your child behaving younger than usual?

When children feel worried or stressed, they can often behave in ways they used to when they were younger. This can be quite common in stressful times. You may have noticed that they are having trouble sleeping or focusing. Perhaps they have become more clingy to you and need more reassurance than usual. Or your child may burst into tears or fits of anger more easily. So, even if they may not be telling you directly that they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed, their behaviour is their way of letting you know. They are feeling big feelings and are finding it more difficult to cope than usual.

The most important way to help a child feel less stressed is to reassure them both emotionally and physically. First, you may want to ask less of them and take away any extra pressures. When they are having their big feeling, bursting into tears or getting angry, it is helpful to empathise with how challenging things are for them and then help them with what they are finding difficult to do: "Oh, everything just seems like too much at the moment... You are having such a hard time. Don't worry, I am right here to help you..."

You can also make sure to keep 'filling their buckets' by giving them lots of snuggles, playing and creating things together, spending some time outside if you can and moving and dancing together. If you can, it is also good to have regular time listening to each child's worries. This change in behaviour can feel difficult for parents, so take a deep breath and try to remember this is their way of saying: "I need your help."

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**

2025-2026

Class Allocations



Current Class	New Class	Class Teacher
N/A	Nursery	Ms P Szabo
	RLW Jaguars	Miss N Ward / Mrs P Leigh
	RTP Tigers	Mrs T Patel
	RJP Lions	Miss J Patel
	RDW Leopards	Mrs R Dodia / Mrs J Whittingham
RNW Leopards	1TG	Miss T Goldsmith
RLS Lions	1RA	Mrs R Ahmed
RBP Jaguars	1RS	Miss R Syed
RTP Tigers	1KB	Mrs K Bainbridge
1IN	2DN	Ms T Doshi / Ms M Nickson
1SM	2KK	Miss K Karia
1PD	2JJ	Mrs J Jain
1RA	2NT	Ms A Nicholas / Mrs S Tezel*
2DN	3MD	Miss M Daniel
2ST	3MS	Miss M Shameem
2KK	3SA	Mrs S Akhund
2SA	3NN	Miss N Nami
3LA	4HH	Miss H Hogberg
3SM	4XL	Miss X Liu
3NL	4AK	Miss L Aid / Ms S Khan
3SH	4RS	Miss R Samji
4BS	5NL	Miss N Lakhani
4XL	5PS	Mrs P Shah
4ND	5RP	Mrs R Price
4PC	5RC	Miss R Chauhan-D'Souza
5RC	6BS	Mrs B Solanki
5SK	6CM	Mrs C Marin
5TG	6ET	Miss E Thomas
5SC	6ND	Mrs N Darr

* on maternity leave during Autumn term

Reading Corner

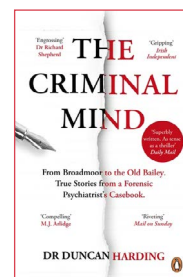
reading for parents
and carers

Mrs Tucker
shares more
of her favourite
books for parents
and carers to
enjoy



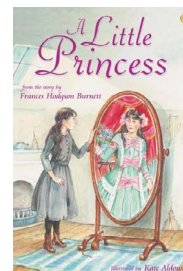
'The Criminal Mind' by Dr Duncan Harding

Dr Harding is a consultant forensic psychiatrist who specialises in adolescents and adults who commit serious crimes. He is a specialist member of the Parole Board in England and Wales. Duncan interweaves his own life with his professional experiences interviewing those who have committed serious crimes, and his courtroom experiences once he has made the decision to become an expert witness. He brings to life the young people he has tried to help, both as villains and victims. Dr Harding takes us through the full range of emotions and his writing style makes you feel that you are always in the room with him.



'A Little Princess' by Frances Hodgson Burnett

This book made a huge impression on me when I first read it as a young teenager. The author is so descriptive that I could actually envisage certain scenes. A young girl named Sara is sent from India to boarding school in England by her loving father. He spares no expense making sure his daughter wants for nothing. Despite this Sara is not spoilt but rather she is a kind, loving and generous girl with a vivid imagination. Sara has to depend heavily on her imagination to get her through some really tough times. The head of the school (who never liked Sara) puts her to work in the school doing all the most menial jobs and also moves her out of her comfortable room into a cold, bare attic. Sara never loses her strength of character and spirit despite her very changed circumstances. However, like all the best stories, fate intervenes. All I'll say is things start to change when a kindly gentleman moves in next door to the school. I'm not going to spoil the story for you but magical things start to happen and we see just how resilience, kindness and strength can carry you through the hardest of times.





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 APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



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