

Whitchurch Weekly

12th Sept
2025
Issue 2



Follow us on Instagram!

@WhitchurchPS

Farewell to
Mrs Supeda, our
School Business Manager
(SBM), who has been at
Whitchurch since 2017.
We wish her well for the
future. Our new SBM
is Mrs Vekaria.



Spotlight on Reception



Reception children are settling into school!

We are so pleased with how well the Reception children have started their school journey. In these first few weeks, they have been learning routines, making new friends and exploring their classroom and outdoor spaces through play-based learning. They have also drawn brilliant self-portraits and have practised writing their names. It has been lovely to see them developing early skills in communication, counting, mark-making and listening - all whilst having fun and settling into school life.

Mrs Patel, Reception leader



What Reception children have to say...

"I like the tiger dinosaurs." Aaryan

"I like painting." Nouriya

"I like when Miss Patel shakes the tambourine and plays the train tracks." Ariyan

"I like when I eat. I like to play with babies." Jessica

"I like playing with the magnet tiles." Josh

"I like the puzzles." Niya

"I like doing painting." Aarya

"I like ABCs." Junior



The Whitchurch Woodland



Year 3 Forest School sessions

Year 3 had a brilliant first Forest School session this week in the Whitchurch Woodland! We began by learning the rules of Forest School and how they link to our school values. We then moved on to our first activity: identifying common UK trees and their leaves - such as oak, holly, and horse chestnut - using identification guides. The highlight was the Hapa Zone - a fun art activity where we used real leaves, petals and hammers to create beautiful natural prints on fabric. Each class now has their own unique piece of art to display! We finished with a group reflection, sharing favourite moments and look forward to more nature adventures next week.

Mr Coutinho, Forest School Leader



General Notices and Highlights



Meet the Teacher Sessions

Thank you to everyone who attended our meet the teacher sessions this week - you can view these presentations on year group pages of our website.

Topic Maps

Remember to view topic maps on the year group pages of our website.

View
presentations
and topic
maps here



Car Parking Safety Reminder

Please ensure that you are parking safely and considerately in and around the school. We have had more reports of dangerous parking on Marsh Lane. The road next to the Scout Hut should not be parked on or blocked - this acts as an emergency access road for Avanti School.



We advise parents and carers to park carefully on one of the neighbouring roads and walk the remainder of the journey to/from school at the start and end of the school day.

Music Ensembles Schedule

Tuesday Percussion Ensemble: 12.20pm-12.50pm;
Wind Band: 3.30pm-4.15pm

Wednesday Guitar Ensemble: 8.50am-9.35am;
Orchestra 1.10pm-1.55pm; Rock Band: 3.30pm-4.30pm

Friday Mini Choir (Years 1-2): 10.30am-11am;
Junior Choir (Years 3-4): 12pm-12.30pm;
Senior Choir (Years 5-6): 3.30pm-4.30pm



See
page 6 for
a list of class
assembly
dates

2026/27 School Admissions



Important School Admissions Information

Children who are due to start in primary / secondary school in September 2026.



PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 AND 31 AUGUST 2022	SECONDARY SCHOOL CHILDREN BORN BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2014 AND 31 AUGUST 2015
<p>You need to apply for a reception place. Please apply online at: www.eadmissions.org.uk</p> <p>Closing date for applications is 15 January 2026</p>	<p>You need to apply to transfer to secondary school. Please apply online at: www.eadmissions.org.uk</p> <p>Closing date for applications is 31 October 2025</p> <p><i>We strongly recommend that you submit your secondary application by Friday 24 October 2025, as this is the Friday before the half term holiday.</i></p>
<p>Applying online is easy and you get an instant acknowledgement that your application has been received. You will also receive an email with the outcome of your application on offer day.</p> <p>For details go to www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions</p> <p>For help and advice on how to complete your application please email schooladmissions@harrow.gov.uk</p>	

For more information including a list of Secondary School open evenings please see the Admissions page of our website.

View
Admissions
here

Dates for your Diary

Autumn
1st



Monday 22nd September

Year 1 and 2 Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers
(9am-9.30am)

Monday 29th September

Year 5 visit to Buckingham Palace

Tuesday 30th September

Year 6 visit to Imperial War Museum (2 classes)

Thursday 2nd October

Year 6 visit to Imperial War Museum (2 classes)

Friday 3rd October

Staff Training Day

Monday 6th October

Early Years Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers
(9am-9.30am)

Wed 8th & Thurs 9th October

Individual Photos

Friday 10th October

National Poetry Day (Poet Visit)

Tuesday 14th October

Parents' Evening (3.30pm-6.10pm)

Thursday 16th October

Flu Immunisation

Parents' Evening (3.30pm-6.10pm)

Monday 20th October

Year 6 Holocaust Visitor

Class Assemblies 2025-26

Tues 7th Oct	3MS
Tues 14th Oct	2DN
Tues 25th Nov	3SA
Tues 2nd Dec	2NT
Tues 20th Jan	1TG
Tues 3rd Feb	3MD
Tues 3rd Mar	2KK
Tues 17th Mar	1RA
Tues 28th Apr	3NN
Tues 5th May	2JJ
Tues 19th May	1KB
Tues 16th June	1RS

Tuesdays
9.05am to
9.45am

Thurs 9th Oct	4HH
Thurs 23rd Oct	5NL
Thurs 13th Nov	6BS
Thurs 27th Nov	4XL
Thurs 11th Dec	5RP
Thurs 15th Jan	6CM
Thurs 29th Jan	5RC
Thurs 12th Feb	6ET
Thurs 19th Mar	4AK
Thurs 26th Mar	6ND
Thurs 23rd Apr	5PS
Thurs 7th May	4RS

Thursdays
9.05am to
9.45am

Whitchurch Reading Project



Whitchurch Recommended Reading Lists

At Whitchurch, we are committed to nurturing a love of reading. All year groups have a Recommended Reading List which consists of a selection of high-quality books that children can enjoy in class and take home to read.

We are still collecting book donations to help us stock each classroom with high-quality texts as part of our new reading initiative launching in Autumn 2. If you are able to support, please consider purchasing a book from your child's year group via the Amazon Wish Lists below.

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 2

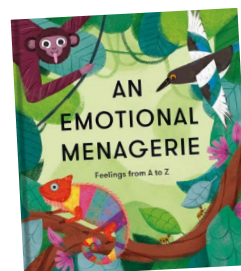
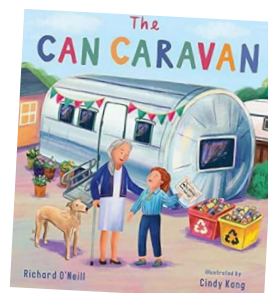
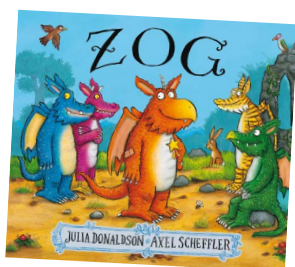
Year 4

Year 6

Year 1

Year 3

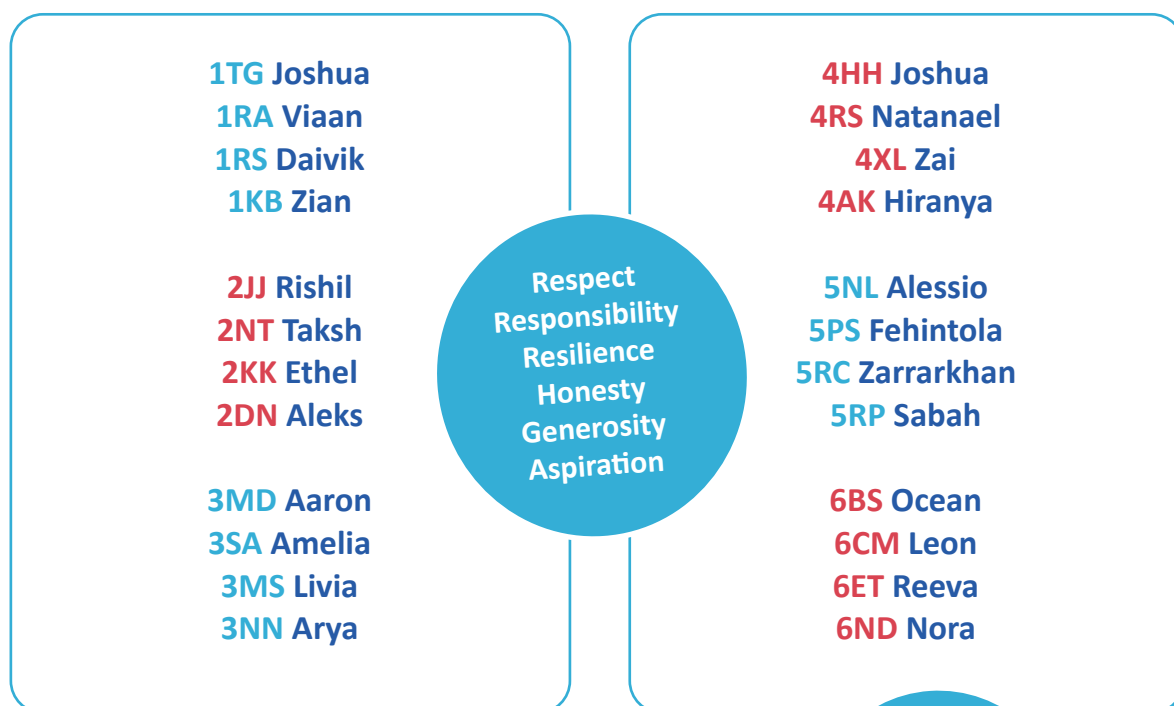
Year 5



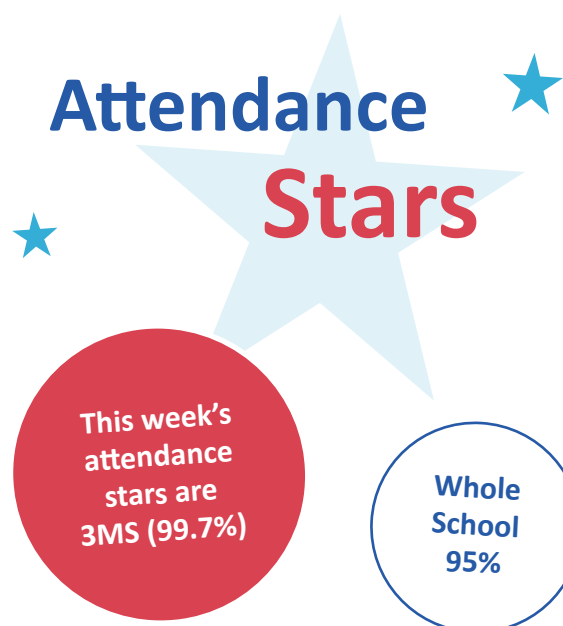
Whitchurch Star Pupils



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



Attendance Stars



This half term our focus value is: Responsibility

Did You Know?

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

Support for Families

Safeguarding



Conspiracy Theories

The latest update to 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' includes clarification that misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories are recognised safeguarding harms. Although they might seem far-fetched, for many people they are very convincing - especially when presented by persuasive influencers or sensationalist videos online.

Please refer to the guide attached to this newsletter, which unpacks the risks - including isolation, anxiety, and exposure to extremist content - that can arise when conspiracies go unchecked.

With practical advice for nurturing curiosity, encouraging scepticism and safeguarding children's digital experiences, this guide helps adults to tackle tricky topics in a calm and confident manner.



#WakeUpWednesday



THE FAMILY
LEARNING HUB
GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER

Online Nurturing Parenting Programme (10 weeks from Tuesday 23rd September, 9.45am-12.15pm)

Join in weekly online interactive sessions with expert parent coaches, enabling parents and carers to boost children's self-esteem, foster independence and build responsibility. Learn techniques for positive discipline, stress management and creating a harmonious and supportive home environment.

Please visit The Family Learning Hub website for more information and to book your place.

Register
here



Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Schools Counselling Partnership: a space to talk

As we welcome a new school year it's good to have a little reminder; many of you will already know about Schools Counselling Partnership and the services they offer to our school. Tom is the Therapeutic Lead and he is here to support you, your child and also our staff:

Children

The Space

Every Wednesday, Tom offers a drop-in for children who want to talk about any feelings or worries they may be struggling with. This is a safe, confidential space where children can feel listened to in order to feel better or to better understand their emotions. **If you would NOT like your child to make use of this service, please notify the school as soon as possible.**

1:1 counselling

We have one other Therapist who works with specific children who may benefit from more regular support, using therapeutic play and the creative arts.

Parents/Carers

Every Wednesday at 9-10am, Tom holds a safe and confidential space to meet with parents/carers who would like some support. He is here to help you to either think through some of your concerns with one of your children, or to support you with a personal struggle, such as grief or loss, for example.

If you would like to make an appointment you can call/text Tom on **07799028461** or email him at **tom@schoolsounsellingpartnership.co.uk**

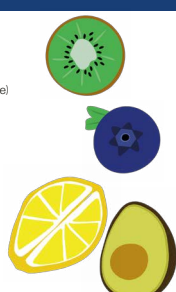





Autumn Lunch Menu



Allergens
are listed on
our website
(click here)



Salad bar
and bread
available
daily

WEEK ONE 1/9, 22/9, 13/10, 10/11, 1/12		WEEK TWO 8/9, 29/9, 20/10, 17/11, 8/12		WEEK THREE 15/9, 6/10, 3/11, 24/11, 15/12	
MONDAY MAINS	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 Fruity Flapjack (Ve)		Chicken Burger, with Jacket Wedges & Corn on the Cob Vegetable Burger, with Jacket Wedges & Corn on the Cob (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Cornflake Cake (Ve) (V)		Cajun Chicken 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 Apple & Raspberry Crumble with Custard (V)
DESSERT					
TUESDAY MAINS	Turkey Tikka Curry, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Sweet Potato, Chickpea & Tofu Curry, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Tropical Fruit Salad (Ve)		Tuna Pasta Bake, with Garlic Bread & Broccoli Macaroni & Cheese, with Garlic Bread & Broccoli (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Tropical Fruit Salad (Ve) (V)		Mild Lamb Chilli, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Vegan Mince Chilli, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Tropical Fruit Salad (Ve)
DESSERT					
WEDNESDAY MAINS	Lamb 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 Strawberry Jelly (Ve)		Chicken Sausage & Mash, with Gravy, Peas & Carrots Vegan Sausage & Mash, with Gravy, Peas & Carrots (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Raspberry Mousse (V)		Roast Chicken with Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower Lentil Hot Pot, with Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower (V) (Ve) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Orange Mandarin Jelly (Ve)
DESSERT					
THURSDAY MAINS	Chicken Shawarma Wraps, with Cous Cous & Sweetcorn Falafel Wraps, with Cous Cous & Sweetcorn (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Apple Sponge Cake (V)		Peri Peri Chicken, with Rainbow Rice & Green Beans Peri Peri Quorn, with Rainbow Rice & Green Beans (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Pineapple Sponge (V)		Turkey Biryani, with Naan Bread & Broccoli Quorn Biryani, with Naan Bread & Broccoli (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Vanilla Sponge (V)
DESSERT					
FRIDAY MAINS	Fish Fingers, with 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 Ice Cream (V)		Whitchurch Brunch Lunch, Chicken Sausage, Hash Brown, Omelette, Baked Beans & Tomato Vegetarian Brunch Lunch, Vegan Sausage, Omelette, Hash Brown, Baked Beans & Tomato (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Vanilla Ice Cream (V)		Battered Fish, with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Vegetable Nuggets, with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas (V) (Ve) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Chocolate Ice Cream (V)
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





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 CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College®

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

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