

Whitchurch Weekly

26th Sept
2025
Issue 4



The Whitchurch Woodland

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Instagram:
WhitchurchPS



Year 3 took part in a buzzing Forest School session this week, learning all about bees and why they are so important to our environment. We explored how bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers, helping to pollinate plants and support biodiversity. We then used our creativity and natural materials to make their own 3D bumble bees using pine cones, leaves, wool, and sticks. This hands-on activity encouraged imaginative play, artistic expression, and a deeper appreciation for nature's tiny pollinators.

Mr Coutinho, Forest School Leader



Spotlight on Year 2

Year 2 are
learning how
to partition
numbers in
maths



Maths

In Year 2 we have learned how to partition numbers in different ways. We practised splitting numbers into tens and ones (e.g. $47 = 40 + 7$) and also explored how numbers can be broken apart in more than one way (e.g. $47 = 30 + 17$). We used resources like base ten, place value charts, and part-whole models to help us see how numbers are made up. Partitioning helped us to understand place value, compare numbers, and get ready for addition and subtraction. We also learned to explain our thinking using mathematical language and worked on solving problems by showing numbers in different ways. This made us more confident in recognising the value of each digit and in working with two-digit numbers.

Ms Doshi, Year 2 leader

What Year 2 children have to say...

“Partitioning helps me see how numbers are made.” Zayden

“I like breaking numbers into tens and ones - it makes maths easier.” River

“Using Dienes helps me picture the number.” Lois

“Partitioning makes adding and subtracting quicker.” Rhea

“I feel clever when I can show two or three ways to make the same number.” Kiera

“The part-whole model shows me how numbers fit together.” Aleks



General Notices and Highlights



Staff Training Day - next Friday

A reminder that **Friday 3rd October** is a staff training day - the school will be closed to children.

RWI Phonics Workshop - Presentation

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended our phonics workshop on Monday. You can view the introduction to Read Write Inc. presentation on the English and Phonics page of our website.

[View here](#)

Special Lunch Menu - next Thursday

We shall be having a special pizza lunch menu on **Thursday 2nd October**. Please see **page 6** for details.

Whitchurch Open Days - prospective Reception families

We shall be holding Open Days for prospective Reception families at the dates and times below. If you know someone who is looking for a Reception place for their child please let them know to book a place via the Admissions page of our website.



Tuesday 21st October at 9.15am (currently full)

Tuesday 18th November at 9.15am

Tuesday 18th November at 1.45pm

[Open Days
Booking
form here](#)

Secondary School Open Days - Year 5/6 families

A reminder that Harrow mainstream secondary schools are holding Open Days. Please refer to the link for a list of schools and dates.

[View
Secondary
Open Days
here](#)

Flu Immunisation

Flu immunisation will take place in school on **Thursday 16th October**. Please see the link for more information about the flu vaccine.

[Find out
more here](#)

Harrow Vaccination Catch-up Clinics

If your child has missed their vaccinations at school, catch-up clinics are available at locations in Harrow. Please see the link for details.

[View list
of catch-up
clinics here](#)

Dates for your Diary

Autumn
1st



Monday 29th September	Year 5 visit to Buckingham Palace
Tuesday 30th September	6ND and 6ET visit to Imperial War Museum
Thursday 2nd October	6BS and 6CM visit to Imperial War Museum
Friday 3rd October	Staff Training Day
Monday 6th October	Early Years Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers (9am-9.30am)
Wednesday 8th October	3MS and 3MD visit St James's Park
Wed 8th & Thurs 9th October	Individual Photos
Friday 10th October	National Poetry Day (Poet Visit)
Tuesday 14th October	Parents' Evening (3.30pm-6.10pm)
Wednesday 15th October	3SA and 3NN visit St James's Park
	4AK and 4HH visit to the Foundling Museum
Thursday 16th October	Flu Immunisation
	Parents' Evening (3.30pm-6.10pm)
Monday 20th October	Year 6 Holocaust Visitor
Wednesday 22nd October	4RS and 4XL visit to the Foundling Museum

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 Star Pupils



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

1TG Charlie
1RA Mishv
1RS Shriyan
1KB Sheldon

2JJ Ryan
2NT Aarya
2KK Iosua
2DN Siya

3MD George
3SA Dorothey
3MS Elyas
3NN Amos

4HH Ariana
4RS Isla
4XL Grace
4AK Joel

5NL Kiame
5PS Ionut
5RC Niam S
5RP Mathias

6BS Areeb
6CM Rihanna
6ET Nicole
6ND Paolo

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience
Honesty
Generosity
Aspiration

This half term our focus value is: Responsibility

Attendance Stars

This week's attendance stars are
1KB (99.3%)

Whole School
95.3%

Did you know?

Good attendance and punctuality can positively impact academic achievement.

Special Menu

Thursday 2nd October



Allergens
are listed on
our website
(click here)

Salad bar
and bread
available

Pizza Day

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER



SPECIAL MENU

1

Cajun Chicken Pizza
with Diced Potatoes & Peas

2

Margherita Pizza
with Diced Potatoes & Peas (V)

3

Jacket Potato with Cheese,
Baked Beans (Ve) or
Tuna Mayo with Side Salad



DESSERT

Vanilla Ice Cream (V)



Whitchurch Values



At Whitchurch, our values guide the way
children learn, play and grow:



Respect

Kindness and care



Responsibility

Pride in actions



Resilience

Determination to keep going



Honesty

Building trust through truth



Generosity

Encouragement and support



Aspiration

Aiming high and achieving goals



These values
are lived daily
in classrooms,
playgrounds and
across our school
community.



Support for Families

Safeguarding



Youth Violence

Youth violence impacts 1 in 4 children and young people in the UK, yet many parents and educators feel unsure how to respond.

Please refer to the guide attached to this newsletter, which breaks down the causes, risks and warning signs of violent behaviour in young people, helping adults feel more confident in supporting those at risk.

Drawing on expert insights from the Ben Kinsella Trust, it explores why some young people may carry weapons, how violence is influenced by online content, and what time and locations pose the greatest risk. It also highlights the importance of early intervention, emotional support, and honest conversations.



Imogen - Education Mental Health Practitioner

“Hi! My name is Imogen, and I am an Education Mental Health Practitioner working for the Harrow Mental Health Support Team (MHST). My role consists of supporting schools across Harrow by helping students manage emotional wellbeing, offering early intervention support, and working collaboratively with school staff and families to promote positive mental health. I look forward to start working and providing support for Whitchurch every Friday!”

View more info here



Support for Families



Schools
Counselling
Partnership



Developing Friendship Skills

School is the place where children learn to navigate the world of friendships. At this age, alliances often shift and change. Learning to make friends and get along with peers can cause some distress to most children.

It is important to listen to your child's experiences with peer challenges. Instead of telling them what to do, help them problem solve, and also to clarify and understand their feelings. It is always best to stay away from taking sides with either child - offer empathy for all of your child's feelings, and also reflect together on how their peer might be feeling. Coach your child to stand up for themselves using their words and help them learn to express their needs rather than attacking their friend. It is helpful to practise this together!

"A friend is someone who gives you total freedom to be yourself."

Jim Morrison



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**



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.

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 about admissions, including a list of Secondary School open days, please see the Admissions page of our website.

View
Admissions
here

www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk

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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity
Community
Wellbeing
Respect
UNCERTAINTY
CONFLICT
FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College®

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

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