

# Whitchurch Weekly

3rd Oct  
2025  
Issue 5



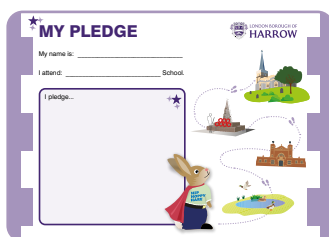
## TfL Travel for Life - Gold Award & School Walking Challenge

We are pleased to announce that we have been accredited the Gold Award for our commitment to healthier and greener to travel to school.

*'We sincerely thank you for your commitment to reducing car use, improving road safety, and encouraging walking and cycling across Harrow. Your efforts have made a meaningful impact, helping to clean our borough's air, make our streets safer, and inspire the next generation of green leaders.'* *Transport for London*

We are also excited to launch the year-round School Walking Challenge this month, with two fun competitions throughout the year. We shall be launching this in assemblies next week. Pupils will be encouraged to walk to school daily, whether the full journey or part of it. Progress will be tracked using wall charts and winners will be celebrated in assemblies.

Thank you for your continued support!  
*Miss Wong*



# Enrichment Highlights

Follow us on  
Instagram:  
WhitchurchPS



## Year 5 visit to Buckingham Palace

Year 5 had a fantastic opportunity to visit Buckingham Palace as part of our English learning. The highlight of the trip was a guided tour of the State Rooms, where we were amazed by the sparkling chandeliers, ornate furniture and the history behind each room, especially the White Drawing Room. We also enjoyed exploring the Picture Gallery, filled with portraits of past monarchs and famous works of art. On the way to the Palace, we walked through St James's Park and were delighted to spot pelicans, swans and other birds by the lake.

**Miss Chauhan-D'Souza**



## Year 6 visit to the Imperial War Museum

Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum to learn more about World War Two. We explored different exhibits that showed how the war affected people's lives, from the Blitz to life on the home front. We saw real artefacts, listened to personal stories, and discovered how soldiers and civilians experienced the war. The trip helped us understand the challenges, bravery and sacrifices of the time, and gave us a deeper appreciation of history beyond what we have studied in class.

**Miss Thomas**



# Music News



## Music at Whitchurch

Our Music programme is now fully underway across the school. Weekly lessons are taking place for every year group, with Year 4 pupils beginning their whole-class clarinet and trumpet programme.

Singing lies at the heart of school life, with all six weekly assemblies bringing pupils together in song. Instrumental lessons have also resumed, giving children the opportunity to learn a wide range of both orchestral and non-orchestral instruments.

Our advanced musicians are already rehearsing in ensembles as they prepare for the Winter Concert. At the same time, all three school choirs are at full capacity and remain an absolute joy to lead. With another musically busy year ahead, we are excited for the many events and inspiring opportunities that await our pupils.





# Music News



## Parents' Evening and Open Weeks - Music

I would like to let you know that I will be available for parents' evening appointments in the Music Room for Year 1 and Year 2 parents. If you have any general questions about our Music provision, please book a slot on School Spider for either **Tuesday 14th or Thursday 16th October** once the booking system is activated.



If your child is signed up for instrumental lessons, please note that after the half term break we will be organising open weeks for these lessons. These sessions will provide an opportunity to meet the instrumental teacher, observe your child's lesson, and discuss their progress. You will be notified via School Spider when the booking period opens. All parents will also receive an instrumental report at the end of the Spring term.



***Mrs Leutfeld***  
***Director of Music***



### Music Events this Term

**Tuesday 18th November**  
**Wednesday 26th November**  
**Wednesday 3rd December**  
**Thursday 11th December**  
**Monday 15th December**  
**Tuesday 16th December**

**Thursday 18th December**

HMS Band Festival  
Winter Concert Dress Rehearsals  
Winter Concert (5-7pm)  
HMS Piano Festival  
Carol Concerts (Reception at 9.15am)  
Carol Concerts (Years 5-6 at 9.15am & 10.30am;  
Years 1-2 at 2.30pm)  
Carol Concerts (Years 3-4 at 9.15am & 10.30am;  
Years 1-2 at 2.30pm)

# Spotlight on Year 3

Year 3 are  
learning about  
food and  
sustainability



## Design and Technology

In Design Technology, Year 3 have been learning about the benefits of using seasonal produce and how it impacts both our health and the environment. We have explored key vocabulary such as seasonal food, imported, exported, nutrients, and sustainability, helping us to understand why different fruits and vegetables grow in certain climates and how transporting food around the world affects the planet. To prepare for making our very own seasonal tarts in the coming weeks, we have also been practising our cutting and peeling skills - all carried out with great care and safety!

*Miss Daniel, Year 3 leader*

## What Year 3 children have to say...

"DT was amazing because I got to cut lots of fruits and vegetables. I learnt how to cut safely." Daria

"It was so good because I learnt some new cutting and peeling skills." Jayden

"I liked chopping the carrots because I learnt different techniques like the bridge and paw." Saajan

"I liked how we did the paw and bridge to cut different seasonal fruits and vegetables." Yasmine



# General Notices and Highlights



## Early Years Phonics Workshop

A reminder that we shall be holding a phonics workshop for parents/carers of Reception children on **Monday 6th October at 9am**.

## Class Assemblies

A reminder that a list of class assemblies can be found on **page 7**. We look forward to seeing you at your child's class assembly.

3MS and  
4HH class  
assemblies  
next week

## Individual Photos - next week

A reminder that individual school photos will be taken on **Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October**. Please make sure your child wears full school uniform and brings their P.E. kit to school if it is their P.E. day.

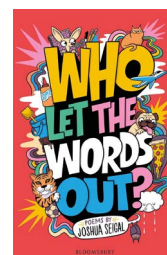
## Donations Wanted - Plants

We have added fresh soil to our planters in our new Reception outdoor area and are ready to plant! If you have outdoor plants or herbs like rosemary, sage, mint, lavender, bamboo, or bulbs such as daffodils and crocuses to donate, we would love your help. Please drop off donations to the Reception outdoor area or give them to any Reception member of staff. Thanks so much for your support and for the donations we have received so far!



## National Poetry Day

We shall be celebrating National Poetry Day on **Friday 10th October**, with a visit from poet Joshua Seigal.



## 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 6th October	Early Years Phonics Workshop for Parents/Carers (9am-9.30am)
Tuesday 7th October	Year 1 Autumn Walk (1.15pm-2.45pm)
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	Year 2 Great Fire of London Workshop
	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

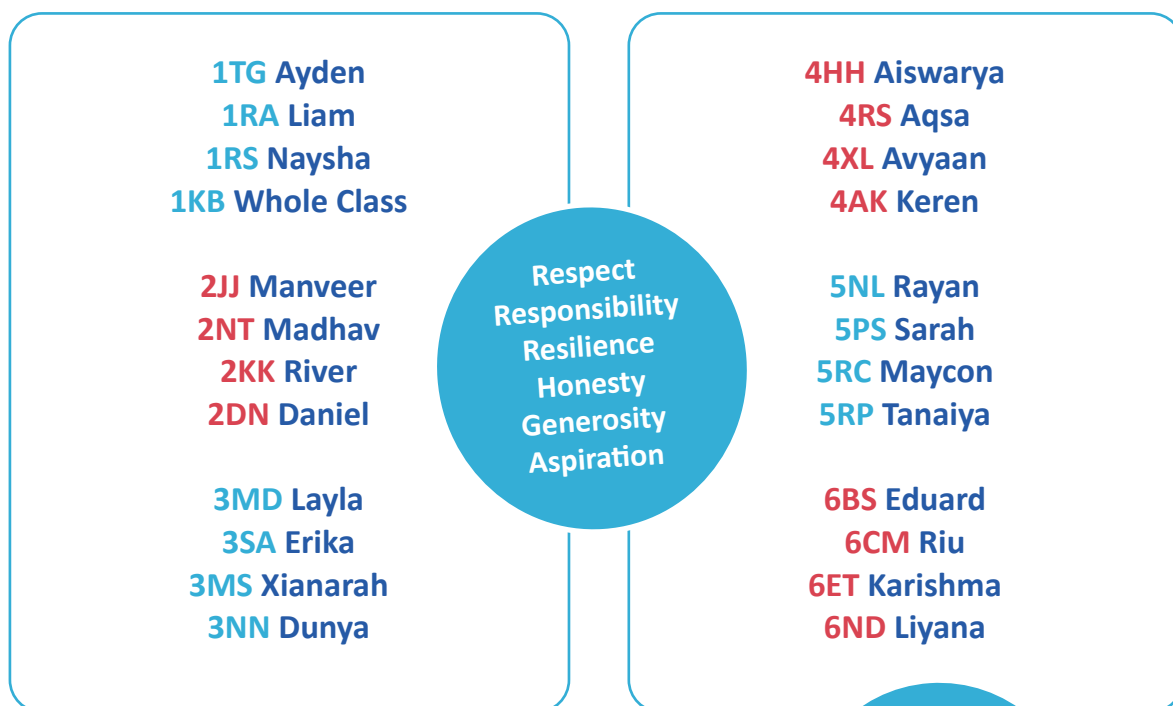
Thurs 9th Oct	4HH
Thurs 23rd Oct	5NL
Thurs 13th Nov	6BS
Thurs 27th Nov	4XL
Thurs 11th Dec	5RP
Thurs 15th Jan	6CM
Thurs 29th Jan	5RC
Thurs 12th Feb	6ET
Thurs 19th Mar	4AK
Thurs 26th Mar	6ND
Thurs 23rd Apr	5PS
Thurs 7th May	4RS

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



## Attendance Stars



This week's attendance stars are 4AK, 5RP and 6ET (100%)

Whole School  
94.8%

This half term our focus value is: Responsibility

### Did you know?

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



# Support for Families

Online Safety



## EA Sports FC 26

With new kits, updated squads and refined gameplay, EA FC 26 brings the thrill of top-tier football to living rooms once again. While it continues to offer family-friendly fun in modes like Kick-Off and Career, the ongoing popularity of Ultimate Team - where players spend money to build fantasy squads - brings a mix of excitement and risks.

Children can encounter issues such as gambling-like mechanics, voice chat with strangers, and potential exposure to scams.



Please refer to the guide attached to this newsletter, which breaks down the game's most important features, highlights the key risks to be aware of, and shares practical advice for helping young players stay safe while gaming and interacting online.



## 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



## Nurturing Yourself While Nurturing Your Child

Self-care is essential for all parents. Not only to stay patient, but also to keep finding joy and delight that is present every day with your children- even on the difficult ones. Children are happier and will cooperate more when you are joyful, calm and present. When you are feeling stressed, they may believe it is their fault, feel anxious and that they are not good enough. Your big job then, is to make sure you are parenting yourself just as well as you are parenting your child.

Try to tune into yourself as much as possible throughout the day. Take deep breaths whenever you can, breathing in calm and breathing out stress. When you are feeling irritable, it is important to stop and think about what it is you need right now to stay balanced: can you sit outside for 5 mins or put on some music and dance? Have a glass of water? Plan something you can do for yourself later, once they are in bed. You can also find ways to nurture yourself through times in the day that tend to be most difficult. Perhaps you can drink a cup of tea during bedtime stories or start the evening routine a little earlier. Finally, being present and slowing down will help you to take in the joy of every moment with your child and will replenish your spirit.

**“Taking care of yourself doesn’t mean me first; it means me too.”**

"Self-care is the art of nurturing your mind, body, and soul to achieve inner harmony."

### 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**

# Staff Snapshot

**Name:** Jaimini Patel  
**Role:** Reception Class  
Teacher



## All about me

I am new to Whitchurch and in my 8th year of teaching! I currently work as a Reception teacher and find it incredibly rewarding to support young children at such a crucial stage in their development. I also have experience working with children with Special Educational Needs, which is something very close to my heart. It has been lovely getting to know the children, families and the wider school community.



## Hobbies and interests

I have a real love for fast cars, football and motorsport. I'm a proud Liverpool FC supporter and rarely miss a match! I also love watching the Grand Prix - there's something exciting about the speed, precision and strategy involved. My favourite driver is Lewis Hamilton. Outside of sport, I really enjoy travelling and exploring new places whenever I can. I'm also currently learning Spanish in my spare time, which is both challenging and rewarding! Spending time with my family and friends is really important to me. Whether it's a quiet night in or a day out together, I really value those moments and the memories we make.



## Best part of my role

Helping every child to reach their full potential in a way that works for them is what drives me every day. There's a real warmth and supportive atmosphere here and I'm excited for everything that the rest of the academic year has in store.



# 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: <a href="http://www.eadmissions.org.uk">www.eadmissions.org.uk</a></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: <a href="http://www.eadmissions.org.uk">www.eadmissions.org.uk</a></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 <a href="http://www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions">www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions</a></p> <p>For help and advice on how to complete your application please email <a href="mailto:schooladmissions@harrow.gov.uk">schooladmissions@harrow.gov.uk</a></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](http://www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk)

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
3

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>



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