

Newsletter 14 – Autumn 2



Wistaston Academy
Primary and Nursery School
Together We Learn • Together We Achieve

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Advanced Notice:	Spring 1 after school clubs will start wc 12 th January	
Polite Notice:	Please note the school office opens at 8.30am each morning and is manned until 4.30pm. Before and after these times, there will be no access to the Main Reception area.	

Hub 1

We've been incredibly busy in Hub 1 preparing for Christmas. We've painted our own baubles, made Christmas cards, made reindeer food and melted chocolate to make Christmassy shapes. We're very excited for the Christmas break and hope you have a wonderful Christmas with your children and families.



Hub 2

We have enjoyed a week full of Christmas activities including Christmas dough disco and song sessions, whereby our parents and carers came to visit us, as well as some arts and crafts making a Christmas wreath.



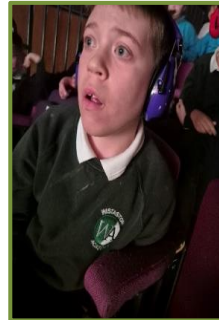
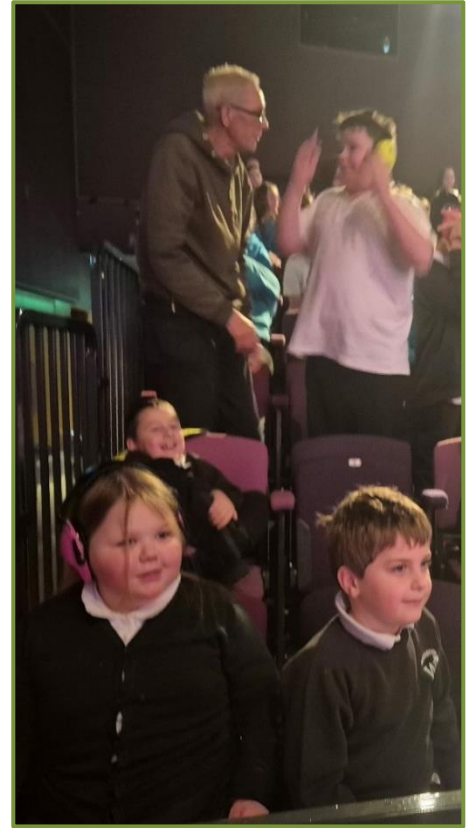
Hub 3

As it is almost Christmas, the children in Hub 3 have been enjoying some festive-themed fine motor skill and mark-making activities this week. They have modelled snowmen out of dough, made snowflake patterns in flour and threaded Christmas beads to create little hanging ornaments.



Hub 4

We had a fabulous time at the Pantomime yesterday. The children were so patient and excited for the show to start. They cheered, giggled and clapped along to some of the songs. They especially enjoyed the 12 days of Christmas song. Well done team! You were amazing :)



Nursery

This week we have enjoyed the build up to Christmas. First, we had our Christmas Performance for our adults where we sang our songs we have been learning. Next, we had a visit from Father Christmas. Then, we sang some more Christmas songs together with Peter.



Reception

We had a great afternoon with parents and carers for our Inspire Day. We went into Story World to help save Christmas! We made Christmas cards, designed calendars, decorated a gingerbread man, made a lantern, used a needle and thread to sew our own stockings and created enough festive cheer to have a jolly season.



Year 1

This half term we have been learning about 'The Christmas Story'. At the end of the half term, we thought about the role of the innkeeper. We discussed how kind the innkeeper was to offer Mary and Joseph a stable for the night. Next, we shared examples of how different people support people in need. Then, we wrote a wish for others to show everyone is special.



Year 2

This week, we had lots of fun learning how to code the Beebots and the BlueBot app. We followed different algorithms and debugged an algorithm that was wrong.



Year 3

This week in science we investigated how shadows change when the light source is in a different place. We used a torch attached to a ruler and traced around the shadow when the light source was in a different position.



Year 4

This week Year 4 enjoyed a 'Roman Feast' to celebrate our history topic this term. The children did really well and tried a variety of foods that many of them had never tasted before, such as moretum (soft cheese with herbs and olive oil), sourdough bread, figs and dates with honey. Despite being initially put off by the sight of the figs and dates many of the children really enjoyed them!



Year 5

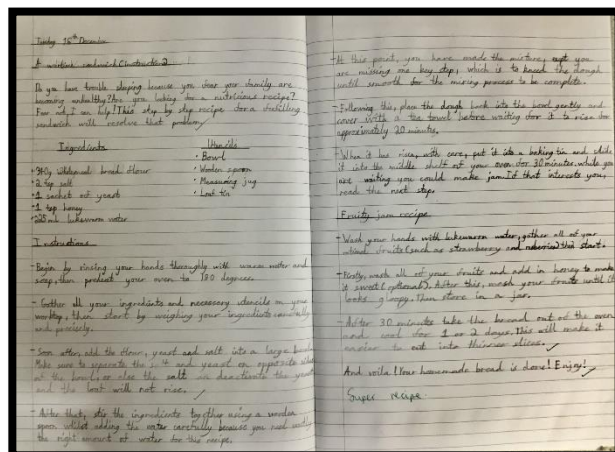
This week in science, year 5 have been experimenting to consolidate our learning in our materials unit. We loved observing our chromatography experiment when we looked at what happened to skittles when placed in water. Also, we thoroughly enjoyed making oobleck and looked at how this was a solid and a liquid and is known as a non-Newtonian fluid.



Year 6

This week, Year 6 have completed writing a set of instructions to make the National Loaf, which was a war time recipe created to make the most of their limited rations and food supplies.

The children did a great job!



PE News

Y5A Swimming



All children from 5A will be going swimming after Christmas as part of the compulsory national PE curriculum. The sessions will begin on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th January and will finish on Tuesday 11th February 2025.

The children will be travelling, by mini bus, to the Crewe Lifestyle Centre, accompanied by members of the Year 5 team. Your child will need to bring in their swimming costume/shorts and a towel. If your child forgets their kit, we will contact you during the morning to try to arrange for their kit to be dropped off.

Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery in the pool, so all must be removed before they enter. Please ensure that all earrings are removed before children come to school, if the children cannot remove the earrings themselves. In addition, long hair must be tied up.

If your child has a medical condition which prevents them from swimming, they will require a signed doctor's note; otherwise they will be expected to swim. If your child has a one-off medical condition on one of their swimming sessions, then please speak directly to their class teacher, or send in a signed note. We will not accept the children's reasons for why they are missing swimming, without confirmation from an adult.

School Clubs

Spring 1 after school clubs will run from **Monday 12th January – Friday 13th February**. All other clubs will be free of charge. **Please remember to only sign your child up to one after school club so that each child has a fair chance of attending.** If your child attends an invite only club then they can also sign up to one other club. **All clubs will go live on Arbor on Friday 9th January from 4pm.**

Spring 1 Clubs

Week Commencing - Monday 12th January – Friday 13th February

Lunchtime and after school clubs – KS1 & KS2

Monday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Boys & Girls Djembefola club (max 20)	4-6 INVITATION ONLY	3:15-4:15pm	Graham Proctor (Outside provider)	FREE	Classroom
Boys and girls Football club (max 20)	5-6	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch/playground
Boys and girls band club (max 15)	Year 5	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Latta WA Teacher	FREE	5A Classroom

Tuesday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Sewing Club (max 15)	3 - 6	3:15-4:15pm	The Sewing Coach (outside provider)	FREE	KS2 classroom
Boys and girls Yoga (max 20)	1-3	3:15-4:15pm	Fiona (Outside provider)	FREE	Irlam Hall
Boys & Girls dodgeball (max 20)	3-4	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch

Thursday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Boys & Girls dodgeball (max 20)	5-6	3:15-4.15pm	Mrs Adamczyk WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch
Boys & Girls football (max 20)	3-4	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	Playground
Boys & Girls cricket (max 18)	1-2	3:15-4:15pm	Ben Tomlinson Cheshire Cricket	FREE	Irlam Hall

Friday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Boys & Girls Sports Hall Athletics Club (max 20)	3-4 INVITATION ONLY	3:15-4:15pm	Mrs Adamczyk WA PE Specialist	FREE	Playground
Boys & Girls Sports Hall Athletics Club (max 20)	5-6 INVITATION ONLY	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	Playground
Boys & Girls Dance (max 15)	Reception, Y1, Y2	3:15-4:15pm	Sophie – Young Arts Academy (Outside provider)	FREE	Reception classroom
Boys & Girls gymnastics (max 15)	Reception, Y1, Y2	3:15-4:15pm	Jasmine and Alisha-Cheshire Gymnastics	FREE	Irlam Hall
Boys & Girls Drumming (max 20)	4-6	3:15-4:15pm	Graham Proctor (Outside provider)	FREE	Classroom

Club places

If there is a high demand for certain clubs, we will look to ensure all children who wish to go to the club, but do not get a place this term, have the opportunity to attend the club at some point across the school year.

Below are the conditions that we will be following to keep our clubs process fair and consistent.

- If you would like your children to sign up for a club, we recommend that you sign up on the day that the clubs go live. If you have been unsuccessful, please make sure you pop in to the office and place your child on the waiting list.
- If you have been successful, please ensure your child is aware that the club will run for the whole half term and they are expected to attend each week.
- If your child no longer wants to attend it is your responsibility to contact the office to inform them that your child no longer wants a place. This way we can remove your child from the register and add someone from the waiting list.
- If your child does not attend for **2 consecutive weeks** (without reason) you will then be contacted and your child will be automatically removed to allow someone from the waiting list to attend.
- If your child has a space, we expect them to follow the school rules outlined in our behaviour policy during club. If your child displays disruptive behaviour, you will be informed and their place will be removed.

Weather

The school has worked hard to invest in an all-weather Astroturf so that your children can participate in sports all year round. This does mean that if it is raining during clubs such as football and dodgeball that clubs will continue to run on the all- weather pitch. Please make sure your child has the appropriate clothing i.e. coat, trousers, jumpers so that we can continue to offer high quality sports clubs.

If you do not wish for your child to participate when it is raining it is your responsibility to collect them at 3.15pm.

Sports clothing

Please ensure that your child has the correct clothing for their after-school club. If the club is run outside then jumpers, joggers and coats are needed. If your child participates in football we are asking if they can bring trainers as well as football boots (if they have them). Football boots will only be worn if the club is taking place on the field as we are no longer able to use studs on the all-weather pitch.

Please ensure that ALL children are collected from clubs outside the main reception on time. If children are not collected from clubs on time, they will be taken to Wizz Kids and will need to be collected from there. You will be charged for their time in Wizz Kids.

Picture News

Every week in assembly we share the Picture News image and question with the children. This resource helps children to learn about the world around us, whilst linking to British Values and supporting pupil's personal development.

We hope this enables you to have an interesting conversation at home with your child.



What does kindness look like?

Small Acts of Kindness

In the news this week

This winter, a charity called Small Acts of Kindness has sourced, packed and distributed over 10,000 'Warm in Winter' gift bags across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Each bag includes things to keep people warm, like blankets, socks and hot drinks. The project aims to bring comfort to elderly and vulnerable people in the colder months. It shows that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the campaign.
- Can you think of a time someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel?
- Do you believe helping others can make us feel happier too? Why?
- What are some small acts of kindness we can do at home, at school, or in our community?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Maths News

All children from Reception through to KS2 have access to an app called **Numbots**. This fantastic app supports children with their number fluency, allowing them to use efficient mental calculation strategies to add/subtract, so they don't rely on using their fingers!

If your child is in KS2 they will also have access to an app called **Times Table Rocks Stars (TTRS)**, which supports knowledge of times tables and therefore builds confidence in multiplication and division.

Evidence tells us that logging on for **just a few minutes each day** will make a massive difference to their number fluency/times tables skills.

Check out the dedicated website for parents to answer any questions on TTRS:

<https://ttrackstars.com/parents/> , and the factsheet of FAQ's for Numbots:

<https://static.numbots.com/data/pdf/NumBotslaunchparentguide.pdf> and

https://strapi.ttrackstars.com/uploads/numbots_parent_guide_554ecf5cb5.pdf





Her-Place Charitable Trust Community Share Hub December Newsletter

Welcome to our December edition of the Community Share Hub newsletter!
Our hub in Crewe and community laundrette Winsford continue to provide vital support for local families offering free, sustainable access to baby clothing, school uniforms, and baby essentials.



Winsford Community Laundrette- Opening Times!

Our Winsford Hub offers free washing and drying facilities for anyone in the community who needs them. You'll find detergent and softener provided, and no referral is required, simply pop in during opening hours.

HER Hub Winsford, 15-17 Finsbury Walk, CW7 2YA

Tuesday & Wednesday: 9:30am-2pm

Thursday: 11:30am-3pm

This project aims to relieve financial pressure, promote dignity, and reduce isolation by giving people a welcoming place to do their laundry and connect with others.



Winter baby bank event

Her-Place Charitable Trust's Community Share Hub is excited to announce our Baby Bank Pop-Up Event at Her Hub, Beech Drive, Crewe, on Saturday 13th December, from 10am to 2pm.

This free community event is open to everyone and offers families the chance to access a wide range of pre-loved baby essentials, including:

- Childrens and babies Christmas outfits
- Party dresses
- Baby clothes (up to age 2 years)
- Prams and cots
- Winter coats and snowsuits
- Bottles and sterilisers
- Other baby essentials

The pop-up is part of Her-Place's ongoing commitment to reducing waste, supporting families, and promoting dignity through sustainability. All items have been kindly donated by the local community, checked for quality, and made freely available to those who need them most.

Visitors can drop in at any time during the event to browse, collect items, and find out more about the other services available through the Community Share Hub.



Volunteer for us

We are looking for volunteers to help out with our community share hub, whether you can spare a couple of hours or more, we would love to hear from you! Our volunteers are crucial to our mission of supporting families, so if you would like to boost your C.V, build skills, or just want to give back to the community, please contact us.



Closing dates and Donations

As we begin to come to a close for the holiday season, we would like to thank you all for your continued support in helping us to support families. We will be closed from 18th December, and will be reopening on the 5th of January.

As a result we will not be accepting donations or hub orders again until we reopen.

Happy holidays and best wishes for the new year from the Community Share Hub Team!