

Newsletter 15 – Spring 1



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	15 th January-American Day Menu	
Friday		
Advanced Notice:		
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.	

We are Brilliant Winners

Hub: Oliver

EYFS: Andria (RA), Emi (RB)

KS1: Lilah (1A) Lilah-Jane (1B), Alfie (2A), Alicia (2B)

KS2: Pasha (3A), Hailey (3B) Archie W (4A), Alex M (4B), Lola (5A), Nashe (5B), Harper Li (6A), Somaia (6B)

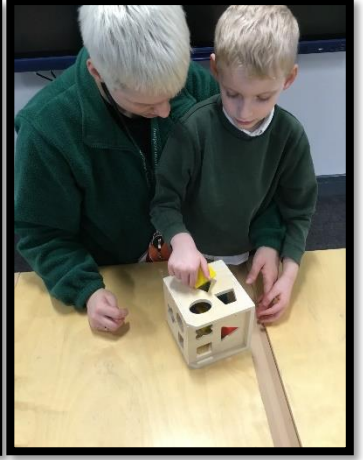
Hub 1

We were all very excited to come back to school to a snowy day on Monday! We got wrapped up warm in our waterproof trousers and coats and went outside to play. We smashed the ice on the floor, crunched our shoes through the snow and felt the bubbles in the water tray that had frozen overnight. We had so much fun!



Hub 2

This week, we have explored shape in maths. We have looked at how shapes appear in nature, how shapes can be big or small, and that shapes are all different!



Hub 3

We opened a very exciting Magic Story Box this week. It contained a witch's hat, a bag of breadcrumbs and a key to Acacia's Cottage. The children made their way over to the cottage to hear the story of Hansel and Gretel, leaving a trail of breadcrumbs behind them as they walked. When they left the cottage to walk back, the breadcrumb trail had been eaten by the birds – just like in the story!



Hub 4

The children have returned to school happy and settled following a wonderful Christmas break. Many of the children enjoyed a frosty start to the new term, outside building snowmen and serving snow cones. We enjoyed the weather and incorporated learning where possible. As the weather has thawed, the children have settled back into the class routines and have enjoyed the introduction to our new term of learning.

This half term, we are exploring kindness, good choices and consequences.



Nursery

This week we enjoyed our return to Nursery and enjoyed the weather. We have enjoyed exploring the snow and ice in our outdoor area. Some of our Antarctic and Arctic animals got stuck in the ice too and we helped to free them. We used salt and tools to help us.



Reception

The children thoroughly enjoyed playing in the snow this week. They explored the textures, made marks, explored changes in the environment and talked about what they had noticed.



Year 1

This week, we used different techniques to create a range of winter trees. First, we made indents using pencils and foam. Then, we explored printing using ink. Throughout the week we experimented with different pencils and ways of making marks before creating an observational drawing of a winter tree.



Year 2

This week, we introduced our new topic of China through the 'Hello' and thought about how people across the world say hello in different ways. We became story detectives and visited different areas of China using a guided tour and read the picture. We also found out how in China, just like England, there are towns, cities and villages. We then had lots of fun trying to eat using chopsticks, making lanterns for Chinese New Year celebrations and creating art work based on the book.



Year 3

In Literacy this week, we were introduced to our new book 'Alien in a Jam Factory.' We started by taking a guided tour of the factory and designing our own flavours!



Year 4

Year 4 had an exciting and informative time attending a science workshop led by United Utilities, where they learned all about the water cycle. The children explored how water travels through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation, and discovered why this process is so important for providing clean water to our homes.



Year 5

We had a wonderful day when Wulfrik visited us. We enjoyed a variety of activities linked to our history topic of the Vikings. Our enrichment day was full of immersive and exciting learning, including role play, re-enactment and problem solving. We got a real feel of what life was like during the 8th Century, especially when exploring artefacts.



Year 6



In this week's geography lesson, we discussed what it means to be sustainable and the small acts we can carry out to protect our planet. The children are very passionate about this topic already and we can tell that it is going to be a fantastic half term.



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 13th January and will finish on Tuesday 10th February 2026.

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.

Clubs

Spring 1 after school clubs will run from **Monday 12th January – Friday 13th February**. All 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.

Art News

Focus on Year 5

We are excited to be entering 30 of our Year 5s into the National Art Bytes Competition again this year!



Our children have been working hard on their entries and soon the 30 will be selected. When completed, their artwork will be uploaded to the Art Bytes Website and the first round judged by professional artists. They will select 3 finalists from our school. After this

IT'S OUR TURN TO VOTE!

The link will be shared so that all families can vote for our favourite of the finalists. The student with the most votes wins 1st place, then 2nd, then 3rd. All three finalists will be invited to an award ceremony at a gallery or museum not far from here in June and our 1st place winner is in the running to win a regional or national prize also.

Please look out for more details and SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS' CREATIVITY! 😊

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.



In the news this week

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a special year, created to help children and adults in the UK enjoy reading more. Everyone is encouraged to explore all kinds of stories, books, comics, magazines, websites, and even audiobooks, with the theme 'Go All In'. Throughout the year, schools, libraries, and communities will run fun events and challenges to help everyone find a type of reading they love.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the types of books or other materials you enjoy reading.
- Ask an adult to describe their reading journey, e.g., what they liked reading as a child, what they read now.
- Why do you think fewer people read in today's world? What do you think of the initiative – is it a good idea in your view?

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

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

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



Join Us For An Open Minds Chat

Open minds is for people who have lived experiences of Mental Health Services in Cheshire East, either directly yourself or as a carer for someone else

If you want to shape how services are run then this is an invite for you

The group will have a close connection to mental health services in Cheshire East, giving you the chance to share your experiences of services and influence how you would like to see them run. You will have the opportunity to input into service improvement, feedback into consultations and find out more about mental health services across Cheshire East



11th February

13:00 - 14:30

or

18:30 - 20:00

We believe that everyone deserves good mental health, if you do too, then please join us

Online



To sign up, email:
communities@cheshireeast.gov.uk

For more information: communities@cheshireeast.gov.uk



WOMEN'S HEALTH ROADSHOW

**5TH FEBRUARY
9AM-1PM**

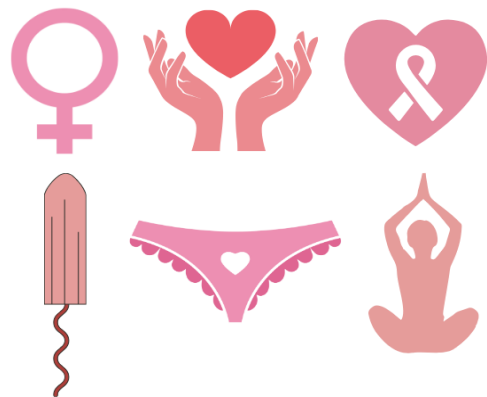
**Eagle Bridge Health
Centre, Crewe, CW1 3AW**

What to expect

Free health checks
Menopause advice/support
Breast/bowel/cervical screening advice
Free samples/products
Sexual health advice
Support for ethnic minorities and LGBTQIA+
Domestic violence support
Pelvic health advice
Fitness support
and much, much more!

Who's attending

- ✓ Cheshire East Public Health
- ✓ Her Place, RASASC, Alpha Omega
- ✓ Active Cheshire, One You, England Netball
- ✓ NHS screening services
- ✓ Deafness Support Network, Dementia Communities
- ✓ Axxess Sexual Health
- ✓ Social Prescribing
and many more great organisations!



For more information



<https://crewecarecommunity.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/CreweCareCommunity>



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