

Newsletter 17 – 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		
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

EYFS: Avery (RA), Igor (RB)

KS1: Esmae (1A), Thea-Mae (1B), Logan (2A), Theo (2B)

KS2: Khalid (3A), Eleanor (3B), Archie (4A), Lena (4B), Sam (5A), Darius (5B), Lincoln (6A), Brooke (6B)

Hub 1

This week we've been showing a preference for vehicles and selecting which ones we like and don't like. We explored the wheels on each vehicle and then used paint to make marks with them on paper.



Hub 2

This week, we have focused on numbers in maths; we have listened to various songs which count forwards and backwards to and from 10 and had a go at lots of counting related activities.



Hub 3

The children have been looking at photographs of themselves as babies and themselves as they are now, during History this week. They explored pictures of their classmates and teachers and were able to see how everybody had changed over time. Some pictures were easy to pair together but some were really quite tricky!



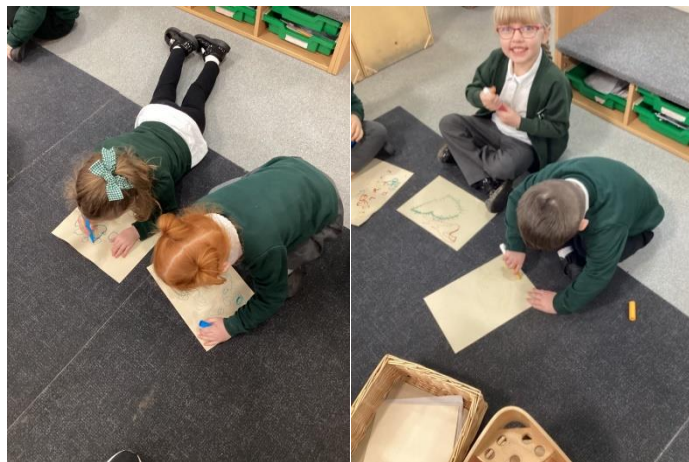
Hub 4

This week, the children have been learning about 2-D and 3-D shapes. They have been exploring different resources and can identify the different names of many shapes and some of their properties.



Nursery

This week, we have visited Story World and we found a ship with the boy from the story. First, we read the story and found the big ship. Next, we drew some pictures of what we had seen on our adventure on the big ship. We saw different animals! Then, we sang 'The Big Ship' rhyme together.



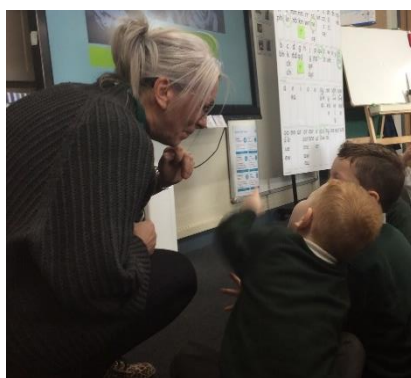
Reception

This week, the children have been helping to care for our environment by taking part in litter picking around the school grounds.



Year 1

This week we discovered our new topic is 'Toy Shops'. On Monday we brought in our favourite toy to share with our friends. We discussed why it is our favourite toy and where we got it from. Then, we had a visit from Mrs Dewsbury who shared her favourite toys from the past. Throughout the week we began to compare toy shops from the past to the present.



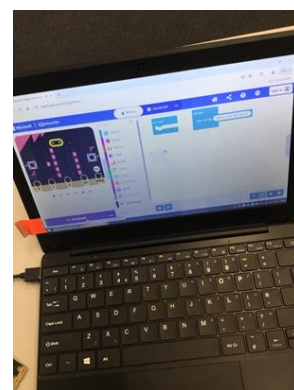
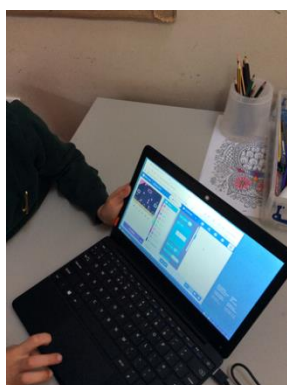
Year 2

In Literacy this week, the children have continued their immersive narrative writing. We received news that the Reception children had noticed a big gust of wind and a flash of light in their outdoor area. We went to investigate hoping that it could be clues leading to a new species of dragon. The children gathered evidence of the clues and produced a recount of their findings.



Year 3

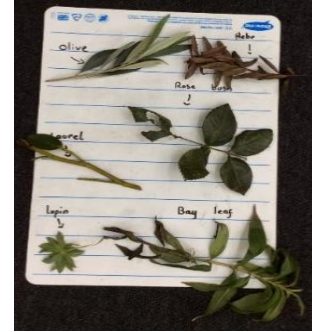
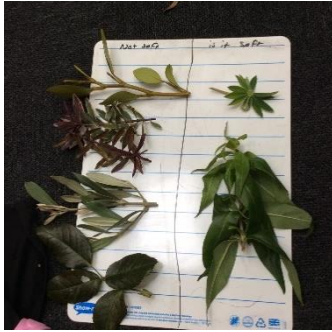
This week, we have been learning how to code using micro:bits. To begin with, we recapped what an algorithm was and explored what the microbits could do. Then we learnt how to use repeat commands to make the micro:bit write our name and other messages. It was lots of fun!



Year 4

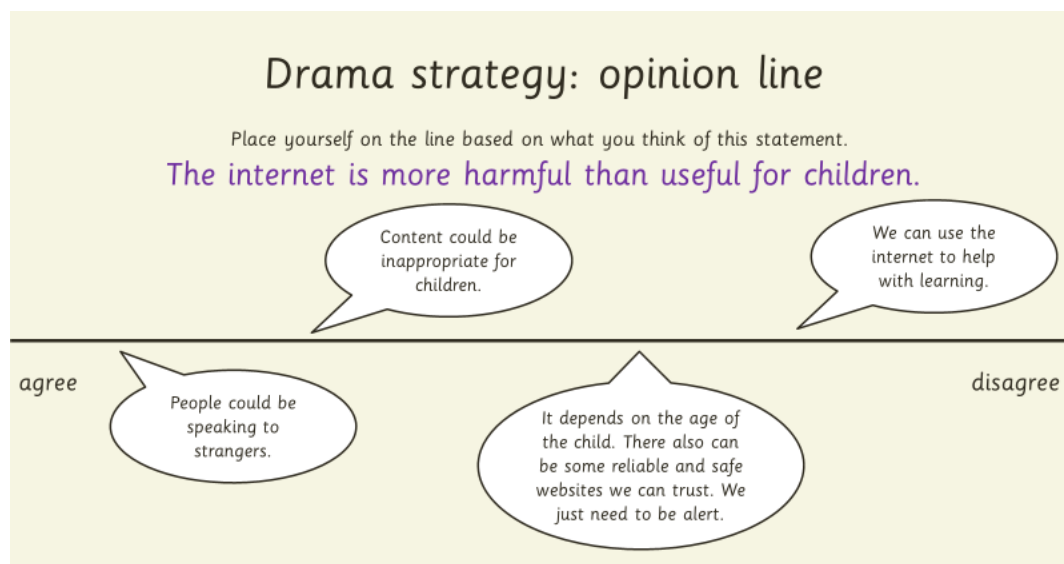
This week we used our classification skills to group leaves together based on their similarities. In our groups we had seven different types of plants. We were not told what the plants were, so we had to look very carefully at the leaves.

We worked in our groups to observe the leaves closely. We looked at their colour, shape, size and texture. Some leaves were smooth, while others felt rough. Some leaves were bright or colourful, and others were different shades of green.



Year 5

In PSHE, we have been thinking about how we can safely use the internet. To begin, we created an opinion line considering the statement: the internet is more harmful than useful for children. We then discussed this as a group considering the reasons for and against this. We created a list of risks and benefits of the internet. We also discussed SMART rules for how to stay safe online.



What are the benefits and risks of using the internet?

On a post it, write down something you and your partner discussed and place it onto the board in the right section.

Risks	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installing or accessing inappropriate content• Hacking accounts• Leak of personal information• Ability to talk to strangers• Fake news• Scammers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It's fun/entertainment• Learning / education.• Connects us with the wider world - news• Communicate with family and friends

Year 6

In Science this week, Simon, from Wings and Things, came to visit us with a variety of animals. Using these creatures, he explained how a small change that a living thing goes through can enable it to become better suited to its environment. Did you know snakes used to have four legs and boas and pythons still have two legs? These adaptations have allowed these animals to evolve and change so that they do not die out.

We saw a Red-Tailed Boa Constrictor, a Barn Owl, Giant African Land Snails, Millipedes and a Siberian Eagle Owl.

We will be using the amazing knowledge we gained from Science to inform our next piece of Literacy writing.



PE News

Y3&4 Gymnastics Competition



Huge congratulations to our amazing Year 3&4 gymnasts who represented Wistaston Academy brilliantly at the Year 3&4 gymnastics competition at LS Gym on Tuesday. Our team finished in 2nd place overall. We are SO proud of every single one of you - your hard work, determination and teamwork really shone through!

Extra special congratulations to Kiera who was given an individual award for outstanding presentation.

What an incredible achievement! Well done team - you've made us all so proud!

Year 5&6 Dodgeball Festival

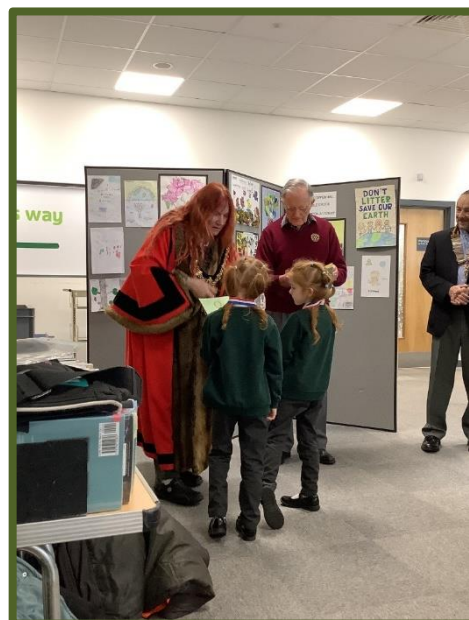
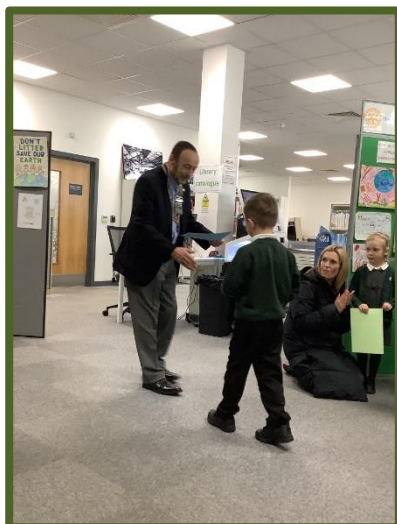
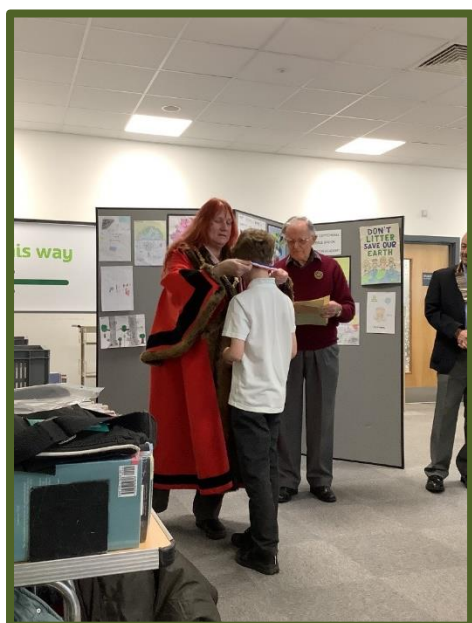
On Thursday our Y5&6 dodgeball team took part in a dodgeball festival at Shavington Academy. Children played in games against Mablins Lane Primary School, Shavington Primary School, Hungerford Primary Academy, Gainsborough Primary School, Wybunbury Delves Primary School, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Pebble Brook Primary School. The games took a festival format which meant that no scores were taken, instead emphasis was on the children enjoying as much game time as possible. Both teams were brilliant and had a great time! Well done to all involved and thank you to our parents and carers who came to support.

Art News

The Bram Knight Environmental Art Awards

Ten children from across the school have been selected by external judges to have their environmental-themed artwork on display in Crewe Library. These children were invited to see their work on display at an award ceremony this week, where they were presented with certificates by the President of the Crewe Rotary Club and the Mayor of Crewe. A huge 'Well Done' to all of our artists and an extra-special 'Congratulations!' to Caleb in Year 5, who won the overall prize for best artwork from across all of the local schools.

Anyone wanting to admire the artwork for themselves can do by visiting Crewe library over the next two weeks.



Creativity and The Kindness Revolution

As a KiVa school, kindness is always top of our agenda, but we are really celebrating it between now and Valentine's Day!



We are holding a Kindness Revolution this half term, to encourage our school community to “commit acts of KiVa kindness” in school and at home, so we can really change the world for ourselves, our friends and our families! Children who teachers catch in an act of kindness will go on our kindness wall to encourage others to follow their example. We want to celebrate children's kindness and so we'll be generous with dojos, raffle tickets stickers and postcards home! If parents catch children being kind at home too and happen to photograph it, feel free to send the picture by email to admin@wistastonacademytrust.co.uk or lwalsh@wistastonacademytrust.co.uk and we will print it and add it to our kindness wall 😊

This will all culminate with a special “Day to Create” on **WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11TH!!**

We will celebrate kindness through:

- Painting with artist Victoria Turner
- Drumming with Mr Proctor
- Family yoga sessions based on the love chakra with Fiona Sherwood from Musicbox Mediations
- Art lessons with Mrs Walsh
- Learning through drama with class teachers
- Singing in assembly with Mr Wilson
- And a visit from Arts Council England, who want to capture the creative joy that runs through our school!

What a half term is ahead



Let's remember:



Keep a look out for special invitations from individual classes to participate with your children on **Wednesday 11th February!**

No act of
KINDNESS
NO MATTER
how small
IS EVER
WASTED

Art Bytes: Year 5 Hub 4



Our year 5 mainstream and Hub children have been busy preparing entries for the national Art Bytes competition this year. It is only a few weeks until Mrs Walsh will upload 30 entries to the Art Bytes website, when our entries are uploaded, professional judges will choose 3 finalists from our school and we then have opportunity to vote for our favourite. The first, second and third place winners will attend an award ceremony in a local gallery or museum, with all the other finalists and our first-place winner may be selected for a regional or national prize! Children in the Hub enjoyed working on our Jim Dine-inspired acrylic pictures this week 😊



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

Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Things to talk about at home ...

- What do you think about the new award? Share with someone at home. Do you believe it's important to recognise kind actions?
- Can you think of someone you know who helps others or cares for the world in everyday ways?
- Can you come up with other ways that people can be recognised for their actions?

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





Free February Fun

**Brighten up those dreary
winter days with
Hullabaloo
Children's Entertainer**

**Saturday 14th February
From 2pm
Taste for Life Café
Queen's Park**