

Newsletter 20 – 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	Thursday 26 th February-Y6 Inspire Afternoon	
Friday		
Advanced Notice:	Y1 Delamere Forest Trip Thursday 26 th March Class Photos Friday 24 th April 2026	
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: Archie (RA), Victoria (RB)

KS1: Lemiala (1A), Lydia (1B), Pandora (2A), Haider (2B)

KS2: Gabi (3A), Sophia (3B), Franciszek (4A), Naeva (4B), Lochlan (5A), Ameen (5B), Kaylub (6A), Alfie (6B)

Hub 1

This half term we've been going to the reception outdoor area as part of our PE lessons and using their large climbing equipment, giant floor-level sandpit and exploring their playground. We've had lots of fun practising climbing, running, jumping and exploring.



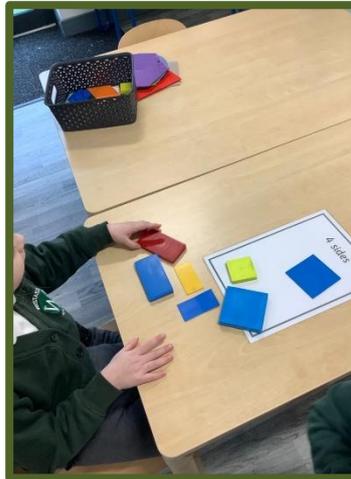
Hub 2

This week, we have recapped all of the seasons through watching videos, looking at books and completing matching activities. We then made a tree, choosing our own leaves/flowers to reflect the season of our choosing.



Hub 3

We have been exploring shape in Maths this week. The children have been investigating shapes which have four sides and comparing them to shapes which don't. One of the activities the children completed was sorting shapes into those with four sides and those without.



Hub 4

This term, the children have been learning about health and wellbeing in our science lessons. This week, we considered why rest and relaxation is important and what we can do to recharge our emotional, social and physical batteries. Here are some examples of the children's work.

Health & Wellbeing: Resting

What do we enjoy that helps us to rest?



I like to rest
by playing the
X-box



I like to rest
by playing kex



I like to rest
by playing domino

Health & Wellbeing: Resting

What do we enjoy that helps us to rest?



I like to rest
by sleeping



I like to rest
by playing
playdoh



I like to rest
by playing on the
swing

Health & Wellbeing: Resting

What do we enjoy that helps us to rest?



I like to rest
by playing kex



I like to rest
by playing playdoh



I like to rest
by playing puzzles

Nursery 1

This week in Nursery we have been exploring loud and quiet noises. First, we listened to different instruments in carpet time. Next, we made loud and quiet noises with instruments in our performance area. Then, we continued to explore loud and quiet noises around our Nursery environment.



Nursery 2

This week in Nursery, we have been learning about sinking and floating. First, we tested a range of different materials to see if they floated. Next, we designed our own boat whilst thinking about what would sink and what would float. Then, we made our own boats and tested whether they would sink or float.



Reception

We had a great day at Peckforton Castle to celebrate Zog's graduation from Dragon School. Madam Dragon set Zog a final challenge so we helped him! We had to name the different features of a castle, we took a tour of the castle, created a celebration hat for the graduation and practised our songs from the Song Sack. Finally, we celebrated the graduation with some dancing and singing.



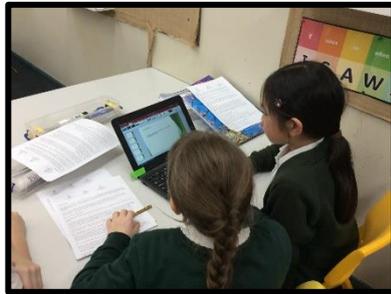
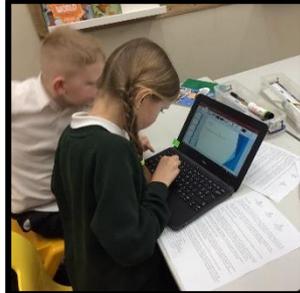
Year 1

This week we explored our school playground structures. Then, we used our knowledge to design, make and evaluate our own structures. We used our design criteria to make sure the structure was suitable for our user.



Year 4

After learning about the impact humans can have on natural habitats, Year 4 created PowerPoint presentations about three animals facing very different threats to their survival: elephants, orangutans and marine turtles. The children produced some truly impressive work and demonstrated fantastic teamwork, supporting one another throughout the project.



Year 5

This week, we celebrated the Holi Festival. As part of the celebration, we threw things that we would like to leave behind into a fire. We then threw powdered paint and had lots of fun celebrating!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy week completing assessments and creating engaging pieces of writing. We are very proud of their hard-working attitude hope they enjoy their well-deserved week off. Take a look at some of our pieces about adaptation and sustainability.

less fuel. The curved tops and panels guide air around the lorry and reduces drag, meaning that the engines don't have to work as hard.

Jaguar Land Rover

Our next session was with Rich who is an engineer for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). He provided us with information about how JLR are aiming to produce net-zero carbon emissions by 2039. Remarkably, Jaguar cars are now fully electric and people are no longer able to buy petrol or diesel cars. Furthermore, Land Rovers are either fully electric or hybrid - having both electric motor and an engine. Surprisingly, every car has a built in geotencing system which ~~is used~~ automatically switches the car to electric when it goes near schools, busy towns and residential areas. As a result, the air is kept cleaner and

may be surprised to read that, as a company, they decide to plan the shortest route in advance to ensure fewer journeys and less pollution. ✓

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)

Our following session was with an engineer named Rich who works for Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). Throughout the workshop, he spoke influentially about his journey to ^{word choice} become an engineer and how committed his company is to stop climate change. One fact that was the most interesting of all was that the Jaguar company has turned every single one of their cars to electric! This was a remarkable decision to make as a huge company because they build alot of motor cars the parts are 3D printed so if they make a mistake, it can be melted down into a liquid to be printed again. ✓

BSPCA

Later on we had one more workshop with Mr from the

Red-tailed boa Constrictor

Although many fear these cold-blooded creatures, red-tailed boa constrictors are smart ambush predators who suffocate victims using their strong muscles. In fact, it's an effective hunting method which stops the animal from breathing by constricting it to death, allowing the snake to kill animals much larger than itself. Many people wonder why snakes stick their tongue out but they are actually tasting the air and then using the Jacobson's organ to interpret smells around them.

PE News

Year 5B Swimming



All children from 5B will be going swimming after half term as part of the compulsory national PE curriculum. The sessions will begin on the afternoon of Tuesday 24th February and will finish on Tuesday 24th March 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.

School Clubs

After half term, clubs will run from **Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March**. Invite only Djembefola club will cost £2 per session. 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 13th February from 4pm.

Spring 2 Clubs

Week Commencing - Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March

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)	£2 per session	Classroom
Boys and girls Football club	5-6	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch/playground

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	3-4	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown	FREE	Playground

(max 20)			WA PE Specialist		
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Friday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Boys only cricket club (max 20)	3-6 INVITATION ONLY	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	Playground
Girls only cricket club (max 20)	3-6 INVITATION ONLY	3:15-4:15pm	Mrs Adamczyk WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch
Boys & Girls Dance (max 15)	Reception, Y1, Y2	3:15-4:15pm	Sophie – Young Arts Academy (Outside provider)	FREE	Reception classrooms
Boys & Girls gymnastics (max 15)	Reception, Y1, Y2	3:15-4:15pm	Alisha Evanson-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.

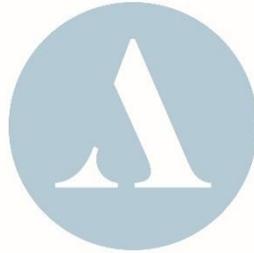
Cricket



This half term Cheshire cricket coaches have been working with Y3, Y4 and Y6 classes. The children have loved learning new skills taught by specialist cricket coaches Harry and Nigel. A big thank you to Cheshire cricket and the Shining Stars programme for hosting an after school cricket club for our Y1 and Y2 children, they had so much fun!

Art News

Artsmark Award!

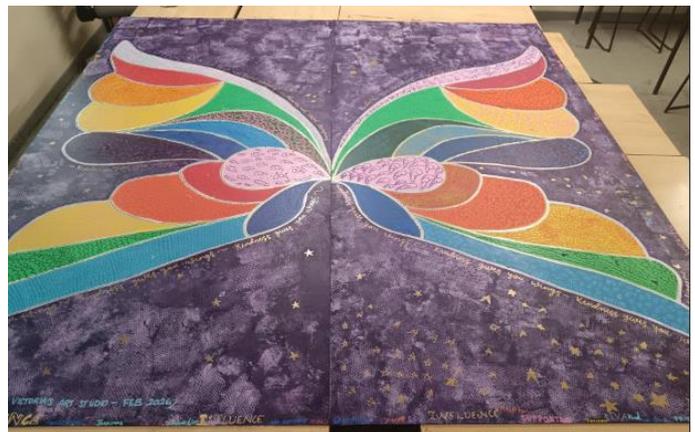


**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

We are absolutely delighted to announce that we have just been awarded a Platinum Artsmark Award for the second time! In a two-year rolling programme, we partner with Arts Council England to widen our offer of high-quality creative education and this has been recognised through our award. Only 9% of schools achieve this, and we are incredibly happy to be amongst those who prize creativity as fuel for life and learning in all subjects. Well done Wistaston Academy!



We had an absolutely wonderful day on Wednesday celebrating our Kindness Revolution, with all kinds of creativity! We enjoyed parent yoga workshops with Fiona Sherwood, art activities with parents in Year 1, Drumming in the Hub and Year 4, our Holi Festival in Year 5, art in Year 2 and 5, drama all around the school and an amazing art workshop for Year 6 with artist Victoria Turner. Our "Kindness Gives You Wings" mural will be exhibited in the exhibition on 11th and 12th March, so families can take photos with it and after that it will go out on the playground.



A special thank you to our wonderful parents, too, who came to be interviewed by the Arts Council on that day. We can't wait to see the film they will produce!

Exhibition: Parent Call Out!

We are aware that it's not just our children who are artists, but many of our parents too! If you are creative and would like to inspire our school community by exhibiting some of your own artwork in our up-coming Spring Exhibition, please speak to Mrs Walsh or email on lwalsh@wistastonacademytrsut.co.uk

Any size, theme and medium are valid.



Art Materials Needed

Can you help?

After half term, Mrs Walsh is looking for help to gather branches for an installation in the exhibition. Donations of branches you may find will be gratefully received! Also, any tickets (train tickets, bus tickets, travel tickets, event tickets) would be very useful. Thank you in advance!



Class	Ticket type	Adult	Child	SGL
1ST	SINGLE	TWO	NIL	SGL

IT'S NOT THE JOURNEY
OR THE DESTINATION
IT'S WHO YOU ARE
TRAVELLING WITH

Route	Valid from
ANY	124458889 OPEN-TICKET

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

Adults in the UK are talking about whether children under 16 should be allowed to use social media, as the government is considering new rules to help keep children safe online. Some people believe social media helps children stay connected, while others worry it can affect wellbeing and mental health. During Children's Mental Health Week, the story reminds us how important it is to look after our mental health both online and offline.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > What rules or agreements can help us feel safe when using technology at home?
- > Can you think of ideas for families to help balance screen time and other activities?
- > What are some of the activities that you do online? Do you do different things online to others at home?

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 Year 2 and 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



**TIMES TABLES
ROCK STARS**

**BATTLE
OF THE
BANDS**

HALF TERM!

FEATURING

**YEAR 3A, YEAR 3B, YEAR 4 A, YEAR 4 B, YEAR 5
A, YEAR 5 B, YEAR 6 A, YEAR 6 B**

06:00 13 FEBRUARY 2026 - 20:00 25 FEBRUARY 2026

OPEN DAILY FROM 06:00 TO 20:00

- ANSWER AS MANY QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE
- PLAY IN ANY GAME TYPE
- WINNING GROUP WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS PER PLAYER
- ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR FULL DETAILS AND RULES

Fundraising Efforts

We are pleased to share that, thanks to your generosity and support, we successfully raised funds for several charitable organizations. Your contributions helped make a meaningful impact, and we are truly grateful for your involvement. Thank you for partnering with us and supporting this important effort.



**THE
BRAIN
TUMOUR
CHARITY**

**TOGETHER, WE'RE GETTING
CLOSER TO FINDING A CURE**

**THANK
YOU**

**All at Wistaston
Academy**

for raising

£817.70

to support our work

Dr Michele Atif
Chief Executive Officer

Join Us For An Open Minds Tea and Talk

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



12th 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

JUBILEE HOUSE,
ST PAUL'S ST, CREWE
CW1 2QA



For more information: communities@cheshireeast.gov.uk



Her-Place Charitable Trust Community Share Hub February 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our February 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.



February half term hub pop-up event

Her-Place Charitable Trust's Community Share Hub is excited to announce our Hub Pop-Up Event at Her Hub, Beech Drive, Crewe, on Saturday 21st February, 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 essentials, including:

- Children's world book day costumes
- School uniform (branded and unbranded)
- Baby clothes (up to age 2 years)
- Prams, cots, Moses baskets, baby baths, high chairs etc.
- Children's winter coats and snowsuits
- Toiletries for mum and baby
- P.E kit & football boots

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. No referral needed, no questions asked.

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.



Sustainable Fashion show!

As part of our annual International Women's day celebration the community share hub is hosting a sustainable fashion show. We want to celebrate the uniqueness and creativity of Women in our community while encouraging people to think about sustainable fashion choices.

All participants will show their charity shop finds on our catwalk, and the winner will receive a prize hamper including pamper goodies and more!