

NOVEMBER

28.11.25



WHITEGATE COFE PRIMARY

Newsletter

Another month has flown by and we will be into the time of advent next week. Not only are Christmas play rehearsals well under way, but we have also started carol singing in preparation for the very special service that will take place in church on Friday 19th December - in just three weeks' time! We are very much looking forward to Hawthorn leading us through this service which starts at 10am - you are all warmly welcome.

Interfaith Week

Immediately after the half-term break, lots of fun was had in school with a lively and engaging Inter-Faith Week, packed with lots of activities designed to give our children an understanding of some of the major world religions. In addition to the activities planned by teachers, we also welcomed a number of visitors who brought faith and culture vividly to life through artefacts, stories, food, drama and music.



I had a great week with Hawthorn where we welcomed Ann Angel who shared about her Jewish faith. Ann was so impressed with the insightfulness of the questions from the children that she said that she felt like she was talking to high school students!

Key Strings



Last Tuesday, we welcomed the duo Mr Mosedale and Mr Lycett, from Key Strings Live Musical Education. They took the children on a dizzying journey through time and music, stretching right back to Henry VIII and springing forward to the modern day. The show was by turns funny, moving and very entertaining! Some children had the opportunity of playing the cello and the double bass and there was even an Irish jig dance-off between Y3 and Y6! Mr Mosedale and Mr Lycett were very impressed with our children: their listening skills, their sense of humour and their musical knowledge. It has been 8 years since their last visit, but we will be sure not to leave it this long next time!

First Aid

The children in Y5 and Y6 enjoyed a morning yesterday learning all about first aid. They practised putting each other in the recovery position and had a try at carrying out CPR - not on each other!



Wheelock Farm

We are very excited for the traditional Acorns' visit to the farm to choose the school's Christmas tree! Miss Daniels and I have just been planning the day which promises to be full of fun and festive cheer. The children will decorate the tree on Friday morning ready for the PTA Christmas Fair in the afternoon.

Educational Visits

We are equally excited about taking the children in Elder class to the Lowry Theatre on the 8th January to watch The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. A separate letter has been sent about this visit. In addition to this, the children in Hawthorn and Oak have the opportunity to take part in ice skating at Planet Ice, Altrincham. We anticipate that this visit will take place on the 9th January and will send further information once this has been confirmed with the ice rink. What an exciting start back to school in the new year!

Senior Friends' Lunch

Our next lunch takes place on Wednesday 3rd December. Please make sure that you book via the school office so that Miss Byrne makes enough food for everyone. A gentle reminder that this event is for grandparents and other friends who are 'senior'. Last month, a couple of parents turned up and, although it was lovely to see them, we do not have the space for parents across the school to attend.

School Disco and PTA

What another successful disco last Friday! Once more, 'Disco Dave' was highly complementary of our children. Thank you to the staff who made this event possible. At the same time as the disco, the PTA were holding their AGM; although it was lovely, it possibly wasn't quite as exciting as being in the hall with the children! It was great to see so many at the meeting; I think that it was the greatest attendance at a PTA meeting in my 10 years at Whitegate! Thank you to all who attended and to those who brought the wine, nibbles and cheese.

We are very much looking forward to our Christmas Fair - the very first Whitegate Winter Wonderland - next Friday straight after school. This event promises to be full of Christmas magic and fun with a tinsel trail and even a snowball fight between staff and children! Thank you for all of your donations today of wine and chocolate. What a great amount we received!

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all who attended parent consultations over the past three weeks. It was great to speak to so many of you and to receive such positive and encouraging comments, especially after such a difficult time for us all. The questionnaires that were completed show that Facebook and Instagram are the preferred social media platforms and that parents are happy for us to continue to use X until we have set these up. Please look out again for posts on X.

There were 65 votes for residential visits beginning in Y2, with 26 saying that they should start when the children are older. In addition, 67 people voted for residential visits to take place every year with 16 saying no to this. Only 23 people said that they wanted residential visits over fewer nights and closer to home. I will now discuss the findings with the staff and these will feed into plans that we make for the future.

Thank you

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Mr and Mrs Evans who donated and fitted a brand new carpet, free of charge, in our staffroom after we had a leak that ruined the previous flooring. We hugely appreciate this wonderful donation which has brightened up our lunch space.

Have a wonderful weekend as the festive period gets underway!

Every blessing,

Caroline Mackenzie

Key Dates

Wednesday 3rd December	12:30pm	Senior Friends' Lunch
Thursday 4th December	All day	Acorns visit to Wheelock Farm
Friday 5th December	3:15pm onwards	Whitegate Winter Wonderland (Christmas Fair)
Saturday 6th December	5:15pm	Village Christmas Light Switch-on
Tuesday 9th December	2pm	KS1 nativity performance (Tickets available next week)
Wednesday 10th December	5:30pm	KS1 nativity performance Not suitable for babies and toddlers (Tickets available next week)
Friday 12th December	All day	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
Tuesday 16th December	1:30pm	KS2 performance of Aladdin (Tickets available next week)
Wednesday 17th December	6pm	KS2 performance of Aladdin Not suitable for babies and toddlers (Tickets available next week)
Friday 19th December	10am	Carol Service in St Mary's (Led by Hawthorn)
Friday 19th December	1:30pm	Finish for the Christmas break