

March 2026



Welcome back after the break. I hope that you all had a lovely week. I am sure that you have all appreciated the resurfacing of the road outside of school that took place during half term, along with the new speed restriction of 20mph. Reducing speed through the village has been something that the school, along with the Parish Council, have been campaigning for over many years, so it is great to see it come to fruition. Please remember the agreement in our school's Parking Charter, including not parking on double yellow lines or on the zig-zag lines at the front of school. Please also remember not to park anywhere that causes an obstruction to general road users as well as the villagers. Thank you for your cooperation with these matters.

News from Oak



There was no better way to finish the half term than to enjoy the speeches at our second annual Public Speaking competition. Covering issues ranging from climate change to homelessness, the Year 6s in Oak did a smashing job of standing and reading in front of an expectant crowd who listened intently to their thoughts and ideas on what they would do if they were Prime Minister.

Whilst developing confidence and resilience, this activity also showcased the best side of all our pupils. Retired headteacher Ann Gill (who

was part of the judging panel) commented on how the speeches showcased the kindness and compassion that resides in each of the children's hearts. A huge congratulations to Harlee, our winner, and all of Year 6 for a fantastic set of speeches. *Mr Heathcote*

Sporting News

Our Y5/6 children did an incredible job at netball this week. The level was ramped up in this Inspire competition as they were playing against children who attend netball clubs. They played a full 7 a side team, with additional positions to manage and a tightening of the rules. Out of seven teams we came 3rd which is an amazing achievement. We are so proud of them all! *Mrs Savage*



News from Acorns

Acorns had great excitement recently after the arrival of some new equipment for our outdoor area. The children have loved using their imaginations to build an array of different structures with the new construction tiles. They have tested the children's resilience and perseverance when the tiles just haven't quite fitted together!



The new scooter boards have also been a huge hit! The new resources are proving invaluable to support the children's gross motor skills and build their core strength. They have also had the added benefit of supporting turn-taking, as they have been so popular! *Mrs Corcoran*

PTA News

Don't forget to sign up for our Quiz and Curry Night that takes place next Friday. Doors open at 6.30pm. Drinks and a delicious curry, or hotdogs for the children, will be served before the quiz gets underway at 7.00pm. The quiz will feature a mix of questions suitable for all ages, so everyone can get involved.

The school sleepover takes place on Friday 13th March, so please keep collecting sponsorship for this event. Those with the most sponsorship money will have a great sleeping position in the hall. During the evening, there will be food, games galore and a special bedtime story. We are looking forward to sharing this event with the children, whilst continuing to raise vital funds for our school.



A Reflection from Mr Thomas on this half term's value of love

At the heart of the Christian faith lies one simple value: love. When asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus responded in Gospel of Matthew 22:37–39 by saying, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart... and love your neighbour as yourself.” These words remind us that love is not just a feeling. Love is a choice, an action and a way of life.

In our Whitegate school family, we strive to nurture this Christian value of love in practical, everyday ways. Love is shown when children include someone who feels left out. It is present when they forgive a friend, offer encouragement or show kindness without being asked. Love is expressed through patience in the classroom, respect on the playground and compassion when someone is struggling.



The love we speak of is rooted in the example of Jesus Christ. It is a love that is selfless, forgiving, generous and unconditional. It is a love that seeks the best for others and recognises the dignity and intrinsic value of every person as a child of God.

As parents and educators, we share the privilege and responsibility of modelling this love for our children. They learn far more from what we demonstrate than from what we simply say. When they see our empathy, fairness, service and understanding in action, they begin to understand what Christian love truly means.

Thank you for helping us to grow that understanding. May we continue to work together to cultivate a school family where love is lived daily in our thoughts, words and actions: a community where love is a way of life.



News from The Ark

What a fun-packed first week back we've had in The Ark – from circus skills in the sunshine to a fantastic banquet to celebrate Chinese New Year! We are very excited for our talent show on 12th March and seeing the brilliant performances. Please book your child's place via ParentMail.



Eat Them to Defeat Them – Veg Power!

From Monday 2nd March we will be taking part in 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' – a multi-award-winning campaign that encourages children to eat more vegetables. Children will be able to vote for their favourite veggie at lunchtime and will receive a sticker for their reward chart for each vegetable that they try. Reward charts have been distributed amongst the children today. We will be holding lots of fun activities throughout the campaign, including The Great Veg Vote and various tasting tables.

Wednesday 4th March	12:30pm	Senior Friends Lunch
Thursday 5th March	All Day	Elder's Educational Visit to Liverpool
Thursday 5th March	All Day	World Book Day
Friday 6th March	6:30pm	PTA Quiz and Curry Night
W/B 9th March	All Week	Science Week
Friday 13th March	All Night!	PTA School Sleepover
Tuesday 17th March	2pm - 4pm	KS2 Cross Country Event <i>By invitation only</i>
Thursday 19th March	4pm – 7:30pm	Parents' Evening for Acorns
Friday 20th March	8am	Family breakfast in the school hall
Friday 20th March	All day	Rowan's Educational Visit to Weaver Hall Museum
Tuesday 24th March	2pm - 4pm	Y5/6 Dodgeball Competition <i>By invitation only</i>
Wednesday 25th March	All Day	Birch's Educational Visit to Manchester Airport Visitors Centre

Thank you for your continued support

C Mackenzie