



July 2026
22.7.26

Today, we say goodbye to our Y6s. Their Leavers' Service in church was a true testament to the journey that they have been on and how, in their seven years with us, they have grown in wisdom. They shared wonderful memories of their time with us and thanked many of those who had helped them along the way. Their prayers were beautiful and very much came from the heart. Mr Heathcote did a brief talk based on the story of David and Goliath. Like David, he encouraged the children to trust in God when difficult times come. I hope and pray that the children will remember all that they have learnt at Whitegate and will make a great start to their next chapter at high school. Remember, you will always be part of the Whitegate family and it would be great to see you in the future.



Staffing Update

Today, we are also saying a huge thank you and goodbye to Mr Parrish who has been very much part of our staff team for a number of years. With the Sports Grant to school coming to an end next academic year, we are delighted that Mr Parrish has secured a role working for another school in Cheshire East. He will be hugely missed by us all.

At Whitegate, we are extremely fortunate that we have such a skilled and specialist sports coach in Mr Fowles. He will be supporting the staff team as we transition from Mr Parrish's coaching sessions to the class teachers delivering their own PE sessions. I am very happy to also let you know that we are continuing to work with the Vale Royal Sports partnership and the children will be able to access the huge range of sporting events outside of school.

Today, we also say thank you to Mrs Dakin who is finishing her mid-day assistant role. She will be missed each lunch time, but it is not 'goodbye' - she will be visiting school from time-to-time to hear some of our children read!

140th Anniversary

What can I say about this Fabulous occasion?! It was everything that I imagined, and more! How great it was to share it with so many special guests along with parents, staff and pupils, past and present. The church serviced was beautiful; the dancing that followed was in everyway spectacular as always; the Victorian afternoon tea was delicious and the children had a great time on the field, playing games in the afternoon. Thank you to everyone who made this day possible: those who put the exhibition in the hall together; those who put the service together; Canon Paul who led the proceedings in church, all staff who were involved in the maypole procession and dancing, Miss Byrne for an amazing tea party and spectacular cakes, those who came along to the event, but most importantly ... to our children who shone their lights brightly in every way possible. All glory must go to God who has sustained us over the last 140 years.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, His love ensures forever!

If you would like to order a special 140th anniversary t-shirt (as modelled by the staff last Friday), please email the school office advising of the size. T-shirts are £10 each.



Puppet Show

Last week, the children in Hawthorn entertained our 28 new starters for September with renditions of traditional tales in their puppet shows. The children had worked hard to sew their puppets, write scripts and paint scenery. A special thank you to Mrs Morris and Mrs Walker who pulled this all together. We are looking forward to officially welcoming our new little Acorns to our Whitegate family very soon.



E-Safety

Please see the separate ParentMail, coming out tomorrow, from Mr Thomas in regards to important online safety issues that you need to be aware of, particularly for those parents of older children as they are more likely to be using chat groups during the break.



Attendance

Well done to Jacob J, George D, Emily D, Doug C, Daisy J, Katrina C-G, Immy C, Molly M, Benjamin L and James C for their 100% attendance this academic year. What a great achievement! When I presented them with their certificates, I made a comment about them being very healthy people who must never get ill! Their response was that they have been ill, but have taken some medicine and have braved it into school. I know that Arlo set himself the challenge of getting his 100% certificate early in the school year, showing what you can achieve if you set your mind to it.

Our whole school attendance for this academic year is 95.4%. We are above the national average at 94.4%. Whilst this is hugely positive, it is just below the 96% target. Please remember not to book family holidays in term time: each day is a valuable learning day in school. Let's see if we can improve our percentage further next year.



Uniform

A reminder that all children must wear a royal blue polo shirts from September. If you are purchasing everyday ones (without the school logo) from ASDA, these are the cobalt ones. Please make every effort to buy white sole trainers to protect our hall floor.

School Dinners

The company that provide our school dinners, Hutchisons, are no longer providing this service from September. A new company, Aspens, will be taking over in September. More information about this will come through in the new school year. The price of school meals will not change and Miss Byrne will still be cooking. It is vital that all outstanding debt from the purchase of school meals are paid as a matter of urgency.

Summer Reading Challenge

Last week we welcomed Caroline Dunsheath, from our local libraries, into school, to help launch this year's summer reading challenge. Nationwide, schools often find that after the long summer holiday, children's reading can dip due to not keeping up with the regular reading that

they do during term time. Therefore, we encourage all children to keep up with their reading by completing the summer reading challenge. Please see the information sent out earlier last week, via ParentMail, which contains details for signing up online, or drop into your local library to enrol. We can't wait to see the children back in September with their certificates and medals for completing the challenge. Let's aim for even more children than last year!

Values Day 2026

This academic year, we joined together for our curriculum evenings, however, starting in September, we are reverting back to do these separately given that our class structure is changing. Please do make every effort to attend these evenings, as it provides an opportunity to see how we deliver the curriculum to mixed ages, along with information about homework and key dates (such as educational visits).

Curriculum Evenings

On the 18th September, children across the school will be taking part in a Value Day where we will be exploring the Christian values that drive our school vision. These values of: thankfulness, trust, growth, love, faith and wisdom will inspire the pupils to take part in a range of activities to explore these themes. Lunchtime will be extra special that day, as we will be having a picnic at Vale Royal Abbey!

Class Names

As we are returning to five classes in September, we will be losing one class name - this will be Rowan, not Elder as previously communicated. The classes will be called Acorns (Reception), Birch(Y1/2), Elder (Y2/3), Hawthorn (Y4/5) and Oak (Y5/6). The Ark will be operating from the current Elder classroom, by the staff entrance.

Social Media Update

We are in the process of setting up a new Facebook page and are aiming for this to be completed over the summer break. Please look out for our special 140th logo, as this will be our official page in September. We will be sending new forms out early in the next academic year to obtain permission for the children's images (with no names), to be used on this platform. We are very much looking forward to sharing our news with you in this way.

Snack

From September, we will no longer be offering toast at morning break. There will be plenty of free fruit in school, but if you wish to send your child in to school with a **healthy snack**, please do so. The following items are permissible: fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, a small portion of cheese, crackers, rice cakes, plain popcorn, bread sticks and raisins. The following items are not permissible because they are unhealthy or have a high sugar content: Fruit Winders, Bear Yoyos, Fruit Split, crisps, chocolate bars, salted/sweet/toffee popcorn, sweets, chocolate raisins and sweet biscuits.



Thank you for all of the gifts that my staff and I have received. They are not necessary, but very much appreciated!
I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing summer break
Every blessing,
C Mackenzie

Dates

Tuesday 2nd September	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Stay and Play for new starters into Acorns Drop-in session for those invited by Mrs Savage
Wednesday 3rd September	8:45am	Children return for the new school year
Wednesday 3rd September	8:45am	Parent Coffee Morning hosted by the PTA
Wednesday 9th September		Acorns children in full time from today
Friday 18th September	All day	Christian Values Day with a picnic lunch at Vale Royal Abbey
Tuesday 22nd September	5pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Elder
Tuesday 22nd September	6pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Birch
Thursday 24th September	6pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Acorns
Friday 25th September	9:30am - 11am	MacMillan Coffee Morning hosted by Y6
Tuesday 29th September	5pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Oak
Tuesday 29th September	6pm	Curriculum Evening for parents of children in Hawthorn
Friday 2nd October	8am	Family Breakfast
Friday 9th October	TBC	FOWS Scarecrow Trail
Friday 9th October	All day	World Mental Health Day <i>Dress in yellow!</i>
Tuesday 13th October	10am	Harvest Festival in church led by Elder Class
Friday 16th October	pm	Oak's Autumn Fair
Wednesday 21st October	3:15pm	Break up for half-term
Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd October	All day	INSET Days
Monday 2nd November	8:45am	School reopens for Autumn term 2

Please do come along to our Parent Coffee Morning on the first day back after drop-off. This will take place in the school hall. Come and meet up with friends, or come and meet new people if you are new to our school family in September. We look forward to welcoming you.

