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Points to Remember No. 14 12.12.25

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DATES

December

Wed 17th—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day

Fri 19th—Last day of the Autumn Term

January

Mon 5th—First day of the Spring Term

Fri 16th—FoWs Break the Rules Day (Details to follow)

Mon 26th—Pianist Iyad Sughayer visiting school (Performance for parents at 2.45)

Term Dates Available on School Website

2025 –2026 —[Click here](#)

Please ensure holidays are booked outside of term times because we teach new content every single day.

2026 Residentials

Y2 & Y3 Tattenhall Residential -Tues 30th June—Wed 1st July

Y4 London Residential - Tues 24th—Wed 25th March

Y6 Min-Y-Don Residential - Mon 6th—Friday 10th July

Details to follow

Parent Carer Meetings

Here are the key dates for each class:

•**Reception & Year 6:** March 4th 2026

•**Years 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5:** June 17th & 18th 2026

Please speak to your child's teacher if you need to

Reminder

Celebration Assembly restarts on

Thursday 18th January

A Wonderful Nativity Performance – Thank You for Your Sup-



Thank you so much for coming along to support the children in their latest Nativity production. We've received some lovely feedback and truly appreciate your encouragement. Performing in front of a live audience can be very challenging for many children, and it's wonderful that they have the opportunity to take part in these experiences. What was particularly encouraging was seeing so many very shy children finding their inner courage to take on more demanding roles. As mentioned last night, Years 4, 5, and 6 will return in the summer term with another musical production to entertain you and further refine their drama skills. The Friends of Whitley School (FoWS) are also very grateful for your support in buying raffle tickets and Christmas Goodie Bags. These are still available for purchase if you'd like to get yours!



Friends of Whitley School (FoWS) Lottery

The lottery lets us raise much-needed funds for school to help pay for Athletics, coaches for trips, furniture etc.

It costs just £8 a month for 2 draws per week. If your number pops up, you win £25. If there was no winner the week before you win. If you would like a number and to help support school,

Please contact Hayley Woodward on 07740043151 or

littlhayjay@gmail.com

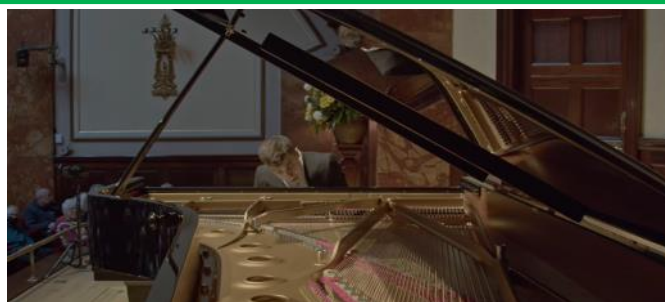
Lottery Winners

We have lots of spare numbers so please consider supporting this initiative.

19/11/2025	10	ROLLOVER	
22/11/2025	35	Charlotte Mottram	£50
26/11/2025	40	Rollover	
29/11/2025	46	Rollover	
03/12/2025	1	Rollover	



Please consider choosing a spare number



Special Performance at Whitley

On **Monday, 26 January**, Whitley Village School will welcome Iyad Sughayer, the acclaimed Jordanian-Palestinian classical pianist, for a very special performance and some pupil workshops.

We are now planning to invite parents and grandparents to join us for an exclusive afternoon recital before the end of the school day. Full details of this event will be sent out next week.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our pupils and families to experience world-class music right here at Whitley. We are thrilled to offer enrichment activities like this, which inspire creativity and broaden horizons.

Autism Support information is available through the following information Padlet.

[CWAC Autism Service Family Support Padlet](#)

Thank You for Your Incredible Support! 🌟

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Sophia's fundraising during the school performances yesterday for her upcoming trip to Gibraltar with Guides. We are truly amazed by your generosity!

We're thrilled to announce that the lucky winner of both competitions was a **child in Year 2**. Her Grandma made the closest guess for the number of sweets in the jar, with 249 — exact answer is 248 — and her Dad correctly named the Squishmallow as Trailmarker. What a family triumph!

Thanks to your kindness across the two games, donations, and contributions via the GoFundMe page, Sophia raised an incredible **£267.50**. With previous fundraising it means she's now reached about two-thirds of her total fundraising goal — all thanks to you.

Sophia will be back in the spring with more fundraising fun, including hand-made fabric crafts for you to enjoy.





Please encourage any prospective parents to contact us to arrange a visit.

Starting School in 2026?

Looking for a warm, welcoming school with an Outstanding EYFS?

Tel. 01606 822991

Email r.david@whitleyprimary.co.uk

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flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy



For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

Flu 1mmunisation
Helping to protect you against flu

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Flu Hospitalisations Hit Record High

NHS figures have revealed that the number of patients in hospital in England with flu has reached the highest ever for this time of year, with an average of 2,660 cases per day last week—an increase of 55% compared with the previous week. Similar trends are unfolding across Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, placing immense pressure on public health systems; The highest flu rates are affecting children and young people aged five to 14.

If your child missed their nasal spray flu vaccination, please contact your GP.

NHS Guidance for Parents: Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.

Top Tips for Parents at Christmas

It may be the most wonderful time of the year for many students, but for those with social communication difficulties, Christmas can be fraught with challenges. An already confusing world suddenly sounds, looks and even smells different and familiar routines are overturned. As with all things, the three core principles of preparation, communication and support can help students manage the festive season. All children are different so not all the following tips will be relevant to your child. Select the ones that are helpful to your family situation.

Disruption to the usual routine

- Explain that at special times of year, people do things differently and that this is OK.
- Talk about Christmas time and what this means for your family. Look at family photos.
- Be alert for behaviour changes that might signal anxiety.
- Liaise with school regarding changes to routine and special events so that you can pre-warn at home.
- Be aware that the 'hype' of Christmas might present challenges in terms of sensory overload and changed behaviour. You may need to reduce 'incoming' by avoiding some places at busy times and by having TV free times.
- Make a calendar which shows everything that is coming up over the next few weeks. Highlight events as they approach and cross them off when they have finished.
- Incorporate a Christmas activity that they enjoy into their daily schedule, eg opening the advent calendar, or switching on the tree lights
- Include your child in small parts of the Christmas process (so as not to overwhelm them). Things like wrapping one or 2 presents or setting part of the table, while talking about the affairs surrounding these activities. This will help the child or teen to become familiar with the change and activity that will occur. This familiarity goes a long way in reducing the level of anxiety on the day. (Some people choose to avoid sensory overload, e.g. by adding only a few decorations each day).

Decorations

- Write a social story to explain why we make and display decorations at Christmas.
- Cut down on the amount of decorations you use if they cause sensory overload. Remember that for your child displayed Christmas cards count as decorations. Consider having some Christmas free areas of the house to allow for 'down time'.
- Involve the child in deciding where the decorations should go and involve them in putting the Christmas tree up. This will help to maintain a sense of being in control.
- If you use lights, choose settings that stay on all the time or only blink occasionally.



Special events

- **Pantomime Outing** - show pictures of the actors and set in advance. Visit the theatre when it's empty or look at it online. At the performance sit at the back where it is quietest and you can exit without interrupting the show. Some theatres do special shows for children with ASD.
- **Parties** - pre-prepare, stick to agreed timings and let your child attend part of an event if this is easier for them than coping with the whole thing. Be aware of sensitivities around food and noise.
- **Christmas dinner** - be aware of the sensory challenges this may present. Offer small amounts of new or different foods to try on separate plates.
- **Christmas shopping** - It is likely that this will not be an enjoyable experience due to the crowds, noise and general overload of busy shops. Shop online, go without the children, go to late night and 24 hour shops at quiet times. Lots of children with autism love catalogues!
- **Special clothes** - Party clothes, Christmas jumper days and people in costumes can present sensory and change of routine challenges. Plan with your child and compromise if necessary.

Father Christmas

- Read the story of St Nicholas to help older children understand why we have Father Christmas
- Decide what you are going to tell your child about Santa and teach them (maybe using a social story) how to talk about this appropriately so that they don't upset other children with a blunt comment.
- Be aware that for some children Santa is scary. Let them stand back if they feel more comfortable with this.

Family Gatherings

- Communicate with your family about what things might be a challenge for your child and how you manage them. You may need to ask people not to hug and kiss your child or bombard them with gifts.
- If possible, identify a safe zone wherever you go that your child can retreat to if feeling overwhelmed.
- If your child has food issues, communicate this to others so that they don't inadvertently give your child a 'treat' which triggers unwanted reactions.

Back to school

- Use the time after Christmas to reintroduce normal routines and in the few days before the new term starts, ensure bedtime routines are in place and that your child is pre-warned and prepared for the return to school.

Hopefully by planning ahead, you will be able to ensure that stresses and challenges are minimised, and that you and your family can have a very

Merry
CHRISTMAS

