Village Lane
Whitley, Warrington
WA4 4QH
01606 822991
www.whitleyprimary.co.uk
admin@whitleyprimary.co.uk

Points to Remember No. 9 13.11.26

DATES

November

Mon 16th – Final swimming lesson for Years 4-6
Mon 23rd - 5/6 Basketball festival @Weaverham
Fri 27th - Colour Raffle for FOWS
- Stay and Learn for Reception and Year 1

December

Weds 2nd - Christingle Service @ St. Lukes, 6.30pm
Fri 4th - Year 3/4 Netball festival @Weaverham (Letter to follow)
Thu 10th - Christmas Performance 2pm and 6pm
Wed 16th - Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day
Fri 18th - Last day of the Autumn Term

January 2027

Thurs 7th - Whole school Pantomime trip to Parr Hall
Weds 27th - Young Voices Concert (Year 3-6 who have attended the weekly club)

February 2027

Fri12th - Valentines Disco with FOWs, 3.30pm–4.15pm
Weds 24th - Mad Science Assembly

Residential Visits

Thursday 15th April 2027 – Friday 16th April 2026 - Year 4 London
Monday 5th July – Friday 9th July 2027 - Year 6 Min-Y-Don

Term Dates Available on School Website for both 2026–2027 and 2027-2028 —Click here

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



Children in Need – Thank You!

A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and families for your support of our Children in Need fundraising. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity, donations and enthusiasm in helping us raise money for such a worthwhile cause. The children had a fantastic time getting involved, showing their support and learning about the importance of helping others. Your contributions, big or small, will help make a real difference to children who need it most. Thank you once again for your continued support and for helping us make the day such a success!

Is Your Child Too Ill for School?

As we move into the winter months, we know that coughs, colds and sniffles become more common, and it can sometimes be difficult to decide whether your child is well enough to come to school.

We would encourage parents and carers to send their child into school wherever possible. A minor cough, cold or runny nose does not usually mean your child needs to stay at home, provided they are otherwise well enough to take part in the school day.

Regular attendance is incredibly important, and every day in school makes a difference to your child's learning and progress.

If you are unsure, please take a look at the NHS guidance: **Is my child too ill for school?**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep attendance high and valuing the importance of this.

School Holiday Dates 2026/27

September 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

School Holidays

Bank Holidays

Inset Days

Heating Bank

citizens advice Cheshire West

Do you need help with your energy costs?

Funded by the Crisis Resilience Fund, the Heating Bank provides financial help with energy costs for eligible households in Cheshire West and Chester.

You may be able to get help if:

- you live in Cheshire West and Chester
- you are on a low income something unexpected has recently affected your finances, making it difficult to afford your energy costs or
- you need short-term one-off support to stop a crisis from happening or getting worse

Examples are job loss, reduction in benefits, unexpected bills such as car repairs, vet, broken appliances, family circumstances change. Find out more here.

How to access the Heating Bank:

Families can apply directly https://www.citizensadvicecw.org.uk/heatingbank/

Support is available to households who are in receipt of benefits and struggling to meet their energy costs.

The service is free, confidential, and designed to provide quick assistance.

Applications for Reception 2027

If your child is due to start school in September 2027, applications for Reception places are now open. Please apply via your local authority. If you know anyone living fairly locally who might be interested in joining our wonderful school community, please encourage them to get in touch — we'd love to welcome them for a visit! Contact us to arrange a one-to-one tour, or ask any questions.

Key dates

1st September 2026: Applications open

15th January 2027: Closing date for applications

16th April 2027: Notification of offers



Magistrates in the Community

MAGISTRATES' ASSOCIATION

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a fantastic morning on Tuesday with Paula from *Magistrates in the Community*. The session gave the children a fascinating insight into the criminal justice system and may even have inspired some future magistrates!

The children learned how magistrates are appointed, the types of cases heard in magistrates' courts, how guilt or innocence is decided and how sentences are reached. They also explored important topical issues, including cybercrime, bullying and knife crime.

The highlight of the morning was taking part in a mock trial, where the children discovered the different roles within a courtroom. Those acting as magistrates retired to discuss the case with Paula before returning to deliver their verdict.

It was a brilliant hands-on learning experience, and many children left with a new understanding of the justice system and perhaps some exciting new ideas about their future career paths!



Autism Practical Support

Family Empowerment Courses with APS

Free autism awareness training with APS for families in Northwich, Winsford, Chester, Rural Cheshire & Ellesmere Port on behalf of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Our training is available to all families with a **Cheshire West or Chester GP.** Participation does not require an assessment or diagnosis.

November Dates:

- **2-day Course at Disability Positive Northwich** Wed 11th & Thurs 12th Nov, 10am-2pm
- **1-day Course at Wharton Stonehouse Pub, Winsford** Mon 16th Nov, 9.30-5pm
- **2-day Course at Hoole Community Centre, Chester** Mon 23rd & Tues 24th Nov, 10am-2pm
- **1-day at Theatre Porto, Whitby Hall, Ellesmere Port** Sat 28th Nov 9.30-5pm
- **Family Empowerment Taster Online Webinar** Wed 25th Nov 6-8pm

Outside the area? We can still offer the course at a low cost. Get in touch for more information.

Scan Here to Book On

0344 850 8607 | info@autismpracticalsupport.org.uk

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

WHAT'S REAL ONLINE

Children are growing up in a digital world where seeing and hearing no longer mean they can always believe. One major emerging concern is what UNESCO describes as 'synthetic media': AI-generated audio, images or video, including deepfakes, that can convincingly imitate a person's voice or likeness. As these tools become easier to access, children may encounter manipulated content, cloned voices, and fabricated messages that appear or sound real. Parents and educators therefore need to help them question what they experience online, which can often feel harder when we're experiencing it for the first time, too.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-GENERATED CONTENT

Artificial intelligence can now create realistic images, audio, video, and text in a very short time. Online, children may encounter fabricated news clips, AI 'influencers', fake screenshots, or entirely invented events without ever realising they are fake. The real challenge is that this content often looks polished and convincing. Parents and educators need to help children understand that professional-looking content is not automatically reliable and that all digital material should be questioned before it is trusted or shared.

DEEPFAKES LOOK CONVINCING

'Deepfakes' use AI to alter or create images and videos that appear to show a real person doing or saying something that never happened. They are sometimes used to spread false information, embarrass someone, or target people through bullying and image-based abuse. Even when others know the content is fake, the emotional and reputational impact can still be significant – and, in some cases, potentially life threatening. Deepfakes therefore need to be treated as both a digital literacy and safeguarding concern.

FALSE INFORMATION SPREADS

Misinformation is false or misleading information shared without necessarily intending harm, while disinformation is deliberately created to deceive others. Both types can spread quickly through social media, messaging apps, and video platforms. Their popularity, repetition, and confident presentation can make these false claims feel true. Children may also be more likely to trust content shared by friends, influencers, or familiar accounts, making source-checking and verification essential parts of developing their digital literacy.

VOICES CAN BE CLONED

AI tools can copy someone's voice using only a short audio sample. A child may receive a call or voice note that appears to come from a parent, friend, teacher, or trusted adult, but the audio is not genuine. These messages can be used to create panic, request money, obtain information, or pressure a child into secrecy. Hearing a familiar voice is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity, especially when a message is urgent or unusual.

ACCOUNTS MAY BE FAKE

Not every online profile represents the person it claims to be. Fake accounts may impersonate another pupil, a teacher, a family member, or someone connected to the school. They can be used for acts such as bullying, scams, grooming, or manipulation. A convincing photograph, username, or message history does not prove that an account is genuine. Children should be cautious when someone asks for their or someone else's personal information, images, passwords, money, or access to private conversations.

ALGORITHMS INFLUENCE REALITY

Many online platforms, such as social media, are shaped by algorithms that recommend content based on what users view, like, search for, and share. This means children do not see a neutral or balanced version of the world. They may repeatedly encounter similar opinions, misleading claims, or increasingly extreme content. Over time, this repetition can make an opinion feel more common or credible than it really is, because the child may never see this opinion opposed or countered.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PAUSE, CHECK, COMPARE

Teach children not to accept content as true simply because it looks professional, sounds confident, or has been widely shared. Encourage them to pause, identify the original source, check the date, and compare the claim with another reliable source. Ask questions such as: Who created this? What evidence is provided? Could anything have been altered? What is the real motive? Regular, age-appropriate practice helps children develop the critical thinking needed to navigate their online worlds.

KEEP TALKING OPENLY

Create regular, non-judgemental conversations about what children see, hear, and experience online. Make sure you use parental controls where appropriate and understand each platform's age restrictions. Asking children about new platforms, influencers, unusual messages, or content they are unsure about can help open up valuable conversations. Avoid immediately blaming the child or removing their device, as this may discourage them from disclosing their concerns in the future.

VERIFY ANOTHER WAY

A familiar face, voice, or account is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity. If a message is unusual, urgent, or asks for secrecy, money, personal information, or immediate action, children should verify it through a separate route. They should be encouraged to call the person directly using a known number, speak to them face to face, or check with another trusted adult. Families can also agree a private 'code' phrase to help them authenticate genuine emergency messages from each other. This should be something random, non-personal, and known only to the family.

SAVE, REPORT, SUPPORT

When fake content, impersonation, or manipulation targets a child, take it seriously, even if the material is fabricated. Save relevant messages, usernames, links, and screenshots without sharing the content any further. Report it through the platform, follow safeguarding procedures, and escalate concerns involving threats, grooming, sexual content, coercion, or extortion. Remind children that creating or sharing this content, even as a so-called 'joke', can have serious consequences for them and others, and may be difficult to remove once shared online.

Meet Our Expert

Philippa Wraithmell is an educator, author and digital transformation specialist with expertise in digital safeguarding, online safety, AI in education and whole-school digital strategy. She is the Founder and CEO of EdRuption and works with schools, organisations and policymakers to help create safer, more ethical and more effective digital learning environments for children and young people.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds /wuw.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.08.2026