

Whitchurch Highlights



19th Dec
2025
Issue 10

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Whitchurch Families,

The rest of the Autumn term has been busy and productive with a variety of invaluable enrichment opportunities such as the Year 3 Stone Age Workshop and Year 4 visit to St Paul's Cathedral. The Whitchurch Woodland is now in full swing with half termly forest school sessions for each year group (Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 will have theirs in the Spring and Summer). Our leadership programme has also been expanded to build confident leaders for the future.

Everyone at Whitchurch has been getting into the festive spirit with memorable events including our Winter ensembles concert, carol concerts, Christmas lunch with all the trimmings and Christmas Jumper Day. Santa also visited each class bearing gifts! Years 4 to 6 wholeheartedly enjoyed going to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' - special thanks to Friends of Whitchurch for funding this event and, of course, for putting on a fabulous Winter Fair!



We also welcome three new parent governors to our governing body: Meera Pandya, Vaishali Amurao and Krupa Patel.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all of your thoughtful Christmas cards, gifts and wishes. Wishing you all a restful Christmas and New Year break with your families.

Ms Rachel Inniss
Headteacher

School reopens
on Tuesday 6th
January at the usual
time of 8.55am
(gates open
8.40am)

News and Highlights



Winter Ensembles and Carol Concerts

Congratulations also to our Whitchurch musicians and choirs who performed brilliantly at our recent Winter Ensembles Concert, including our orchestra, wind, percussion and rock band. Well done also to all of our Whitchurch children who sang beautifully for families at our carol concerts - featuring 'Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer', 'Twelve Days of Christmas', 'Little Donkey', 'We Three Kings' and 'Jingle Bells'. These events showcased the wide range of musical talent here at Whitchurch and got everyone into the festive spirit!



News and Highlights



FoW Winter Fair

Special thanks to Friends of Whitchurch for putting on a wonderful Winter Fair this week and to all our families for coming along to enjoy the festivities. There were many fun stalls and activities for all the family - including meet and greets with Santa and his reindeer, Christmas gifts, food and drink, a host of games and of course tasty treats from our bake off competition!



FoW have raised funds of £3000 at the fair!

Congratulations to our Bake Off competition winners:
1st - Alex (6CM)
2nd - Ziyan (5NL)
3rd - Adam (5PS)



The Whitchurch Woodland

Forest School Sessions
Spring 1 - Year 5
Spring 2 - Year 2
Summer 1 - Year 1
Summer 2 - Year 6



Year 4 Forest School Sessions

Year 4 took part in a variety of forest school activities this half term. We painted and decorated evergreen trees made from pallet wood and worked together to create a special memory tree for Riya's Rainbows. We used secateurs to cut sticks and craft festive Christmas tree decorations. We also built a wormery, practised den building and went foraging whilst learning about flora and fauna. Meanwhile, we planted a tree and showed fantastic teamwork and care for the environment. We also harvested vegetables from the garden, cleared the beds for winter and explored composting to support healthy soil - all in all, some fantastic opportunities for outdoor learning, creativity and connection with nature!

Mr Coutinho, Forest School Leader

"Forest school is a fun place to be, where you explore things you have never experienced before like foraging and even drinking hot chocolate." Shanaya

"My reflection on forest school is that it's fun, exciting and messy." Aylan



News and Highlights



Music Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have achieved the following instrumental and singing grades. Well done to all our musicians - and their teachers at Harrow Music Service - for their hard work and dedication.

Mrs Leutfeld, Director of Music

Violin

*Sophie 4RS - Grade 1 with Distinction; Aarshay 4AK - Grade 1;
Anbar 4HH - Initial Grade with Merit; Taleah 4HH - Initial Grade with Merit;
Ilinca 5PS - Grade 1 with Merit*

Singing

*Aarna 4HH - Grade 1 with Distinction; Raiya 5RP - Grade 1 with Merit;
Akshyan 5NL - Grade 1 with Merit; Krishna 6CM - Grade 2 with Distinction*

Guitar

Viha 5RC - Grade 1 with Distinction; Veer 6ET - Grade 4 Guitar with Merit

Piano

*Kayleigh 4XL - Grade 1 with Distinction; Jasmine 5RC - Grade 2 Distinction;
Raiya 5RP - Grade 1 with Merit; Amiya 6BS - Grade 1 with Merit;
Maya 6BS - Grade 1 with Merit*



News and Highlights



Rights Respecting School - Bronze Award!

Great news - as a school we have now achieved the Rights Respecting School Bronze Award! This is the first major step in our journey to becoming a fully fledged rights respecting school. Well done to our rights respecting ambassadors, who have presented children's rights to all Year 5 children this half term.



Ms Liu (Rights Respecting School leader)

"Children have the right to rest and play. This means that children should not be forced to work without fun and play."
Yusuf

"I have learnt that every right is equal and none of them are more important than another."
Diya

"All children have the right to education." Juliet

"All children have rights that are for their health, safety and care."
Saisha

"All children have the right to a name." Kian



CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

News and Highlights



Stay and Read Sessions

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came into school for more Stay and Read sessions this week. It was wonderful to see families enjoying quality reading time together!



'Jack and the Beanstalk' Pantomime

Children in years 4 to 6 went to see 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Watford Palace Theatre. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which was packed with laughter, music and brilliant characters - from the clumsy Fairy 'Nuff to the hilarious Dame and the booming voice of Stephen Fry as the Giant! Many thanks to Friends of Whitchurch for making it possible.



HMS Band Festival

Seven of our woodwind players were selected to take part in the HMS Band Festival, where they showcased their musical skills and commitment. Well done to our saxophonist Krishay (Year 5), our flautists Aarna (Year 4), Ella and Rian (Year 6) and our clarinet players Ayesha, Alexis and Kian (Year 6).

The festival provided a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to collaborate musically with other primary and secondary schools across Harrow, and offered a valuable learning and performance experience that will undoubtedly support their continued musical development.

News and Highlights



Year 4 visit to St Paul's Cathedral

Year 4 visited St Paul's Cathedral in London to learn more about the story of Bethlehem, using role-play to bring the Nativity to life. We explored the stunning interior, including the beautiful mosaics, and discovered how the cathedral was rebuilt after the Great Fire of London. We also got the chance to visit the Whispering Gallery and climb even higher up the dome to the Stone Gallery - a total of 376 steps!



Year 6 Forensic Science Workshop

Year 6 stepped into the shoes of real forensic investigators during an exciting hand-on Science workshop. Working in teams, we explored fingerprint analysis, fibre matching and crime-scene observation to solve a mystery using scientific clues. The session encouraged critical thinking, teamwork and careful attention to detail - skills that all budding scientists need!



Dates for your Diary

Spring
1st



Monday 5th January 2026	Staff Training Day (no children in school)
Wednesday 14th January	Year 2 Synagogue visit (1pm-3pm)
Thursday 15th January	6CM Class Assembly (9.05am)
Friday 16th January	6BS and 6ND Trip to Natural History Museum
Tuesday 20th January	1TG Class Assembly (9.05am)
Thursday 22nd January	5NL Class Assembly (9.05am)
Friday 23rd January	6ET Trip to Natural History Museum
Monday 26th January	6CM Trip to Natural History Museum
Thursday 29th January	5RC Class Assembly (9.05am)
Monday 2nd February	RWI Phonics Assessments
	6BS and 6ND visit to London Central Mosque
Tuesday 3rd February	3MD Class Assembly (9.05am)
	6ET and 6CM to London Central Mosque
Wednesday 4th February	HMS Guitar Festival (Harrow Arts Centre)
Thursday 5th February	HMS Guitar Festival (Harrow Arts Centre)
Wednesday 11th February	FoW Bake A Heart Competition and Sale
Thursday 12th February	6ET Class Assembly (9.05am)



Class Assemblies

2025-26



Tuesdays (Years 1 to 3) 9.05am-9.45am

Tues 20th Jan	1TG
Tues 3rd Feb	3MD
Tues 3rd Mar	2KK
Tues 17th Mar	1RA
Tues 28th Apr	3NN
Tues 5th May	2JJ
Tues 19th May	1KB
Tues 16th June	1RS

Thursdays (Years 4 to 6) 9.05am-9.45am

Thurs 15th Jan	6CM
Thurs 22nd Jan	5NL
Thurs 29th Jan	5RC
Thurs 12th Feb	6ET
Thurs 19th Mar	4AK
Thurs 26th Mar	6ND
Thurs 23rd Apr	5PS
Thurs 7th May	4RS

Alessio in 5NL
has taken some
interesting photos
of his observations in
the playground!



Reach Out - Schools Counselling Partnership

Sometimes we could all do with someone to talk to. If you would like to meet Tom for a confidential and non-judgemental chat about you, your child, or any other worries, he is available on **Wednesdays at 9-10am**.

You can call/text Tom on **07799 028 461** or email him at tom@schools counselling partnership.co.uk



Schools
Counselling
Partnership

Spring Lunch Menu



Allergens
are listed on
our website
(click here)



Salad bar
and bread
available
daily

		MONDAY MAINS	TUESDAY MAINS	WEDNESDAY MAINS	THURSDAY MAINS	FRIDAY MAINS							
		DESSERT	DESSERT	DESSERT	DESSERT	DESSERT							
WEEK ONE 5/1, 26/1, 23/2, 16/3		Chicken Hot Dog, with Potato Wedges & Garden Peas Grilled Cheese Sub, with Potato Wedges & Garden Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Cherry Flapjack (Ve)	Turkey Korma Curry, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Lentil & Chick Pea Keema Curry, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (Ve) (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Lemon Drizzle Cake (V)	Lamb Lasagne, Served with Garlic Bread & Broccoli Vegetable Lasagne, Served with Garlic Bread & Broccoli (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Strawberry Jelly (Ve)	Chicken Shawarma Wraps, with Cous Cous & Sweetcorn Falafel Wraps, with Cous Cous & Sweetcorn (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Ginger Cookie (Ve)	Fish Fingers, with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Farmhouse Omelette, with Chips & Peas or Baked Beans (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Vanilla Ice Cream Pot (V)	BBQ Lamb Pizza, with Diced Potatoes & Peas Margherita Pizza, with Diced Potatoes & Peas (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Apple Flapjack (Ve)	Chicken Katsu Curry, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Breaded Vegetable Katsu Curry, with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (Ve) (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Chocolate & Pear Tray Bake (V)	Tuna Pasta Bake, Served with Garlic Bread & Broccoli Macaroni Cheese, Served with Garlic Bread & Broccoli (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Jam Sponge (Ve)	Fish Stars, Served with Chips, Peas or Baked Beans Veggie Sausage Roll, Served with Chips & Peas or Baked Beans (Ve) (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Chocolate Ice Cream Pot (V)	Roast Chicken with Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower Lentil Hot Pot, with Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower (V) (Ve) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Raspberry Jelly (Ve)	Turkey Biryani, with Naan Bread & Broccoli Quorn Biryani, with Naan Bread & Broccoli (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Vanilla Cookie (Ve)	Battered Fish, with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Cheese & Onion Lattice, with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Butterscotch Mousse (V)
WEEK TWO 12/1, 2/2, 2/3, 23/3													
WEEK THREE 19/1, 9/2, 9/3													

Allergen Information: Menu descriptions may not list every individual ingredient. We are aware of the presence of allergens requiring labelling, so please ask a member of the catering team should you require any more details. Vegetarian options are indicated by the symbol (V) and Vegan options are indicated by the symbol (Ve).

COOMBS
CATERING PARTNERSHIP



Staff Snapshot

Name: Karishma Karia
Role: Class Teacher



All about me

I was born and raised in Harrow, where I spent most of my childhood and developed a love for learning and working with others. After leaving school, I moved to Birmingham to study at university, which was an exciting and important chapter of my life. I later continued my studies at St Mary's University in Twickenham, where I further developed my passion for education and working with children. Before becoming a teacher, I worked in a nursery for four years. Working with young children confirmed that teaching was the right path for me and motivated me to take the next step in my career.

Hobbies and Interests

Outside of school, I love travelling and experiencing different cultures around the world. I have been fortunate enough to visit several countries, with Thailand and Egypt being two of my absolute favourites. Both trips were unforgettable, but seeing the pyramids in Egypt after a seven-hour journey was a truly once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget. Travelling has helped me to be more open-minded and curious, and I love bringing these stories into the classroom.



I also really value looking after my physical and mental wellbeing. In my spare time I enjoy going to Pilates and the gym, as well as going for long walks to unwind. Staying active helps me feel energised and positive, which I believe is so important in a busy teaching role.

Best part of my role

I love watching the children grow in confidence, independence and knowledge as the year progresses. Seeing how far they come from the start of the year to the end is incredibly special and makes all the hard work worthwhile. I also enjoy building strong relationships with the children and supporting them not just academically, but socially and emotionally too.

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

12 Top Tips for Children & Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

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