

# Whitchurch Highlights



27th March  
2026  
Issue 13

## Message from the Headteacher



**Dear Whitchurch Families,**

We have made it to the end of the Spring term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Whitchurch staff for their hard work and dedication to make learning engaging and purposeful. It has been a very busy term all round, particularly with Parents' Evening this week.

Last week our Whitchurch musicians made us proud with a wonderful Spring concert, showcasing their amazing musical talent. Special thanks to Mrs Leutfeld and the team of music teachers from Harrow Music Service for making this event possible. I would also like to thank Friends of Whitchurch for their continued fundraising for the school - look out for our newsletter after Easter where we will be sharing how your support at these events has helped the school.

We are proud of the opportunities we give our children to engage beyond the classroom - including residential visits and environmental education at our Forest School. We have also hosted an inter-school sustainability event and Spelling Bee. Please read on to find out more about all these events and initiatives.

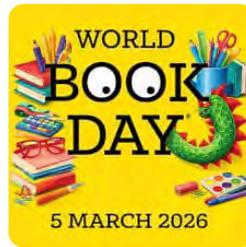
As a sidenote, please can I remind our families to show consideration for our neighbours and local community. This includes showing respect for our neighbours' properties and being mindful not to block access to their driveways. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break.

**Ms Rachel Inniss**  
Headteacher

Children  
back to school  
Monday 13th  
April - gates  
open 8.40am

# News and Highlights



## World Book Day

Whitchurch celebrated World Book Day across the school with a range of exciting activities to promote a love of reading. The whole school attended a special assembly, where we celebrated the National Year of Reading and had great fun attempting to guess which of our teachers were 'The Masked Reader'!

During the day we took part in a class swap, giving us the opportunity to enjoy books alongside our peers from different year groups. In the afternoon, we spent time creating artwork inspired by books from our year group's recommended reading list, showcasing our creativity and deepening our connection to the stories we have been exploring.

Overall, it was an amazing day that continued to promote a love and enjoyment of reading across the school. We look forward to celebrating again next year!

### *Miss Goldsmith*



# News and Highlights



## Year 5 & 6 Residential Visits

Year 5 and 6 children participated in residential and day visits to engage in programmes of outdoor activities - solving problems and building confidence, resilience and teamwork skills. At Woodrow High House in Amersham, Year 5 took to the high ropes for challenges including Jacob's Ladder and took part in bushcraft. At Danbury in Essex, Year 6 tackled rock climbing, zip wire, vertical climbing and high ropes. All children showed incredible bravery and determination - building lasting memories!



# News and Highlights



## Green Tree Schools Award

Whitchurch is proud to announce that we have successfully achieved both the Bronze and Silver levels of the Green Tree Schools Award. This is a fantastic achievement that reflects the hard work and commitment of our pupils and staff in caring for the environment.

Through our Forest School sessions, children have taken part in planting trees, learning about recycling and composting, and creating artwork using natural materials. These hands on experiences have helped build a deeper understanding of sustainability and the importance of looking after our planet.

A big well done to our Sustainability Team at Whitchurch, who have played an important role in leading initiatives and encouraging others to get involved in making paper, saving energy and recycling. It has been wonderful to see so many children take part and show enthusiasm for making a difference.

We are now excited to continue our journey as we work towards achieving the Gold award.

**Mr Coutinho**



# News and Highlights

Follow us on  
Instagram:  
WhitchurchPS



## Music

### HMS String Festival

Well done to our young violinists who participated in the HMS String Festival. After rehearsing for a full day alongside pupils from four other Harrow schools, they performed in an evening concert as part of a youth string orchestra at Harrow Arts Centre. The concert featured a diverse repertoire, including arrangements of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' and extracts from film music.



### Spring Soloists' Concert

Our Spring Music Concert provided another wonderful performance opportunity this term. Pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 showcased their skills and musicality across all orchestral, non-orchestral and Indian instruments we offer at Whitchurch, with performers ranging from pre-Grade to Grade 4. Congratulations to our 31 young musicians, who impressed us with their dedication and achievement. A heartfelt thank you to our HMS teachers for their guidance and support in preparing the pupils. We are especially grateful to families for their continued encouragement and commitment to their children's musical journey.



### Flautist from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra visits Whitchurch

We were delighted to welcome Jo Marsh, a flautist from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Jo has set herself the challenge of visiting 80 schools across the UK to perform and talk about the orchestra, with the aim of inspiring and encouraging a new generation of musicians. All year groups had the opportunity to attend her presentation, listen to her playing the flute and ask lots of interesting questions.



# News and Highlights



## Music

### Year 4 Mozartists workshop

Year 4 were delighted to welcome back two members of The Mozartists orchestra, who performed on the piano, on period recorders and on flute. The musicians engaged children in conducting, active listening and commenting on the music - making classical music accessible and fostering creativity, confidence and joy.

### Junior Music Day at John Lyon School

Our Senior Choir (Year 5 and 6 children) attended the Junior Music Day at John Lyon School - a day of collaborative music making with other young musicians. They sang 'Shenandoah', an American folk song, in two-part harmony and 'Naughty' from the musical 'Matilda' in unison. The day concluded with a wonderful concert, showcasing the combined skills of the local schools' orchestras and choirs. Our Senior Choir represented Whitchurch so brilliantly!

### Drum Kit Demonstration

Many thanks to our HMS drums teacher Mr Longman, who gave an exciting drum kit demonstration to Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils during our Music assembly. He introduced the parts of the drum kit and performed pieces across different styles, from a march to jazz, Latin American music and rock.



### Instrumental Exams

Many congratulations to the following children for their effort and achievements in their instrumental exams! Their hard work has truly paid off.

**Singing** Elissabeth (4XL) - Grade 1 with Distinction; Siya (5RC) - Grade 1 with Merit; Neeyam (3SA) - Grade 1 with Pass

**Piano** Kavir (5PS) - Grade 1 with Merit; Sophie (4RS) - Grade 1 with Merit

*Mrs Leutfeld, Director of Music*

# News and Highlights



## Rights Respecting School - Outright Campaign

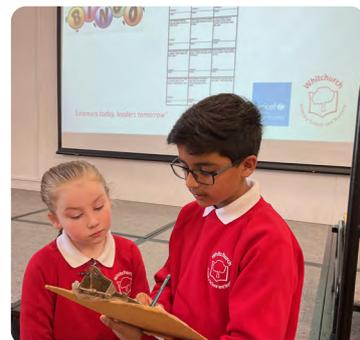
This week Whitchurch hosted the Rights Respecting School Outright Campaign event with a focus on water and the face of climate change, attended by seven other Rights Respecting Schools in Harrow (and featuring approximately 70 Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors).

We started the event with a bingo activity, sharing our ideas on children's rights and exploring the big question 'What is Climate Injustice?' A highlight of the event was playing the Water Relay Game using different containers, which was enjoyed by ambassadors and staff alike.

In the run up to the event, Whitchurch Rights Respecting School Ambassadors designed posters to show our helping hands for the campaign. We also developed our understanding of children's rights linked to the articles of Life, Survival and Development; Access to Education and Aims of Education.

It was a successful afternoon of networking, collaboration and sharing ideas related to global issues and children's rights!

*Ms Liu, RRSA Leader*



# News and Highlights



## Whitchurch Recommended Reading Challenge Launch

We were delighted to launch our Whitchurch Recommended Reading Challenge with a special assembly and classes have worked hard to ensure that reading corners are in tip-top shape. Each class now has a set of carefully 30 chosen texts which children can read independently, or enjoy with their families, and complete challenges linked to the books as they work towards earning certificates.

This initiative marks the start of our continued commitment to developing a strong reading culture at Whitchurch. Research consistently shows that children who read for pleasure develop a wider vocabulary, stronger comprehension skills and greater confidence in learning across the curriculum. Most importantly, reading for pleasure helps children discover stories, characters and ideas that inspire curiosity and imagination.

A huge thank you to our parents and carers who generously donated books to support this initiative. We would also like to extend a very special thank you to Friends of Whitchurch (FoW) for their incredible donation of **£5000**, which has helped to make these new classroom collections possible for our children. We look forward to seeing our pupils continue to discover, enjoy and share great books as part of their reading journey.

*Miss Francis-Dottin*

Discover more here



# News and Highlights



## Year 2 visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum

Year 2 visited the Florence Nightingale Museum as enrichment for our History learning about this inspirational woman, fondly known as 'The Lady with the Lamp'. During the visit we explored how Florence Nightingale improved nursing, how hospitals have changed and why hygiene is important.



## Year 4 Egyptian Workshop

Year 4 took part in an action packed Egyptian Day to learn more about life in Ancient Egypt for our History topic. We prepared a body to be turned into a mummy, investigated various Egyptian artefacts and scribed our names in Egyptian hieroglyphics using ink on papyrus. We also played traditional Egyptian games and designed our own Egyptian city.



# The Whitchurch Woodland

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



## Year 2 Forest School Sessions

It has been a fantastic end to our Year 2 Forest School sessions. We have been exploring the woodland whilst learning to identify different plants and understand more about the natural environment. We have also created beautiful outdoor artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy - an English sculptor, photographer and environmentalist - using natural materials such as leaves, sticks and stones.

Teamwork and problem solving has been a key part of designing and building our dens. We have also worked in teams to build nests for our egg chicks using natural materials such as willow, twigs and leaves, and had fun searching for painted eggs in a scavenger hunt - all in time for Easter!

We have grown in confidence, flourished in creativity and connected with nature through these Forest School experiences. A special shout out and thank you to Friends of Whitchurch (FOW) for providing us with new tools for the woodland - helping to enhance outdoor learning opportunities.

**Mr Coutinho**  
**Forest School Leader**



# News and Highlights



## Spelling Bee

We took part in an exciting Spelling Bee at Whitchurch, alongside four other local schools. Pupils competed using words from the Year 3 and Year 4 statutory spelling list. Well done to our fantastic participants: Saman (3SA), Akshara (3MS), Vaani (3NN), Amirah (3MD), Aarna (4HH), Aiswarya (4HH), Avyaan (4XL) and Aarshay (4AK). A special congratulations to Avyaan (4XL) for winning 1st place and to Aarna (4HH) for achieving 3rd place - an excellent achievement!

## RoboThink Competition

Congratulations to Eduard in 5RP, who has won second place at national RoboThink battle bots competition. During this two day intensive challenge, children designed and built robots - programming them to execute specific commands and navigate designated tracks. These robots were then put to the test in a competition against other teams!



## Sporting Highlights



# News and Highlights



## Year 3 VR Volcano Workshop

Year 3 participated in an exciting volcano workshop as enrichment for our Geography learning about natural disasters. Using virtual reality headsets, we explored volcanoes around the world, learning how they are formed and how they erupt. It was a wonderful immersive experience to hover over active and dormant volcanoes!



## FoW Mothers' Day Event

A huge thank you to everyone who visited our female hero stall this week and bought something for someone special. Thanks to your generosity, we raised **£118.48**. As always the money will go towards supporting the schools projects. We are so grateful for the community spirit at all our events!

**Team FoW**



# Summer Lunch Menu



Allergens are listed on our website (click here)

Salad bar and bread available daily



	WEEK ONE 13/4, 4/5, 1/6, 22/6, 13/7	WEEK TWO 20/4, 11/5, 8/6, 29/6, 20/7	WEEK THREE 27/4, 18/5, 15/6, 6/7
<b>MONDAY</b> MAINS	Chicken Hot Dog, with Herby Diced Potatoes & Garden Peas Grilled Cheese Sub, with Herby Diced Potatoes & Garden Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Cherry Shortbread	BBQ Lamb Pizza, with Diced Potatoes & Peas Margherita Pizza, with Diced Potatoes & Peas (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Apple Flapjack	Chicken Burger, Served with Jacket Wedges & Corn on the Cob Vegetable Burger, Served with Jacket Wedges & Corn on the Cob (Ve) (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Orange Cookie
DESSERT			
<b>TUESDAY</b> MAINS	Turkey Tikka Masala Curry Served with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Lentil & Chick Pea Keema Curry Served with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Tropical Fruit Salad	Chinese Chicken Curry with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans Chinese Quorn Curry with 50/50 Rice & Green Beans (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Jam Sponge	Chicken Korma Curry Served with 50/50 Rice & Broccoli Quorn Korma Curry Served with 50/50 Rice & Broccoli (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Tropical Fruit Salad
DESSERT			
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> MAINS	Lamb Bolognese, Served with Pasta & Broccoli Vegan Bolognese, Served with Pasta & Broccoli (V) (Vg) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Strawberry Jelly	Chicken Sausage & Mash, with Gravy & Peas Vegan Sausage & Mash, with Gravy, Peas & Carrots (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Orange Mandarin Jelly	Lamb Hot Pot, Served with Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower Lentil Hot Pot Served with Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower (V) (Ve) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Peach & Raspberry Jelly
DESSERT			
<b>THURSDAY</b> MAINS	Chicken Shawarma Wraps, with Cous Cous & Sweetcorn Falafel Wraps, with Cous Cous & Sweetcorn (V) (Ve) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Apple Sponge Cake	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 Chocolate Brownie	BBO Chicken Served with Rice & Corn on the Cob Lentil & Red Pepper Roulade Served with Rice & Corn on the Cob (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Pancakes with Berry Compote
DESSERT			
<b>FRIDAY</b> MAINS	Fish Fingers Served with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas Vegan Sausage Roll Served with Chips & Baked Beans or Peas (V) Jacket Potato with Cheese, Baked Beans (Ve) or Tuna Mayo with Side Salad Vanilla Ice Cream Sundae	Fish Stars, Served with Chips, Peas or Baked Beans Cheese & Bean Turnover Served with Chips & Peas (V) Pasta & Tomato Sauce (Ve) Strawberry Ice Cream	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 Chocolate Ice Cream
DESSERT			

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 (Vg).

COOMBS CATERING PARTNERSHIP



# Staff Snapshot



**Name: Radhika Samji**  
**Role: Year 4 Class Teacher**

## All about me

I am a Year 4 class teacher and am new to this beautiful school. I studied Psychology at Queen Mary University, where I developed an interest in educational psychology and working with children, which led me to become a Teaching Assistant in a primary school. It was during this time that I discovered how much I love supporting and helping young minds to grow, inspiring me to complete my PGCE and pursue a career in teaching - I haven't looked back since.

## Hobbies and interests

I enjoy spending time with my family and being creative in my free time. I love painting, often drawing inspiration from nature, and reading to explore new ideas and continue learning. I also love visiting the temple every Sunday, as it helps me reflect, stay grounded, and bring calmness into the classroom, creating a positive and nurturing environment for my pupils.

## Best part of my role

I love being there for the children and supporting them as they grow, learn, and discover new things. Seeing their excitement for learning and how much progress they make throughout the year is incredibly rewarding. I also enjoy helping them develop socially and emotionally, building positive relationships that make them feel valued and supported every day.



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](http://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

### MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults, into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

### EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

### RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creepypasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

### INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

### ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

### DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

### USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

### TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. We offer memberships and packages to help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.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: 25.02.2026