

Whitchurch Highlights



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Issue 15

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Whitchurch Families,

We have been enjoying an action packed Summer term at Whitchurch. Reception have visited to Hertfordshire Zoo, Year 2 cruised down the River Thames, Year 3 embraced an Ancient Egyptian themed day and Year 4 demonstrated teamwork in the 'Wise Up' teambuilding day.

Our Whitchurch musicians have impressed us with their amazing musical talent at our recent Summer Concert, with a range of instrumental and vocal groups. It was a pleasure to perform with the orchestra. Many thanks to Mrs Leutfeld and the teachers from Harrow Music Service for their dedication.

Due to the exceptionally hot weather, we have rescheduled Sports Day for Years 1 to 3 (Tuesday 30th June) and Years 4 to 6 (Monday 6th July). We look forward to seeing you there and cheering the children along. You are also invited to attend our 'Animal Kingdom' art exhibition on Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm, featuring fantastic artwork produced during our whole school art day.

There are still many events planned for the rest of term, including visits to the London Aquarium (Year 1), Neasden Temple (Year 3) and the British Museum (Year 5). Year 6 will also be putting on a dazzling theatrical production and we shall be holding special assemblies to celebrate children's successes.

A reminder that the FoW Summer Fair will take place this Sunday from 12pm to 4pm. We look forward to seeing you for an afternoon of family fun and community spirit. Have a lovely weekend.

Ms Rachel Inniss
Headteacher

Friends of
Whitchurch have
raised £170.13
at the 'My Male
Hero' event -
thank you!

News and Highlights



Summer Ensembles Concert

Our Ensembles Concert was a wonderful celebration of music at Whitchurch, involving 116 performers across the school's instrumental and vocal groups. The evening featured the Orchestra, Wind Band, Guitar Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Rock Band, Mini Choir, Junior Choir and Senior Choir.

The concert opened with Mrs Timms performing the Welsh traditional song 'The Ash Grove' before conducting the Mini Choir (Years 1 and 2), who impressed us with their expression and musicality. The Junior Choir performed Grade 2 repertoire with excellent vocal control, while it was exciting to hear the strong sound developed by the Senior Choir as they performed in two-part harmony.

Another highlight came when the Orchestra played pieces in contrasting styles, following the conductor's cues with great accuracy. The Wind Band performed with piano and drum accompaniment, producing beautiful melodic lines and a rich ensemble sound.

The Percussion Ensemble enthused us all with their syncopated rhythms and melodies, incorporating marimba and drum parts into their performance on classroom instruments.

The Rock Band brought the evening to a superb close with performances of 'River', 'Rolling in the Deep' and 'The Final Countdown', featuring outstanding contributions from all members of the band, including our Year 5 and 6 vocalists, who this year performed in harmony.



News and Highlights



The Music Department has worked hard in recent years to grow these ensembles and encourage our young musicians to continue their instrumental and vocal training as they progress through the school. Special thanks must go to our HMS teachers: Mr Massey (guitar), Mrs Millard (violin), Mr Longman (percussion), Miss Naddermier (woodwind), Mr Voskidis (piano) and Mrs Timms (singing) for preparing and conducting many of these ensembles. Their experience, expertise and dedication are inspiring for the pupils and highly valued by all of us at Whitchurch.

Many congratulations to all our brilliant young musicians for giving us another evening to remember!



Mrs Leutfeld
Director of Music



HMS Recorder Festival

At the final Harrow Music Service Festival of the year, Whitchurch was represented by Aarav in Year 5, who joined recorder players from six other Harrow schools for a day of rehearsals and music-making. The pupils explored a varied programme of recorder music and worked alongside the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, which specialises in Baroque instruments. The day concluded with a beautiful evening concert, performed to a warm and appreciative audience of parents.

Congratulations to Aarav on his enthusiastic participation and musical performance. Many thanks also to our recorder teacher, Mrs D'Amico, for preparing him for this wonderful opportunity.

News and Highlights



Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Workshop

Year 3 stepped back in time to explore Ancient Egypt, one of history's most fascinating civilisations, in an enjoyable workshop and themed day. We took part in a wide range of hands-on activities throughout the day, starting with a captivating introduction to the process of mummification!

During the day we became Egyptian scribes, writing on genuine papyrus using reed pens and ink. We also played traditional Egyptian board games, designed our own Egyptian city and created replica amulets from clay. We investigated a collection of authentic artefacts, learning about everyday life, religion and culture in Ancient Egypt. The immersive experience brought our history learning to life and it was a memorable day for all.

Year 3 team



News and Highlights



Reception visit to Hertfordshire Zoo

Reception enjoyed a fantastic visit to Hertfordshire Zoo! We thoroughly enjoyed exploring the zoo, seeing a variety of animals and learning about their habitats. We were excited to see furry lions, stripy tigers and spotty jaguars. One of the highlights of the day was seeing life-sized models of dinosaurs and learning interesting facts about them.



Year 1 visit to Kew Gardens

Year 1 visited Kew Gardens to enrich our learning in Science about plants and their distinct features. We had a wonderful time participating in the 'plant hunters' workshop with the Kew Gardens team, where we explored the variety of fascinating plants growing at Kew Gardens.



News and Highlights



Year 2 London Eye River Cruise

Year 2 had a great time cruising down the River Thames on a River Cruise. We spotted iconic sights like The Shard, Tower Bridge and the Houses of Parliament. We even sailed past some of London's oldest treasures - Cleopatra's Needle and the Sphinxes. Along the way, the tour guide shared some hilarious history, including the bizarre law that makes it illegal to carry a salmon suspiciously!



Year 4 'Wise Up' Teambuilding Day

Year 4 participated in team-building activities hosted by 'Wise Up'. Throughout the day, we worked together to solve problems, communicate effectively and support one another in a range of challenges. We showed teamwork, resilience and creativity as we tackled each activity, whilst building confidence and teamwork skills. We embraced every challenge with enthusiasm.



News and Highlights



Year 5 and 6 Bikeability Training

Year 5 and 6 pupils have taken part in Bikeability training, completing both Level 1 and Level 2 courses. Throughout the sessions, we developed our cycling skills and confidence while learning how to ride safely and responsibly.

The training covered a range of important skills, including carrying out bike safety checks, riding with confidence and control, signalling clearly when turning left and right, making emergency stops safely and developing awareness of other road users. We also practised road positioning and decision making to help us become safer, more independent cyclists.

“All of the participants worked incredibly hard, listened carefully to the instructors and showed great determination as they developed new skills. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow over the course of the training and they thoroughly enjoyed taking part. Well done to everyone for demonstrating such enthusiasm, resilience and excellent teamwork.” Mrs Portou

Wheely Great Treasure Trail

Some children from Years 5 and 6 were invited to a bike event hosted by the London Borough of Harrow. We took part in a range of engaging bike activities such as the smoothie bike, BMX activity and cycle skills.



The Whitchurch Woodland



Year 6 Forest School Sessions

Year 6 have made a fantastic start in the Forest School this term, developing knowledge of local plants, trees and wildlife through nature hunts and woodland exploration. We have also been learning about biomes and discovered that the Whitchurch Woodland is a temperate deciduous forest biome.

Using research, sketching and teamwork, Year 6 have explored the woodland environment while helping to maintain and care for the area. A particular highlight has been creating 3D sculptures from natural materials, safely using palm drills, saws, twine, clay and mud to bring our ideas to life.

Year 6 have shown excellent creativity, resilience and collaboration throughout the sessions. With plenty more activities planned for the remainder of the term, we look forward to continuing our woodland learning journey together.

Mr Coutinho, Forest School Leader

'Whitchurch is committed to reducing our environmental impact while embedding sustainability into learning and daily life.'



The Whitchurch Woodland



Meet our Forest School Leader - Mr Coutinho

“As the Forest School Leader at Whitchurch, I am fortunate to spend my days helping children develop confidence, curiosity and a love of the natural world through outdoor learning.

No two days are ever the same in the Forest School. A typical day might involve leading nature investigations, identifying plants and wildlife, teaching practical skills, creating natural crafts, maintaining our woodland area or encouraging children to develop confidence through hands-on activities. Whatever the activity, the aim is always to help children build a positive relationship with nature while developing independence, resilience and teamwork.



Becoming a Forest School Leader has been an incredibly rewarding experience, allowing me to develop new skills, expand my knowledge and deepen my understanding of outdoor learning and the natural environment.

One of the most rewarding parts of my role is seeing children gain confidence, develop new skills and discover a love of the natural world. It has been wonderful to see pupils embrace outdoor learning and make the most of the opportunities available within our woodland space.

Outside of school, I also volunteer with a local park committee, helping to support community projects and promote the value of green spaces. These experiences help me bring new ideas and opportunities into school while supporting wider environmental initiatives.

I am incredibly proud to be part of the Whitchurch community and to contribute to the success of our Forest School provision. Most of all, I enjoy helping to inspire children to explore, learn and enjoy the outdoors, creating memories and experiences that will stay with them for years to come.”

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

COOMBS CATERING PARTNERSHIP



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 Educators Need to Know about INVOICE FRAUD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Invoice fraud, including payment diversion fraud, occurs when criminals deceive you into paying a fake invoice or redirect a genuine payment into their own bank account. Fraudsters may impersonate suppliers, intercept emails, or send convincing invoices to prompt urgent payment into fraudulent accounts. It is one of the most common and costly forms of financial crime affecting individuals, businesses, and schools.

COMMUNICATIONS CLAIMING URGENCY

Communications that claim to be urgent or highlight late payments may be a key sign. Fraudsters often apply pressure to rush decisions and stop checks. Take a moment to verify the request using trusted contacts before making any payment.

CHANGES TO BANK DETAILS

Receiving messages saying a regular supplier has changed their bank account details can be a warning sign. Fraudsters may impersonate contacts to redirect payments. Always verify changes first using known supplier contact details.

DISCREPANCIES AGAINST PREVIOUS INVOICES

Be wary of invoice details that don't match authentic, previously issued invoices, such as amounts, reference numbers or contact names. Fraudsters often alter small details to avoid detection. Always query any differences using your supplier's contact details.

MINOR EMAIL CHANGES

Look out for slight changes to a supplier's email address, such as extra characters or spelling differences. Fraudsters often use similar looking addresses to appear genuine. Always check the sender carefully and verify any concerns using known contact details before responding or making a payment.

UNEXPECTED PAYMENT REQUESTS

Invoices or payment requests for goods or services you do not recognise can be a warning sign. Fraudsters may send false invoices hoping they will be paid without question. Check records and confirm with the supplier before processing any unfamiliar request.

UNUSUAL LANGUAGE OR TONE

Messages with unusual wording, grammar or spelling compared to your usual supplier communications may indicate fraud. Criminals often copy legitimate messages but may not match the usual tone or style. The rise in artificial intelligence (AI) means errors are no longer as common or obvious. Be cautious and verify the request if anything seems out of place.

WE NEED PAYING NOW!

Advice for Parents & Educators

VERIFY BANK DETAILS

Always confirm any change to a supplier's bank details before making a payment. Use a trusted phone number or a long-standing contact you have used before, not the details provided in the request. This helps ensure you are dealing with a genuine supplier and prevents payments being redirected to fraudsters.

CROSS-CHECK INVOICES

Compare new invoices with those previously issued by the supplier in question. Check key details such as amounts, bank details, reference numbers and contact information. Differences may indicate fraud, so always investigate and verify anything that does not match before making a payment.

DUAL PAYMENT APPROVAL

Ask a trusted person to review and approve high-value payments. A second set of eyes can help spot unusual details or warning signs that might otherwise be missed. This adds an extra layer of control and reduces the risk of errors or fraudulent payments being processed.

REPORT FRAUD QUICKLY

If you suspect fraud, act immediately. Contact your bank using 159 or their official number and report it to Report Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040. Keep all emails and documents. For more guidance, or to register for counter fraud alerts, see DfE counter fraud guidance. You can find the invoice fraud leaflet on the National Crime Agency website.

Meet Our Expert

Evan Williams is a counter fraud manager at the Department for Education. Having led the function there for many years, he now focuses on continual improvement, communication, and innovation. He proudly oversaw the growth of the counter fraud team during the pandemic, having worked in counter fraud for 16 years since starting his civil service career with the National Crime Agency back in 2010.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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