

Newsletter – Spring Term



Wistaston Academy
Primary and Nursery School
Together We Learn • Together We Achieve

This Week's Events

Date	Event
Monday 19 th April	Return to school – Summer 1
Tuesday 20 th April	Y6 Dodgeball Club 3:25-4:25pm Y3 Glee Club 3:15-4:15pm
Wednesday 21 st April	
Thursday 22 nd April	Y5 Dodgeball Club 3:25-4:25pm
Friday 23 rd April	Y1 Dance Club 3:05-4:15pm
Advanced Notice:	Wizzy Cycle for Acacia 30.04.21
Polite Notice:	Please note the school office opens at 8.30am each morning and is manned until 4.30pm. Before and after these times, there will be no access to the Main Reception area.

A Message from the Principal

As we end Spring 2 Term and enter into the Easter holiday period, we wish to thank everyone for their support in making the transition back to school a successful one. It has been so lovely to see the school full again. This term, we have continued to provide the children with an enriched curriculum and in addition to the newsletter are keeping you updated via Class Dojo/Tapestry. One of my highlights this term has to be World Book Day. Despite many children doing remote learning at home, it was amazing to see how many had dressed up in costume and sharing in stories with their class – and staff too! There are lots more exciting events ahead of which you will be notified in due course. We wish everyone a lovely Easter break and hope that you all keep safe remembering that whilst restrictions are easing, we are still in a national lockdown.

Just a reminder for parents/carers of Reception children, that start and finish times are slightly different when we return with an 08:40 start and a 15:05 finish. An email has been sent out with detailed information on.

Attendance

Thank you to those parents/carers who bring their children to school on time.

During this half term, school have been and will be continuing to work very closely with Pam Prince – Education Welfare Officer to tackle poor attendance and persistent lateness. As some of you may already be aware, Pam and school have been conducting sporadic home visits to those families who we have been unable to contact. This is something which will continue following the Easter break.

Late Marks

Since the wider reopening of school from the 8th March, we have seen a number of children arriving late into school. Therefore, I just wanted to take this opportunity to provide a quick reminder of the times for the school day.

Registers are taken in both Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2 - **8:50am/9:00 am (for Years 5&6) whilst staggered starts remain in place**

Nursery – **8.30am & 12:30pm** (afternoon session)

Late Mark – (L code)

A pupil will receive a late mark between **8:50am** and **9:20am, 9:00 am and 9:30 am for Years 5&6 whilst staggered starts remain in place** (explanation, minutes late and time arrived to be recorded)

Unauthorised Late – (U code)

A pupil will receive a 'U' code when they arrive **AFTER 9:20am** (explanation, minutes late and time arrived to be recorded)

NB – A 'U' affects the overall percentage of your child's attendance.

Absences

The government guideline for school attendance is 96%. As a school our aim is to keep the percentage as high as possible. Therefore, we are asking you to support us by keeping absences for your child(ren) to a minimum during term time.

A brief outline of the school policy on absences appears below; with full policy and attendance details available on our school website.

If your child is going to be absent from school, in line with school policy parents/carers should contact the office to provide a reason for absence. In addition to this any medical appointments need to be shared with the school office to avoid unnecessary phone calls being made. We would ask that all medical appointments are made outside of school hours where possible.

Illness

The school authorise up to **10 sessions - 5 days** absence due to illness per year for a pupil. After this, we will need you to provide one of the following in order to authorise any further absence due to illness.

- A dated GP/Nurse/hospital/Dental appointment card.
- A dated note from the GP/Nurse.
- A compliment slip signed and dated by the GP/Nurse
- A prescription of proof of prescribed medication relating to the current illness.

If you are not able to produce one of the above then we will **NOT** authorise the absence.

As you are aware, unauthorised absence may lead to a fixed penalty fine, therefore, we are keen to make sure you are aware of our school procedure.

NB – If an absence is relating to a suspected case of Covid 19, please inform school and then follow the government guidance for self-isolating.

Fixed Penalty Notice

The Education Welfare Service are able to send a fixed penalty notice on behalf of the school to the parents of any pupil who has more than **10 unauthorised sessions absent from school** (1 session = half a day). Pupils who arrive after the close of registers will be coded a 'U' – Unauthorised absence.

The warning letter gives parents a period of 15 school days of monitoring. If, at the end of this period there has not been an improvement, or an improvement has been made but not sustained, a fixed penalty notice will be issued. Each parent/Carer would have to pay £60.00 per child. If this is not paid within 21 days the payment increases to £120 per child per parent. Payments will not be accepted after 28 days. If parents do not pay the local authority will prosecute in the Magistrates Court. If convicted the parent will have a criminal record and may receive a fine of up to £1000.

Holidays

Following two national lockdowns and the time away from school over the last year, any requests made for a holiday to be taken in the academic year will NOT be granted and will be marked as unauthorised. In line with Government legislation a fixed penalty notice will be issued of £60 per parent/carer per child. This will increase to £120 per parent/carer per child if not paid within a 28-day notice period.

We are Brilliant Winners

KS1: Poppy, Frankie, Toby

KS2: Matei A, Kairon, Preeya, Miriam and Maisie S

The Hub

The children in The Hub have enjoyed a week of Easter activities. They have sown cress seeds to take home, made Easter cakes and taken part in a colour-sorting egg hunt. It has been good fun. Have a wonderful Easter everybody!



Nursery Learning

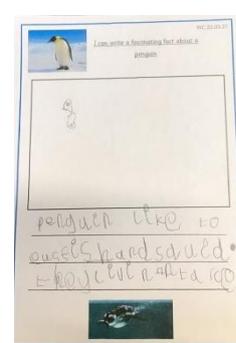
This week in nursery we have made the most of the sunny weather and been on a Spring Exploring walk. We looked for the first signs of spring around the school outdoor area and spotted buds on the trees, daisies and daffodils growing in the grass, and blossom growing on the trees.



Reception Learning

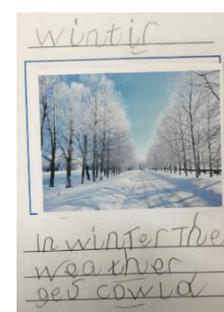
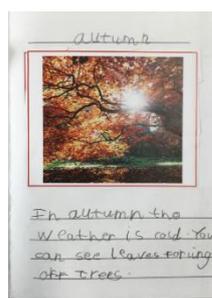
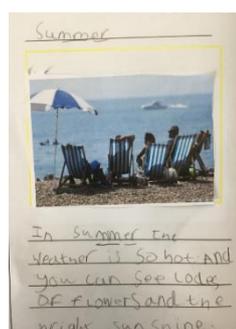
This week is World Autism Awareness Week so in Reception we talked about how the children have similarities such as the same hair or eye colour and we also discussed their differences and we celebrated how these make them unique.

We have also continued our learning on animals from around the world. We have travelled from Europe where we learnt about tortoises to Antarctica where we learnt about penguins. We started to create our own Fact Files on penguins, containing information on what food they eat and where they live.

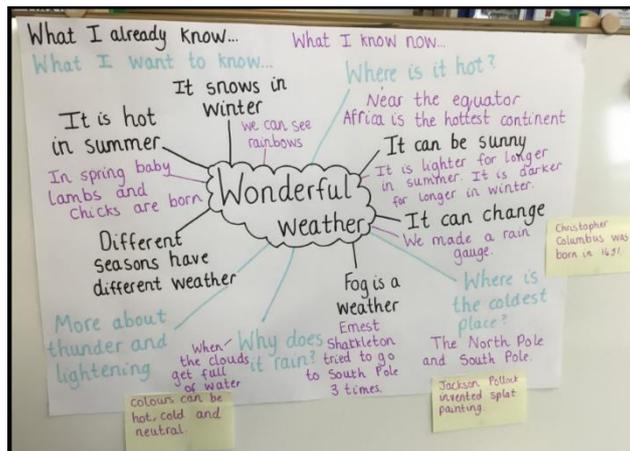


Year 1 Learning

This week we have been finding out about different seasons. We have thought about the weather and things we may notice in each season. We made our own season booklets so that we could compare the different weather.

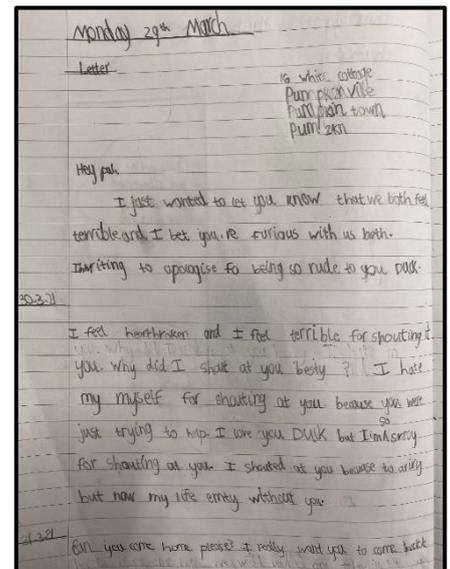
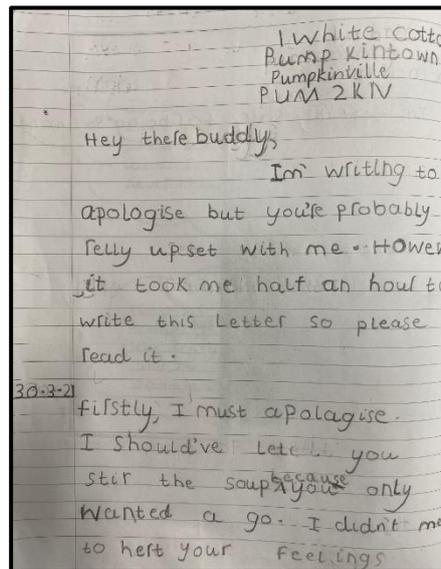
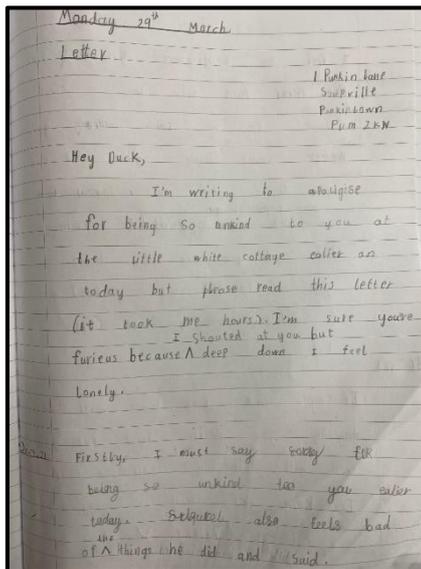


We are so pleased with how much we now know about our Wonderful Weather topic



Year 2 Learning

This week, the children have written their first piece of writing in literacy. They wrote a letter as a character from our story 'Pumpkin Soup'. They tried really hard to make their writing interesting for the reader.



Year 3 Learning

This week, we have continued to learn about fractions in Maths, we wrote our apology letter in Literacy and we used drama to tell the Easter story in R.E.



Year 4 Learning

In History this week we went on a walk in our local area, we were on the lookout for some examples of Victorian buildings. We knew that they were built in the Victorian era (1817-1901) because of the colour of the bricks. We also saw houses with bay windows, front gardens and wrought iron fences. We had a great afternoon learning outdoors.



Year 5 learning

In Literacy this half term, we have been writing a story. We began with a description of the setting and the main character before finally finishing on some action and dialogue. This week we have used drama to help us with our writing. Miss Aldridge and Mrs Taylor are so proud of the pieces that the children have produced and the children themselves have said what a difference drama makes to their writing. *"It helps me to know what to write next – I don't get stuck for ideas anymore!"*



Year 6

This week we have been looking at Greek mythology. We read the story of Icarus and Daedalus, wrote about the minotaur and acted out the twelve tasks of Heracles. Here is Krzysztof and Leah acting out the task where Heracles sails to Crete to go against a fire-breathing bull.



Walk to school week

Well done to all those children and families who walked to and from school this week. It's been lovely to see so many children walking, cycling and travelling on their scooters to school.



Wizzy Cycle for Acacia

A huge thank you to all that have shared and donated so far. Our total is currently at an £2820.00. Please continue to share our go fund be page for Acacia:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/acacias-dream-trip-to-disneyland-paris?utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all&utm_source=customer



After school clubs

School clubs will return after Easter! Please note that clubs will run from Monday 19th April to Thursday 27th May. Due to the current situation and because we are unable to mix year groups we are only able to offer clubs to some year groups. The year groups who are not offered after school clubs in Summer 1 will be offered them in Summer 2.

All clubs are free of charge. If your child is interested in taking part in any of our clubs, please sign them up through Arbor. **All clubs go live to be booked from 12pm on Thursday 1st April.**



Year 1 Dance Club with Miss Sophie from SQJ Academy for Performing Arts

Friday 3:05-4:15pm

Dance with Miss Sophie is for boys and girls who would love to attend a club with no pressure of examinations, but would love to dance, and maybe even perform for their parents once a term. The classes theme will change each term, and children will learn different dance methods, including street, contemporary, ballet and much more, all whilst having fun. Props will also be used to stimulate the enjoyment.

Year 3 Glee Club with Miss Sophie from SQJ Academy for Performing Arts

Tuesday 3:15-4:15pm

Glee is a fun dancing, singing and performing club, that is aimed at children who express an interest in these or are wanting to learn. The club hopes to inspire the children to gain confidence, performance skills and much more, all whilst having fun.

Year 5 Dodgeball with Mrs Adamczyk

Thursday 3:25-4:25pm

Year 6 Dodgeball with Mrs Adamczyk

Tuesday 3:25-4:25pm



Dodgeball is a team sport in which players on two teams try to throw balls and hit opponents, while avoiding being hit themselves. Children will be active, enjoy playing with friends and will have fun!

Please ensure that ALL children are collected from clubs outside the main reception on time.

British Values



British Values
29th March – 4th April 2021
Individual Liberty
BT are offering red telephone boxes to communities for £1. This offer gives people a choice of whether to have them removed or reuse them for a different purpose. In this way, the iconic red telephone boxes can be preserved as a symbol of British culture.



UN Rights of a Child

Communicating by phone can be a good way to make sure that we can remain in contact with our families when we are unable to be together.



Keeping Safe Online

On Tuesday, Year Five and Year Six had a visit from PC Martin Shore to talk about keeping safe online. He gave us lots of information about what the law says about sharing images and what to do if we see something online that we are not comfortable with. Some of the Year Six pupils said:

"I now understand why my parents look at my phone- it is their job to keep me safe."

"I understand why it is so serious to send inappropriate images."

"I was surprised to realise that what I do now could affect me in the future- it could affect my job and opportunities."

"If something happens online and I am not happy, I can tell my parents or a teacher."



How to clean DEVICES



Our electronic devices can be a breeding ground for germs and bacteria. Many viruses, including coronavirus, can stick around for several hours or even days after being touched by or otherwise coming into contact with an infected person. With that knowledge, keeping them clean can be as important as keeping ourselves protected in order to avoid becoming ill and maintaining a high level of hygiene and cleanliness. We have therefore created this guide to help you clean your devices effectively.

Always

Never

Use wrung out alcohol wipes. Apple state that using a 70% isopropyl alcohol wipe or disinfectant wipe is ideal for the outside of a handset. To be on the extra safe side, power down the device before cleaning it. If you use a screen protector or protective case, you can clean these gently with warm water and soap. Just make sure you remove them from the phone first. While you CAN use general disinfectant spray, make sure it's sprayed onto a clean, soft cloth first, and not applied directly to the device. It will need to say something along the lines of 'kill 99.9% of bacteria' on it to be effective.

MOBILE PHONES & TABLETS

Don't submerge the device in bleach or soapy water. Similarly, do not clean the device whilst it's charging or otherwise plugged into another device. Using alcohol wipes on things like leather cases or other fabric and material should also be avoided as it could damage them. Don't clean phone cases with in-built batteries or other electronics with soap and water. A big thing to remember is to not use straight rubbing alcohol. It can damage the oleophobic and hydrophobic coatings that keep oil and water from damaging the display and ports. Finally, don't use regular house-hold surface cleaners (non-disinfectant ones) on phones and tablets – they are too abrasive and may damage them irreversibly.

Turn the laptop all the way off before starting any kind of cleaning and always unplug it from the mains. If you can remove the battery of the device, do so. Wipe the screen with a dry microfibre cloth, then thoroughly wring out an alcohol wipe and repeat before returning with a dry cloth. The rest of the laptop can be cleaned with an alcohol wipe, much like a mobile phone, but be careful to wring it out to avoid unnecessary liquid dripping into the inner circuits. Be sure to clean thoroughly on and around the keys and any other buttons, but not between any open cracks.

LAPTOPS & COMPUTERS

As with mobiles, avoid using water to clean the more delicate parts of your laptop such as keys and ports. While some of the more modern phones can be waterproof, laptops aren't and it will almost certainly cause damage and irreparable.

Remove any batteries the controller might use (Xbox controllers sometimes have batteries in the back.) Use alcohol wipes and be sure to get into the crevices around the sides as well as all the buttons on a video game controller, then dry it immediately with a microfibre cloth. On a console, pay specific attention to things like the power buttons and disc/cartridge eject buttons if there are any. If you have a vacuum cleaner with an appropriate attachment, use this to remove things like dust or food prior to using an alcohol wipe. A microfibre cloth will also do the job but make sure it's clean and dry before you use it.

GAME CONTROLLERS (& CONSOLES)

Do not use soapy water or bleach on the controllers and definitely not on the console itself. Make sure controllers are unplugged and inactive before cleaning them to avoid any problems with the electronics. Similarly, consoles should not be left on and need to be unplugged from the mains before being cleaned. Stay well away from the ports on consoles too, as any liquids could damage the interior.

Use alcohol wipes like with laptops and keyboards. Make sure they're unplugged and leave them to dry a little after using disinfectant wipes. If you have a hoover with the right attachments, be sure to give it a once over first to remove food and debris. Compressed air is also great for keyboards. Use short, sharp bursts and aim to push dust towards somewhere you can hoover it easily. Lightly dampen a cotton swab with rubbing alcohol and be sure to get between the keys as much as possible. Things like mice, headphones and microphones also need to be disinfected with wipes. If your keyboard is wireless, remove the batteries before you clean it. Don't let any moisture leak inside the keyboard and dry them with a clean microfibre cloth.

KEYBOARD & MICE

Don't clean them with warm soapy water. The electronics in these are not designed to be waterproof like some modern mobile phones and tablets. Also, don't use too much rubbing alcohol on keyboards as they could remove the lettering on top of keys.