

Newsletter 2 – Autumn Term



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

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday 20 th September	Y6 dodgeball club	Sukkot begins
Tuesday 21 st September	Y6 swimming Y4 dodgeball club & Y2 dance	International Day of Peace
Wednesday 22 nd September		
Thursday 23 rd September	Y4 dodgeball club	Yom Kippur ends
Friday 24 th September	Y1 dance club Y3 dodgeball club	
Advanced Notice:	Chip Party with Chip Kendall for years 5 and 7: Saturday 16 th October, 2 – 4pm. European Day of Languages - 26 th October	
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.	

Wistaston Academy Tours 2021



Do you know anyone who is due to start school in Reception 2022?

We are holding school tours on the following dates:

Tuesday 5th October at 5.00 pm

Tuesday 19th October at 5.00 pm

Attendance is by appointment only.

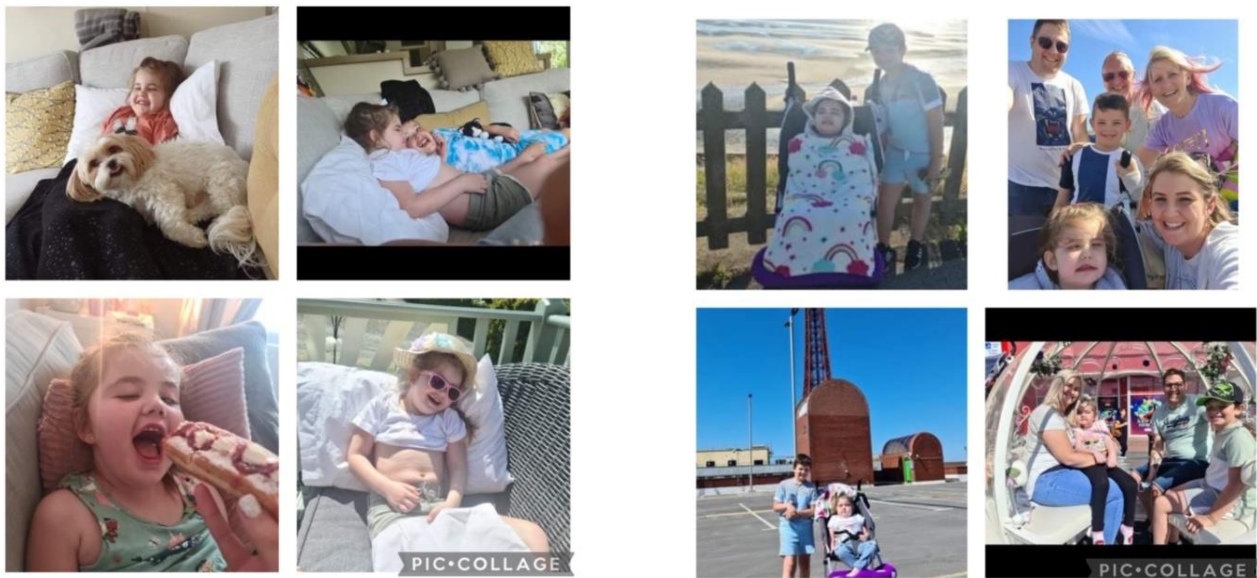
Please email admin@wistastonacademytrust.co.uk to book an appointment.

Acacia

We just wanted to update you all on how Acacia is doing. She is now 12 months into her diagnosis and in true Acacia style, is still fighting as hard as she can.

Unfortunately, she is not well enough to go to Disney and may not get the chance to. Her family are very thankful for the money raised and they have been able to make precious memories. They have visited Blackpool, Devon and Wales.

We are fortunate to still be able to visit her and she continues to smile. Thank you to the Wistaston community for your continued support. ♡



Mental Health Aware course for parent/carers – Mental Health Awareness Training

FREE online mental health aware course for parents funded by 'Just Drop In'. Taking place at: 10am - 1pm Saturday 18th September. The course provides knowledge, understanding and confidence on mental health and prepares parent/carers for any challenges they may face.

For further information or to book a place, please email parenting@justdropin.co.uk for a place.

We are Brilliant Winners

KS1: Alfie, Samuel

KS2: Amelia, Georgia, Molly, Elinor, Alexis

Covid-19 Symptoms/Which is the right test to take?

The main symptoms are: high temperature, new, continuous cough and/or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste. There are other symptoms that could be the first signs of Covid such as hayfever type symptoms, sickness, stomach pain, sore throat and headache.

There are 2 main tests:

PCR tests – **mainly for people with symptoms** (these get sent to a lab to be checked and you get the results a day or two later)

Rapid lateral flow tests – **only for people who do not have symptoms** (a result is produced on a device 30 minutes later)

Nursery

The children have settled into Nursery really well, they have been exploring the setting and making new friends. They have been particularly engaged in our outdoor building area where they have been using their imagination to roleplay their ideas, singing along while they rowed their boats.



Reception

The children have settled into Reception beautifully and it's lovely to see them arrive in the morning with a smile on their face. This week the children have continued to explore the indoor and outdoor environment, learning how to use the different areas effectively. We have been learning the Rainbow Rules for example; having kind hands and kind feet and walking indoor. Daily counting to ten and number rhymes have been a favourite this week.

We look after our resources.



We walk inside our school.



We use quiet voices indoor.



5 currant buns in a bakers shop.
Round and fat with a cherry on top.

Year 1

As part of our topic 'All About Me', Year 1 have been learning what school life was like for our grandparents. We learnt the rules of a playground game called hopscotch and played it in our coloured teams.



Year 2

Friendship soup

As part of PSHE, Year 2 thought about what it meant to be a good friend and why this was important. They were given different character traits and had to use these to make 'friendship soup.' Only the traits that were desirable in a good friend were allowed to go in our soup!



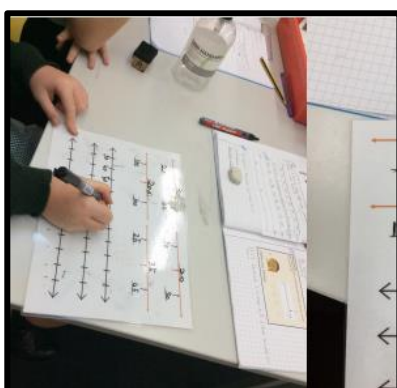
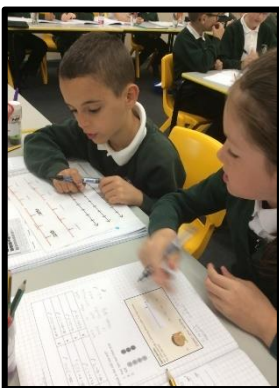
Year 3

Year 3 have had another great week. In Science, we have been lucky enough to do an investigation where we looked at different rocks and their physical properties. As a class, we learnt the difference between 'permeable' and 'impermeable'. In groups, we then got the opportunity to investigate the hardness, permeability, fizziness and floatability of each rock.



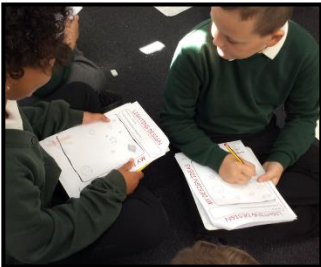
Year 4

Year 4 have had another great week of learning. In Literacy, we put our performance skills into practise by creating freeze frames to help build a 'word bank' for our setting description of Pompeii that we will be writing next week. We also have been extending our maths place value knowledge looking at number lines.



Year 5

This morning, Year 5 had their first Clonter theatre workshop and had a fantastic time learning about lighting and set design. The children first designed their own backdrop and then created it using black paper and coloured tissue paper. They then decided upon their set design and presented this to the rest of the class.



Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been looking at rounding in maths.

We have used number lines and place value grids to understand why numbers round either up or down, and our confidence with rounding has hugely increased. In literacy, we have been gathering ideas about a character from our book 'Beetle Boy', ready to write our character description next week. In PSHE this week some children read their School Council speeches to the class, explaining why they would be a good member of School Council and what they would plan to do if they were elected. The children then visited the ballot box to post their votes. We can't wait to find out who our new School Council representatives are!



PE News

Unfortunately, Crewe and Nantwich School Sports Partnership have had to make the difficult decision to postpone all Crewe and Nantwich SSP events until after half term due to the rise in Covid rates locally and the need to review the venues and the risk assessments that are in place.

Therefore the Y6 Quadkids Athletics Festival due to take place on Wednesday 22nd September has been postponed.

Clubs reminder

Please ensure you collect your children from clubs on time. If children are not collected from clubs on time they will be taken to Wizz Kids and will need to be collected from there.

Y1&Y2 Dance Clubs 3:05pm-4pm

Y3,Y4,Y5 & Y6 Dodgeball Clubs 3:15pm-4:15pm

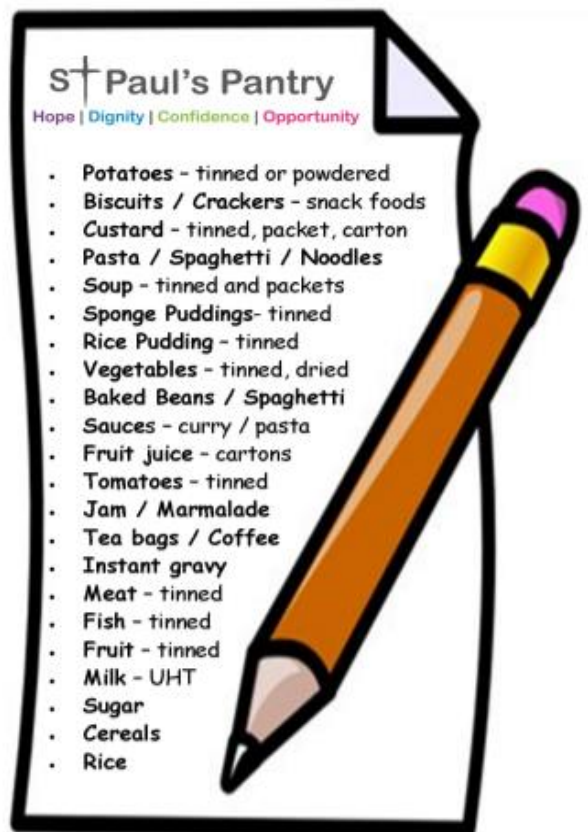
Harvest

It's that beautiful autumnal time of year again!

At school this half term as part of RE, we will be thinking about the food that is traditionally harvested in Autumn and how fortunate we are for all the food that we have.

We will be inviting children to join with us to share what we have with those around us in the local area who are struggling at present to have enough. This will be given to St Paul's Pantry food bank, on West Street and distributed to families that need it.

So in order to help us help others, this is what we need:



Please note we cannot accept items that are out of date.

Thank you so much for your support.

St Paul's Centre, Hightown, Crewe, CW1 3BY
01270 586186

admin@stpaulscentre.org.uk
Registered Charitable Trust No.1001566

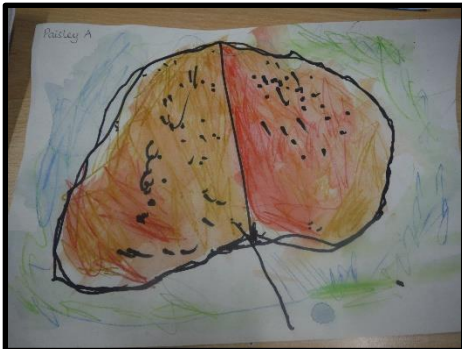
Art News

This week we are spotlighting Reception! We had our first art lesson this week and children did a fabulous job of creating incredible leaf drawings and paintings.



Reception!

We thought about the shape of our leaves and the lines we could see. We added warm, autumnal colours inside our leaves and used a contrast of cold colours around the outside. We were very excited to see the “magic” watercolour pencils turn to paint when we added water. These paintings will be used in our Harvest display this half term.



Artwork by: Prudence, Summer, Penelope, Caitlyn, Ellie, Kamara, Paisley, Alex, Hardie-Rose, Fabian, Rudaw, and Archie.

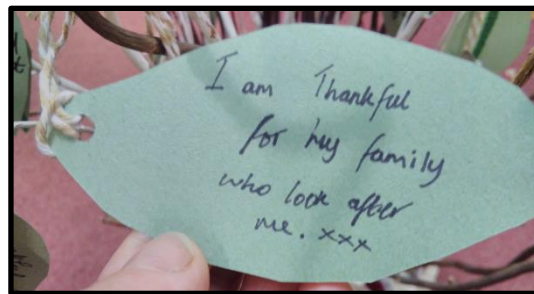
Wateraid

WaterAid

We will also be collecting money for Wateraid, as our global focus for giving. We will be thinking about how vital it is to have a supply of fresh water, especially in this time of pandemic. We want to do our part to ensure that no-one in our modern world should live without clean water. Any money, no matter how small, will be useful to help provide water supplies in places that need it. Please bring in what you can.



As part of all this, we will be encouraging children to write a tag for our “Thankfulness Tree”. We want to be mindful of how many positive things we have in life and take time to recognise this, even when things are sometimes tough.



Polite Reminders

Please ensure children are supervised at all times whilst on the school site. We respectfully remind you that children should **NOT** be on any of the school equipment before and after school no matter how tempting it is.

As the weather begins to turn, please send children in with appropriate clothing for outdoor play.

British Values



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School Photo Day 29th September 2021

If you would like a photo of siblings together please book online on Arbor by going to Guardian Consultation and booking a slot.

Slots for before school are 8:00 – 8:50 am in 3 minute sessions = 16 slots available

Slots for after school are 3:30 – 4:30 pm in 3 minute sessions = 20 slots available

Booking opens 4:30pm 17th September and closes 8:30am 24th September

Please note this a first booked first served basis. If you have not been able to book a slot you will not be able to have sibling photos taken.

Keeping Children Safe Online

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



What Parents and Carers Need to Know About...

ROCKET LEAGUE

Age Restriction
PEGI 3

Rocket League is a free-to-play multiplayer vehicle football game. It was developed by Psyonix, now part of the Epic Games family (which also includes Fortnite and Gears of War). Rocket League is essentially a football game where, instead of running, the players drive rocket-powered cars. The game was a surprise hit that took the world by storm when it first released in 2015. Rocket League is available for the Xbox One, Xbox Series X, PlayStation 4 & PlayStation 5, Nintendo Switch, Windows PC, MacOS and Linux.

Fiercely Competitive Community

Competitive gaming isn't necessarily bad. However, playing purely to win (as opposed to simply having fun) can result in aggressive behaviour among some players if they're not successful in the game. Certain people can become hostile or "toxic" towards other players. Continually seeing this behaviour can cause children to think it is acceptable and lead to anger issues while playing.

Grinding and Increased Screen-time

Features like the Rocket Pass and the ranking system can make Rocket League a grinding-focused game. This means players need to spend a lot of time on the game to progress through levels and collect rewards. Grinding encourages regular long gaming sessions for players seeking to climb the rankings (meaning increased screen time) but it doesn't always result in making much headway.

In-App Purchasing

Free-to-play games (so called because they don't cost anything to download) like this depend on players making in-game purchases to turn a profit. Rocket League's in-game currency, called credits, are used to buy items in the game. Credits can be earned by playing the game or can be bought with real money - which could prove expensive if a child lets their love of the game and desire to progress get the better of them.

Unsuitable Online Interactions

18+

A video game's age rating cannot take player-generated elements into account. Rocket League is rated PEGI 3, but its online features mean that appropriateness can't be guaranteed. Audio and text chat, player usernames, player-to-player trades and other user-created content may not be suitable for young players. The game is moderated, but catching everything can be difficult.

Scams and Bad Trades

Player-to-player trading is common in Rocket League. The game has lots of cosmetic items to collect, and some can be very valuable. Players can trade items among themselves, but younger gamers are not always the best judges of what constitutes a fair deal. This can lead to them being swindled in trades - or to children signing up to illegitimate trading websites, where they then get scammed.

Advice For Parents & Carers

Use Parental Controls

Psyonix has added some safety measures into the game. The text and voice chat can be disabled, for example, limiting contact from strangers. However, it's not currently possible to block contact from other players about trades. It's a good idea, then, to talk with your child about the possibility of scams and bad trades either before they download the game or early in their Rocket League 'career'.

Monitor Gaming Time

It's impractical to sit and watch your child every time they play Rocket League. Keeping an eye on their gaming hours is crucial, however: it's easy to lose track of time while playing (even for adults), so "one more game" can soon turn into ten more games. Helping your child to balance their gaming time with their homework, chores and other activities is a life lesson in time management.

Stay Aware of Spending

Free-to-play games can become money sinks without children realising. For peace of mind, make sure you don't have any payment methods attached to your child's gaming account to avoid accidental purchases. Rocket League credits can be earned through gameplay or bought with real money; encourage your child to use their earned credits first before they ask you to top them up.

Encourage Regular Breaks

Sitting in the same position all day while gaming isn't healthy, but it is an easy habit to fall into. A short break every hour or half hour is important. It allows players to rest their eyes, brains, hands and arms. Learning the value of an occasional break from any activity is good practice for the future. Encouraging your child to rehydrate regularly can also help to lower any rising competitive tempers!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books. With experience in esports and content creation, Clare has seen the benefits and drawbacks of all aspects of gaming.



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SOURCES: <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360015613074>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360053542814-Parental-Controls>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360039907893-How-can-I-protect-my-child-from-online-interactions->, <https://theglobalgaming.com/rocket-league/credit-system-free/>



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