

Newsletter 14 – Autumn Term



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

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday 2 nd January	School closed	
Tuesday 3 rd January		
Wednesday 4 th January		
Thursday 5 th January		
Friday 6 th January		
Advanced Notice:	Soul Children performance at Nantwich Elim Church, London Rd, Nantwich CW2 8QS: 7 – 8:15, Wednesday 21 st December Girls football Competiton at Crewe Soccer Centre – 12 th January Dodgeball Competition at Shavington Academy – 19 th January Year 5 & 6 Sportshall Finals – 26th Janurary at Shavington Academy	
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.	

We are Brilliant Winners

KS1:

KS2:

KS1 : Harrison (1B), Pranavi (1B)

KS2: Elinor (Y6A), Shaylea (3A), Madison (4A), Lilly (4B)

The Hub

Chromatography was the theme of our art lesson this this week, with The Hub children exploring what happens to felt tip pen marks on filter paper when they're sprayed with water. After finished our designs, the filter papers were dried overnight and cut into snowflakes for our Winter display.



Nursery

This week the Nursery children have taken part in lots of Christmas activities! On Monday we went to the Odeon to watch The Snowman. The children loved travelling on the bus and watching the big screen. Then on Tuesday the children went to explore the sensory bus where they particularly enjoyed the interactive floor! On Wednesday we had a special visit from the reindeers where we learnt lots of interesting facts, including what they like to eat and where they live. Finally, on Thursday, the children all took part in our Christmas performance.



Reception

Reception PSHE focus

In reception we have been learning about different feelings through Marcel the Monkey and exploring how our emotions make us feel. We've learnt about what it feels like to be happy, sad, angry and calm.

In our classroom, we have a space where Marcel is and we can find a comfy space to sit and use strategies that help us to feel better if we are feeling a big emotion like sad or angry. We have learnt different breathing techniques to help calm us down and talked about who our safe adults are in school if we feel like we want to talk.

Year 1

As part of our learning about the Christmas story, we had a visitor in RE. He came to talk to us about the Christmas story and homelessness at Christmas. We thought about different ways we would like to make a positive difference to the world.



Year 2

This week, we have had lots of fun learning how to code the Bee-Bot and the Bee-Bot app. We followed different algorithms to move around the map and debugged an algorithm that was wrong.



In PSHE this week, year 2 have been doing some work on 'Pants are Private.' They have loved learning the song with Pantosurus! Here is the link if you would like to watch it with your child.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqJOIA_91E



Year 3

Year 3 loved seeing our visiting reindeers this week! As a class, we had some excellent questions which we asked the handler such as, How old are they? Where and when are they born? Where do they live usually? We discovered that they lose their antlers annually and are always born in April ...and much more!



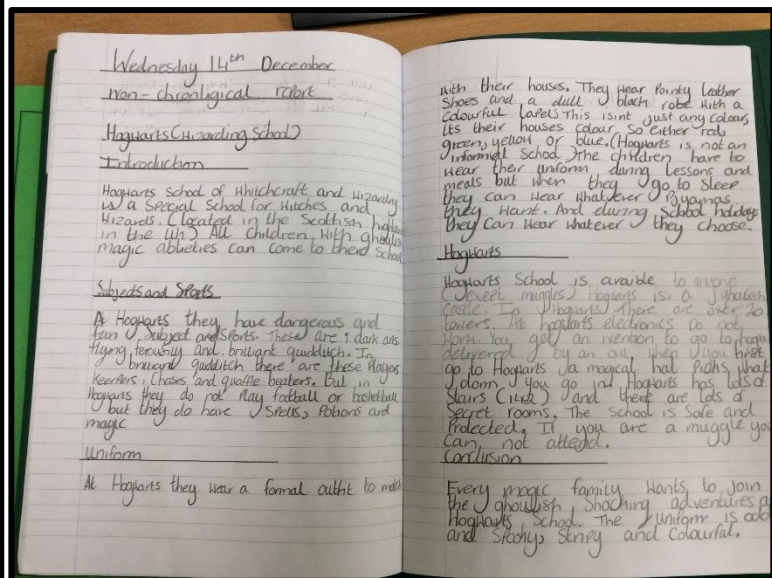
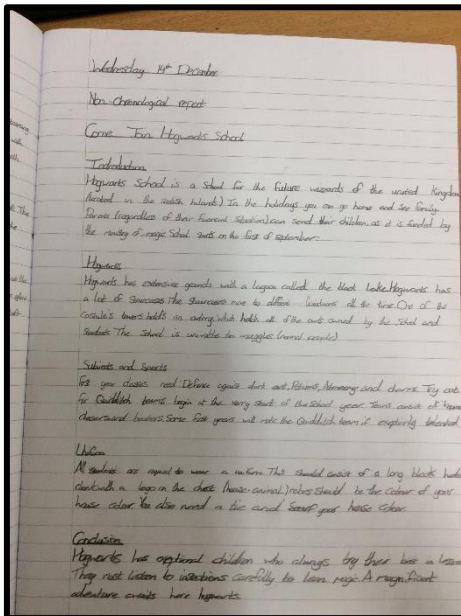
Year 4

This week, Year 4 have used some active maths strategies to get our bodies and brains moving! We loved working in teams to partition numbers and apply them into word problems. We used our knowledge of multiples to form numbers and then wrote these up in expanded form. We even had to use flexible partitioning!



Year 5

This week, year 5 have finished the non-chronological reports that they have been working on. Everyone tried exceptionally hard to complete an attractive piece of work in order to grab the attention of the reader. Well done year 5, we are very proud of you.



Year 6

This week, the children discussed how Humanists believe they can live a good life and were asked to debate this statement:

Humanists believe they can live a good life because they are atheists. This enables them to live for the now and help those in need now. Whereas those who believe in a god are always aiming to please their deity.

After a controversial discussion, they decided that some parts of the statement were correct, yet others were offensive, so they decided to re-write it. Take a look at their improved version.

Together, the children felt that they managed to create a statement that explained how Humanists lead a good life, as well as one that wasn't offensive to those in the class who do have faith in a God.

A reconstruction of the statement from the class debate

Humanists believe they can live a good life, as do people who have a faith. This enables everyone to live for the now and help those in need now. Those who are religious, often aim to please their deity as well as others around them. Whereas Humanists aim to please all of humanity.



Special Visitor

Today we had a special visitor come to the school to speak to all the children and answer very important questions the children had to ask!



Art News

Merry Christmas Everyone! Our girls in Year 5 added the finishing touches to our collaborative angel sculpture that has been a joint effort of many year groups, as well as parents at our exhibition. He looks perfect outside in the frost, making heavenly music and holding out his hand to offer the world some much-needed peace. Our sculpture caught the attention of the Lyceum Theatre, so after we have enjoyed him for a little bit, he may go on a short holiday to the Lyceum as an installation there, before he returns back to us. What a credit he is to our students and families and what a testimony to the hard work and “striving for excellence” we hold as one of our Artsmark Quality Principles! Well done everyone!



PE News

PE Focus – Year 1

This week Y1 have been learning about how to pass a football during their PE lesson on Tuesday. The children have been learning all about the different parts of their foot that can be used to pass the ball with. The children also learnt how to change direction and to stop the ball using their sole or inside part of their foot. I was extremely impressed with the children's knowledge, understanding and listening skills.

Sport Clubs News

A massive well done to Lexi, Freddie and Freddie winning the medal for the after school sport club they have taken part in. Well done to all the winners this term, if your child has a medal at home please can you ask them to bring it back to school in time for the new clubs to start.



New Sports Clubs

The afterschool sport clubs and morning clubs will run again from **9th January– Friday 17th February 2023**. All clubs, including those delivered by outside providers, will be free of charge. If your child is interested in taking part in any of our clubs, please sign them up through Arbor as all the clubs will go live on 3rd January.

Please make sure your child has got the right sports kit for the club they are attending such as tracksuit bottoms and a waterproof jacket as the weather is getting colder.

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

Monday

Year 1 & 2 Gymnastics Club with Jasmine and Alisha Evanson from Cheshire Gymnastics

11:45am till 12:25pm

Year 1 & 2 Football Club with Miss Brown

3:05pm till 4:05pm

Year 3 – 6 Basketball Club with Mr Barton

3:15pm till 4:15pm

Tuesday

Year 3- 6 Gymnastics Club with Jasmine and Alisha Evanson from Cheshire Gymnastics

12pm till 12:35pm

Year 3 & 4 Football Club with Miss Brown

3:15pm till 4:15pm

Year 3-6 Netball Club with Mr Barton

3:15 till 4:15pm

Thursday

Year 3 – 6 Dodgeball club with Miss Brown and Mr Barton

3:15pm till 4:15pm

Friday

Year 1 & 2 Multi sports with Miss Brown

3:05pm till 4:05pm

Year 5 & 6 Football Club with Mr Barton

3:15pm till 4:15pm

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



Active Home Challenge



How many Hops on the stop can you do in 60 seconds?

Can you beat Mr Barton's score 37 times in 60 seconds !!

**Once you have completed the challenge, please let Mr Barton know
and you will win a raffle ticket.**

British Values



UN Rights of a Child

We can choose our own thoughts and opinions about anything, including visiting the Moon, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

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FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION

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The poster features the UN logo, a blue box with the title 'UN Rights of a Child', a cartoon character holding a UN flag, and a green box with the number '14' and the text 'FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION'. A light blue speech bubble contains the text about choosing thoughts and opinions.



British Values

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We are all different so our thoughts, feelings and opinions about visiting the Moon will be different too. We can show respect for and understanding of our differences.

© Popper News 2012

The poster features two Union Jack flags, a cartoon character holding a British flag, and a photo of a rocket launching. A red box contains the title 'British Values', and a light red speech bubble contains the text about mutual respect and tolerance.



The Dummy Elves are Coming to Town!

Children, the elves need your help! Lots of baby elves have been born this year and there are not enough dummies to go around! If you have a dummy that you are too grown up for now, please can you send it to the North Pole? Our Dummy Elves will be visiting very soon, please leave your dummies out for them to collect.



Brown paper bags
Widely available
E.g. Home Bargains

Decorate a gift box/gift bag Your child can use pens, paint, stickers and other craft materials to decorate a box/bag. Place the dummy inside before leaving it out for the elves to find.



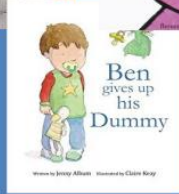
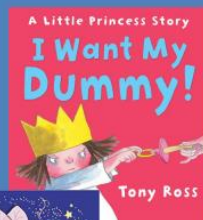
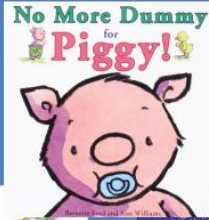
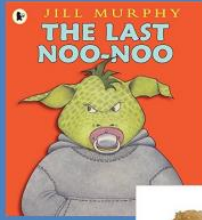
Fill Your Own Baubles
£2 for 6
The Works

Dummy bauble - Place their dummy inside a hollow plastic bauble. Your child can use craft materials to decorate and fill. Or you could tie a ribbon to the dummy before hanging it on the Christmas tree.

Gift for Santa Use wrapping paper, ribbon, bows, string, labels, tape etc and support your child to wrap up their dummy beautifully to put under the tree for the elves.

Share stories Books are a great way to introduce an idea to children. The experiences of characters are inspirational and reassuring. E.g. Just like in 'The Last Noo-Noo' by Jill Murphy, children could plant their dummies in plant pots or the garden to see if they too can grow a Noo-Noo tree!

Stories to Share



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 of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert; potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

