

Newsletter 24 – Spring 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 March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 1&2 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Basketball Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Gym	
Tuesday 21 st March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3-6 Lunchtime Gym Swimming Y4 Yr 3&4 Football Yr 3-6 Tag Rugby Yr 3-6 Sewing Yr 3&4 Performing Arts	
Wednesday 22 nd March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Year 1 & 2 Gymnastics competition at Camm Street	
Thursday 23 rd March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3-6 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Singing Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Singing	
Friday 24 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 5&6 Football Yr 1&2 Cricket Year 5 & 6 Trophy 75 Football competition at Crewe Soccer Centre	
Advanced Notice:	Friday 24 th March – SingFest for Year 4, Congleton Town Hall Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby at Crewe Vagrants Sports Club – 28 th March 2023 Tuesday 21 st and Wednesday 22 nd March – Spring Art Exhibition in Irlam Hall Friday 24 th March – SingFest for Year 4, Congleton Town Hall	
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

EYFS: Hunter (RA), Eliza-Anne (RB), Teddie (1A), Carter (2A) Jiya (2B)

KS1:

KS2: Tommy (5A), Tamera (3B), Tristan (6B), Kaydie (6A)

Sports Awards

KS1 : Penelope (1A), Adam (2A)

KS2 : Finlay (4B), Roza (6A)

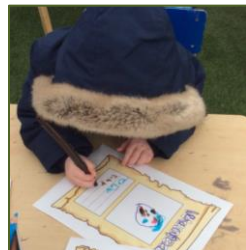
The Hub

Each week, The Hub children are lucky enough to get to work with Tim Uffindell on a range of music-based activities. Our focus this half-term is based on the *Over in the Meadow* book. The children have been learning how to sign the key words from the book, and perform these alongside a piece of music.



Nursery

This week in Nursery the children have been learning all about Goldilocks and the three Bears. On Tuesday the children worked together to follow a simple recipe to make some porridge. Then on Wednesday we decided to take the bears some of our leftover porridge. But... someone had stolen the porridge! The children worked hard to create some wanted posters to help find out who stole the porridge.



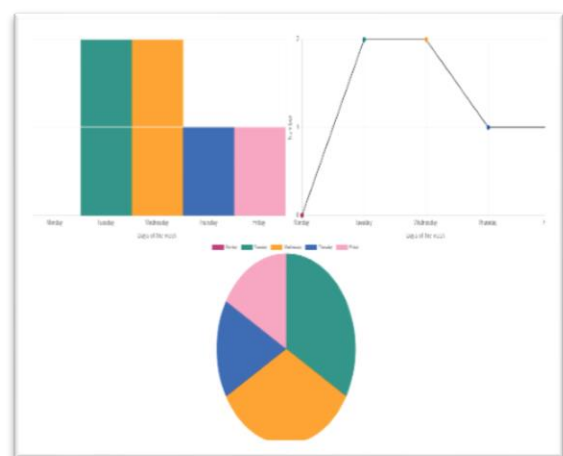
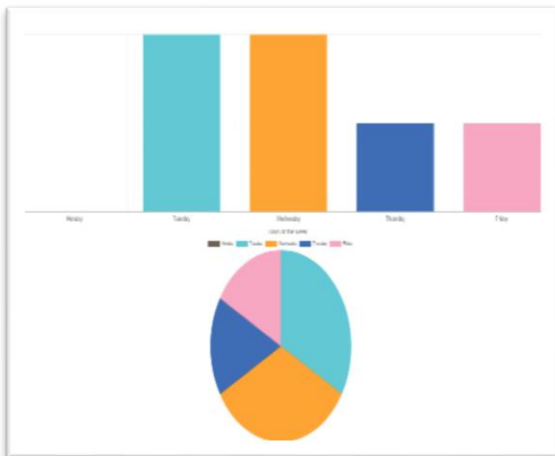
Reception

Over the last few weeks reception have been growing their very own sunflowers in teams to see whose can grow the tallest. We've kept them in a warm, sunny spot in the window and have been watering them and caring for them for a few weeks now. We've seen them turn from tiny seeds to small plants and they are now ready to plant in bigger pots to help them to keep growing. We are looking forward to seeing them grow taller.



Year 1

This week in topic, we have been continuing our theme, Wonderful Weather. We used Purple Mash 2Graph to record our data collected from last week's rain gauge. First, we had to create a pictogram using our data and then we used this information to create different representations of the results.



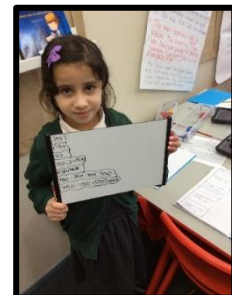
Year 2

This week, we recreated The Fire of London using the Tudor houses that we had made. We started our fire in the bakery and watched as it spread to the neighbouring houses. We learnt the song 'London's Burning' to sing as the houses burnt down. It was very exciting!



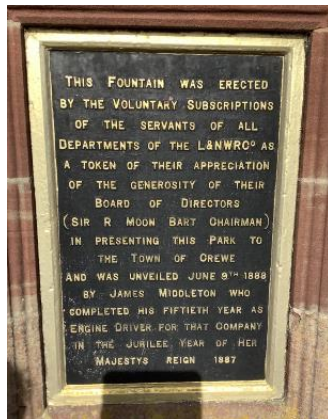
Year 3

This week in maths, we have been continuing our learning on measurement. We looked at how to use a scale and then we measured 'mystery' bags of items in grams as a group. First, we estimated the mass then we weighed the items.



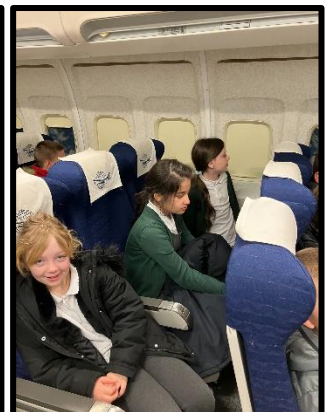
Year 4

Year 4 are learning about our local area in Victorian times and we went on a walking tour to Queens Park. We observed and discussed the features of modern housing and compared it with Victorian buildings. At Queens Park we learned some interesting facts about the Clock Tower and its significance to the people of Crewe.



Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about aspirations and careers in PSHE. This week, 5B were able to visit the local college and explore the different training options and sectors available. They explored the campus through a guided tour and had their questions answered about qualifications and future careers.





Year 6

In RE this week, we had a visit from the fantastic Chip Kendall. During this session we explored why Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead. To do this, we learnt a new song from Chip's musical. The children explored how the celebration of Easter links with the idea of Jesus reconciling people to God so that Christians can live forgiven in relationship with God (sacrifice and reconciliation).

We discussed the difference between being popular and influential and how this impacts individuals within the Christian faith and otherwise. Many children said that they would rather be influential in order to help others, encourage them and be kind.



Attendance

Attendance

Wk - 06.02.23 – 10.03.23

Target 96%

3A = 95.1%

3B = 94.6%

4A = 95%

4B = 96%

5A = 96.3%

5B = 95.3%

6A = 97.1% 😊

6B = 96.4%



KS2 for the week = 96.1% 😊

Whole school attendance for the academic year – 94.5% 😞

Attendance

Wk 06.03.23 – 10.03.23

Target 96%

Reception A – 93.6%

Reception B – 88.6.3%

1A – 90%

1B – 99.3% 😊

2A - 97.4%

2B – 95.3%



KS1 Attendance for last week - 94.1% 😞

Whole school attendance for the academic year – 94.5% 😞

Gingerbread socks Tuesday 21st March



We again will be selling biscuits to raise awareness of Down Syndrome on the 21st March. The biscuits will cost £1 and the children will be able to purchase the biscuit from their teacher.

Focus on Year 4: Kinetic Art!

On Thursday Year 4 had an amazing time experimenting with a new type of art. We were inspired by the artist Heather Hansen, who noticed the interesting patterns she made in sand when dancing with her son on the beach. She then translated this into movement-based art, where she “downloads” her movements onto paper, using charcoals. We tried the same thing using oil pastels. It was a most relaxing experience, using our bodies to interpret music silently, while we drew. Our patterns were fantastic too, and we will use these in a further piece of artwork. WE LOVED IT!



We are excited to announce our new Arts Ambassadors! Thank you to everyone who applied – your pitches were so well written and lovely: it would have been easy to pick 4 times as many. Don't be disappointed though – there will be many opportunities to help with art in school, and next year other children will have a chance at the same role. For now though, our ambassadors are:

1A: Prudence

1B: Kamara

2A: Phoebe

2B: Jacek

3A: Grace

3B: Aylin

4A: George

4B: Ayesha

5A: Milanko

5B: Roland

6A: Roza

6B: Nadia

Well done to everyone!

Art Exhibition

We are delighted to be hosting another exhibition of our children's recent art work in the Irlam Hall for the duration of both Parents' Evenings: Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March.

Please come along and see your child's work, as well as other children's in other classes. There will be an activity to get involved in too, so join in with your children. We hope to see you there!

Sport News

On Tuesday 14th March, 11 children were selected to represent the school in a Games for All event. This event was ran by South Cheshire College students who put on various sport activities that the children could try out. The activities that the children took part in were Curling, Basketball, Rugby and throwing a javelin or ball. Mr Barton was so proud of the way the children behaved and their positive attitudes to try new sports that they might have never done before.



PE Kit Reminder:

Please can you make sure that your child has got the right clothing for P.E.

They should have: -

- ✓ **Green Wistaston Academy Logo T-shirt**
- ✓ **Black Shorts**
- ✓ **Black/White Socks**
- ✓ **Trainers/Pumps**
- ✓ **Tracksuit bottoms (Dark Blue or Black)**
- ✓ **Tracksuit Top (Dark Blue or Black)**



Sport Clubs News

This half term, clubs will run from 27th February until 31st March.

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 are live, there are still some spaces left in some clubs. If Arbor won't let you make a booking it is likely the club is full.

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.

Monday

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

11:45am till 12:25pm **** (Spaces Available) ****

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 **** (Spaces Available) ****

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 Tag Rugby Club with Mr Barton **** (Spaces Available) ****

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 Cricket Club with Miss Brown **** (Spaces Available) ****

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 toe taps on a ball can you do in 60 seconds?

Can you beat Mr Barton's score 41 times in 60 seconds!!

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

Thursday 6th April 11am to 3pm

CREWE LIFESTYLE CENTRE
(FAMILY CENTRE ENTRANCE)

CWI 2BB

WILLOW
WEAVING

EASTER
ARTS &
CRAFTS

Easter

Participation

ACTIVITY DAY

LUNCH AND
REFRESHMENTS
INCLUDED!

FREE SCHOOL
MEAL
CAMPAIGN

DEBATES &
COOKING

For young people aged 11-18 (or 25 if SEND
or Care Experienced)

Limited spaces available, please
book a space by contacting
participation@cheshireeast.gov.uk
or 07890 321844.

Cheshire East
Council

Protected Characteristics



There may be times when someone's age affects how they spend their money. Not all children have bank cards or mobile phones and not all adults want to use them either. Everyone should be able to choose how they spend their money.



UN Rights of a Child



Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.



British Values



Individual Liberty

People can choose how they spend their money. There may be benefits and consequences of spending money in each of its forms, which may vary for each individual.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TWITTER



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be ‘trending’. Twitter users can engage with other people’s posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person’s Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account’s authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a ‘view count’ feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven’t reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their ‘policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach’. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter’s most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag’s meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with ‘trending’ hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child’s tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter’s privacy settings so that your child can’t be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won’t be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they’ve seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message’s possible motive. Emphasise that it’s not a good idea to retweet something if they aren’t sure it’s correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child’s tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child’s again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else’s tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It’s important that young people think about what they’re about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed ‘nudges’: little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The ‘mute’ feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child’s timeline. The other user won’t know that they’ve been muted.

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.



BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the ‘blue tick’ system, it’s essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they’ve been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=etd>