

Newsletter 22 – Spring Term



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

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday 6 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 1&2 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Basketball Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Gym	
Tuesday 7 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3&4 Football Yr 3-6 Tag Rugby Swimming Y4 Yr 3-6 Lunchtime Gym Yr 3-6 Sewing Yr 3&4 Performing Arts	
Wednesday 8 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Year 5&6 Hockey finals at Ruskin High School.	
Thursday 9 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3-6 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Singing Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Singing	
Friday 10 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 5&6 Football Yr 1&2 Cricket Year 1 & 2 football competition at Crewe Alexandra at Crewe Alexandra Training Ground	
Advanced Notice:	Games for All – Tuesday 14 th March at South Cheshire College Year 1 & 2 Gymnastic competiton at Camm Street Gym on 23 rd March Friday 24 th March – SingFest for Year 4, Congleton Town Hall Year 1&2 Cricket Competition at South Cheshire College on 29 th March	
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

Reception: Antoni (RA), Freya B (RB)
KS1: Scarlet (1A), Archie S (1B), Phoebe (2A), Clara (2A)
KS2: Courtney (5A) Evie (4A) Alice (4B), Emilia (3B), Somaia (3A)

Sports Awards

KS1 : Archie S (1B) ,Jacob B (Rec A)
KS2 : Hamza (5A), Landon (6A)

The Hub

World Book Day is always an exciting time in school and this year's event was no exception. We had lots of fun in The Hub dressing as our favourite characters, and were thrilled with the surprise arrival of the inflatable zoo animals!



Nursery

On Thursday we celebrated World Book Day. We had lots of special visitors. The Nursery children loved coming into Nursery dressed as their favourite character and sharing stories with adults and the children in Year 3.



Reception

This week we have introduced our new topic 'Growing' and in small groups we planted our own sunflower seeds. We have learnt how to care for the seeds in order for them to grow and we look forward to observing the changes over the next few weeks.

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day by discussing our costumes and our favourite storybooks. The children enjoyed sharing stories with Year 4 children and we completed an activity on how to be a good friend inspired by the book *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy.

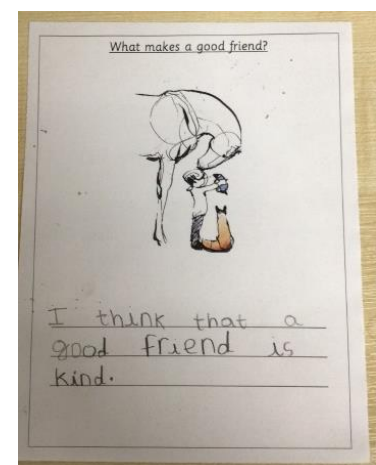
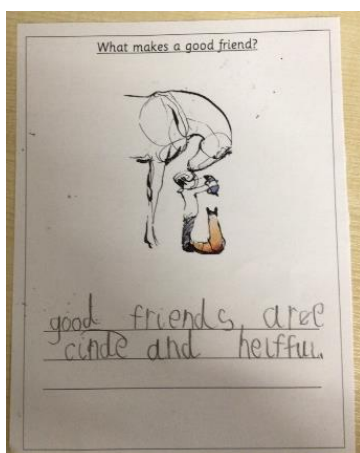


Year 1

This week, we started our 'Wonderful Weather' topic. We have explored hot and cold colours through art and then used the style of the famous artist, Jackson Pollock to create a hot, cold and neutral painting. We used Jackson's technique of dripping and splat painting on the floor.



To celebrate World Book Day, we focused on the book called 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' by Charlie Mackesy. It tells the story of friendship with a boy and three unlikely friends he meets as he journeys through life. The children thought about the different qualities that would make a good friend, one of them being kindness. To show this, the children 'passed' a smile around our circle before we wrote down our ideas of what makes a good friend.



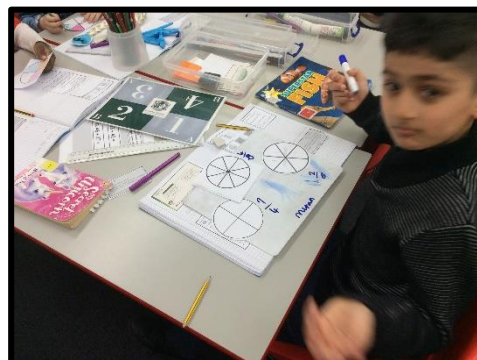
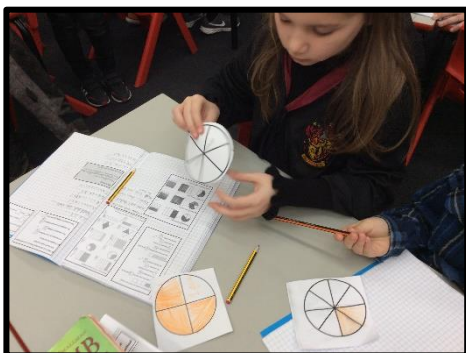
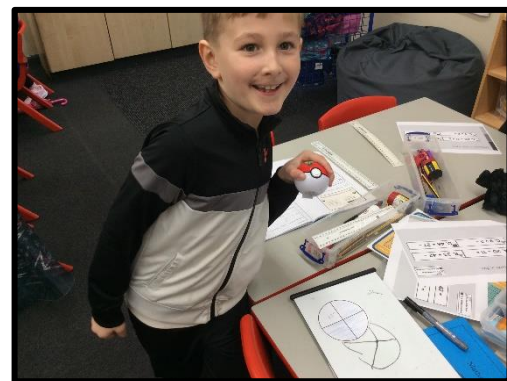
Year 2

This week, we started to learn about our 'Great Fire of London' topic by investigating what houses were like at the time. We looked at different sources to find out more about them before making our own version of a Tudor house. We put them all together to recreate Pudding Lane, which is where the fire started.



Year 3

On Thursday, we read a book that everyone in school was enjoying for World Book Day and this helped us with our maths learning about understanding fractions and the term 'whole'. Mole loves cake in our story, so we helped him work out the fraction that he still needed to eat to finish the whole cake.



Year 4

We have begun our new Science topic looking at Teeth and Digestion. This week, children investigated the different types of teeth and their purposes – we used mirrors to study our own teeth before biting into polystyrene to study our own teeth marks too. Children could name the teeth and their purpose.



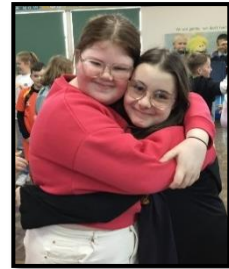
Year 5

Class 5 enjoyed a full day of science learning with Professor Wilson, from Chemistry with Cabbage, who has an MBE. They took part in science investigations and many experiments throughout the day, whilst learning interesting scientific facts. From the activities, the children found out that they can change solutions from being alkali to acid and vice versa. They also tested whether solutions were acid, alkali or neutrals. All of this was done using the molecules from red cabbage leaves. The children in both classes thoroughly enjoyed their science day.



Year 6

Year 6 had a lot of fun on World Book Day. The children went to lots of effort to dress as characters from their favourite stories as you can see below. They read *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse* and wrote personalised messages to Charles Mackesy. In the afternoon, they spent time with Tim Uffindel talking about resilience and kindness.



Art News

Focus on Year 4: Performing Arts!



In Year 4, we have been working extremely hard on our singing, in preparation for "SingFest", which is

coming soon! Our children are preparing to perform with Shavington Academy, Wistaston Church Lane and A-level musicians from Cheshire College South and West, at Congleton Town Hall on Friday 24th March. Our concert begins at 12:15pm, going on until 1:30pm and judging by the phenomenal rehearsal we had this week with Victoria Palenthorpe from Love Music Trust – it promises to be a fabulous show.

Parents may purchase tickets at £6 each from the Love Music Trust website via this link:

<http://www.lovemusictrust.com/singfest-tickets>

Please note, we are “Concert 7”.

We hope many of you can join us on the day. Some of our children are even brave enough to sing solos, or be rhythm keepers! We are very proud of our children as they explore music and rhythm – it has lifted our spirits.

Well done Year 4!

Sport News

PE Lesson Focus – Year 2 Ball Skills

This week Mr Barton introduced the new PE topic that Y2 will be learning for this term which is ball skills. The children looked at different ways to throw the ball to each other. Once the children understood how to throw the ball correctly they moved onto a game to practise their skills.



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**
- ✓ **Trackuit 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

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 Tag Rugby 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 Cricket Club 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.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wildflower planting TUESDAY 7th March.

On Tuesday next week we are planting a Wildflower Meadow, this will eventually become the Wizzy Wildflower Wellbeing Walk. The Wildlife Trust is helping us with this by preparing the land and also supporting us in scattering the seed. Children will have the opportunity learn about wildflowers, which ones we're planting and why a meadow is so good for our environment plus, we'll also be scattering the seeds together in year groups.

Your child will need a pair of old trainers or wellies in a plastic bag with their name on so that they can change into them before going onto the field.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



Hi everyone, I'm Mrs Dean our Mental Health Practitioner in school. We've been working hard this term on developing our Mental Health Ambassador student team which began meeting last week. One student from each KS2 class will support the development of our whole school approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing. We have some exciting projects planned, watch this space!



Across the school we have also supported Children's Mental Health Week. Each class took part in activities throughout the week all around the theme of 'Let's Connect'.



Year 2 took part in drawing circles of connection using chalk on our playground and KS2 children have created a tree display full of positive statements from our KS2 corridor.

You may have noticed or heard that we are currently working with Creative Action. They are delivering Assisted Pet Therapy sessions with some of our children. You may see Lottie the springer spaniel around on a Wednesday for the next few weeks.

We're also excited to announce that our Solar Dome is now fully functional. We'll be using this more over the coming months to support sessions around wellbeing. It's a really peaceful space that will enable us to bring the outside, inside.



Health & Wellbeing

Cheshire East Council is offering
FREE wellbeing checks across Cheshire East
to help you to stay healthy and well

Week commencing 20.02.23

Monday 20th:

Macclesfield General Hospital, Main visitor car park,
Victoria Road SK10 3BL – **10.00 – 14.45**

Thursday 23rd:

Combermere Arms Car Park, Burleydam, Whitchurch
SY13 4AT – **11.00 – 15.00**

Friday 24th:

TESCO Crewe (under the stairs near exit) Vernon Way
CW1 2DD – **09.30 – 15.30** & Knutsford Market Hall,
Princess Street WA16 6BU – **10.00 – 14.00**

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY

For more information please visit:

cheshireeast.gov.uk/wellbeing

Attendance

Wk 13.02.23 – 17.02.23

Target 96%

Reception A – 92.6%

Reception B – 97.3% 😊

1A – 91.3%

1B – 91.2%

2A – 93.8%

2B – 94.7%



KS1 Attendance for last week - 93.5% 😞

Whole school attendance for the academic year – 94.5% 😞

Attendance

Wk - 13.02.23 – 17.02.23

Target 96%

3A = 94.1%

3B = 94.3%

4A = 96.0%

4B = 97.1%

5A = 94.8%

5B = 96.4%

6A = 98.7% 😊

6B = 97.4%



KS2 for the week = 96.1% 😊

Whole school attendance for the academic year – 94.5% 😞

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.

Lots of games naturally encourage you and your child to be face to face. Here are a few to try at home:

Blowing bubbles—watch your child's excitement when you blow bubbles for them

Sing nursery rhymes like "Row Row the Boat", "Round and Round the Garden" and "Zoom Zoom"

"Peek-a-boo"
Hide behind hands or some fabric. Your child will love you reappearing!

Be a mirror—copy each other's facial expressions and see how crazy you can make your faces!

Sit face-to-face and have fun playing with puppets, or even old socks on your hands!

Top Tips for Parents

Being face-to-face helps connections take place!



Talking and playing face-to-face with your child helps you connect with each other



Find us on Facebook!
'Cheshire East Chatters'



Did You Know?

Being face-to-face with your child:

- Helps you to see and hear each other
- Shows your child that you are interested in them
- Allows you to tune in with what your child wants to do and talk about
- Supports your child to learn about eye contact, facial expressions and emotions



Babies are born wanting to look at the human face!

Get right down to your child's level—this may mean having to get down on the floor!

Babies and young children will copy you from a very early age

Watch what your child is doing and comment on it

Keep your language simple, using words your child can understand

Give your child plenty of time to take their turn



International Womens Day Celebrations



Saturday 4th March, 10 - 3

Cheshire College South and West

Women's day at Crewe is this Saturday!

Join us to celebrate Women of the world!

The event will be at Cheshire College - South & West Crewe campus, and is free to attend.

There will be many stalls, entertainment, and performances to enjoy!

Want to continue the celebrations?

Join us afterwards for Women's day live lounge at Crewe Market Hall to enjoy the music of Local Acts.

#Encourage #Inspire #Empower #WomenSupportingWomen
#WomensDay #WomenOfTheWorld

Come and join Motherwell at their International Womens Day event, where we will be showcasing our own support along with other local Charities. You will find:

- Survive
- Self Defence with Clare - self defence sessions for ladies
- Alpha Omega Women Peace and Security (WPS) Foundation
- Parkinsons
- Get Crafty Workshop
- Lilys Creations
- Peru interiors
- ConNEXTions
- Girlguiding Weaver Division
- Dellas Tropic Beauty
- And much much more!

 @/MotherwellCheshire10/



#encourage #inspire #empower



Join Motherwell for their International Womens Day celebrations this Saturday 4th March at Cheshire College South and West, 10am – 3pm.

This event is free to enter and is full of entertainment.

E-safety

To find out more about the programme and to register your interest, parents/carers must attend the drop-in session on:

15th March at Oaktree Children's Centre,
Newcastle St, Crewe, CW1 3LF
9.30 am – 11.30 am

On this day if you wish to sign up for the group, you will be given a further appointment date to meet with our team individually to discuss your current family situation further.



If you require more information about the program or arrangements, please speak to your school.



The Incredible Years

The incredible years parent group is a comprehensive group programme supported by over 30 years of research. The group programme allows parents to learn and add approaches to their current skills.

Places are currently available on the Incredible years programme for families of primary aged school children (5-11yrs)

Parents/carers can access the programme by self-referral. This is a programme for adults.

Children do not attend.

(We are unfortunately unable to offer creche provision)

Programme Format

Through 12 weekly sessions the programme aims to:

- Promote child independence and self-confidence.
- Promote social, emotional, and academic skills
- The teaching of calming strategies with children
- Reduce and prevent behaviour problems



Helping people to be the best they can be

CWP West Cheshire Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services



Helping people to be the best they can be



Group Sessions

Enable parents to hear from other parents about their experiences of implementing new approaches with their children.

Parents benefit from the support of others in similar situations.

What other parents say:

"Go for it You learn so much, there's no right or wrong, it just gives you more tools"

"The course has been a lifeline for the family. Lots of these learnt our home and everyone living here happier. The difference in 12 weeks is vast!"

When and Where

Our next group will be taking place at

Oaktree Children's Centre

The group sessions will run on:
Wednesday Mornings

**09.30am – 12.00 noon for 12 weeks
starting on
Wednesday 19th April 2023
(Excluding Half Term: Wednesday 31st May)**

Parents will be expected to attend all sessions.

Helping people to be the best they can be

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

THE METAVERSE

AGE RATING

Varies per
metaverse
platform

'Metaverse' is a relatively new term to many, however the concept has been around for some time.

Videogames, for example, use many aspects of the metaverse; avatars, digital currency, mini-games, and open communication. A metaverse can also take many forms; Fortnite can be seen as a metaverse, as is Roblox. Put simply, a metaverse is an online environment where people interact, play games and express themselves. Away from traditional videogames, there are newer and more 'dedicated' metaverses such as Decentraland, The Sandbox and Somnium Space which are akin to Second Life.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNSAFE AREAS

Many metaverse platforms feature little to no moderation. This is due to the decentralised nature of the metaverse - as there is no one company overseeing the platform, users can create and build with freedom. This can be a minefield for younger users as adult material or sensitive topics can feature on a parcel of land seen by everyone.

VOICE COMMUNICATION

The freedom found within creation is also found in communication. Most metaverses use proximity VOIP communication (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and users can approach any other user to start a conversation. It is necessary for avatars to be quite close to another in order to talk and once they are, anything can be said. While a chat box can be moderated, voice chat cannot.

ANONYMITY

As with almost every other form of online interactions, anonymity features heavily within the metaverse. The concept for the metaverse is to live any type of life digitally. This could mean that 'bad actors' (those with malicious intent) can take advantage of others with ease. Reporting and monitoring these users is becoming easier on the more popular platforms, but others struggle to police these situations.

VIRTUAL REALITY

Not all metaverse platforms are VR enabled, in fact less than 10% feature VR interactivity. However, it's always worth monitoring the amount of time younger users spend in virtual reality. A VR metaverse differs greatly to VR gaming in user interaction. Approaching each other in a VR metaverse attempts to represent 'reality' and can result in a greater impact if experiences are negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

Whether in virtual reality or not, interactions and experiences in the metaverse can often carry more weight because they mimic 'real life'. Oftentimes, due to the freedom in avatar creation, younger users may open themselves up to bullying, prejudice or an unrealistic idea of reality. For instance, female-orientated avatars may find themselves targeted by bullies or inappropriate users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TRY IT OUT FIRST

This may sound like an obvious tip, but by entering the metaverse and exploring on your own, you'll be able to see what your child might. You can explore the busier areas and even the quiet sections to see what users are building or advertising. You'll also learn first-hand how users communicate with each other. Many metaverse platforms will feature an entry area which showcases the busiest areas. Check them all out and see what's happening.

CREATE AN AVATAR TOGETHER

If you decide on allowing your child into the metaverse, set up their initial avatar together. This way you can ensure the avatar is age-appropriate and keeps their identity private. You can also advise on aspects which may result in attracting bullies or unwanted attention. It will also allow you to see which avatar items cost money, and talk to your child about in-game spending.

LEARN ABOUT NFTS, WALLETS AND CRYPTO

With the metaverse comes Web3 technologies such as NFTs, cryptocurrency and wallets in which to store them. If you have a crypto wallet, do not connect it to your child's metaverse. One simple click could result in loss of cryptocurrency. If you are unsure what these technologies are, try to research them as these terms will appear in the metaverse.

START WITH THE FAMILIAR

There are already metaverse experiences with children in mind; explain to your child what a metaverse is and have them recognise similarities between those and games like Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft. Unfortunately, there is no 'child safe' metaverse option as yet, though Epic Games and LEGO are currently developing a family safe metaverse.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a father to two girls, aged 14 and 12. Before Dan began his Web3 metaverse journey, he worked as a videogame journalist and author for a decade, reviewing games, talking to creators and writing about videogame trends. Dan has also written fifteen guide books about Fortnite, Minecraft, Roblox, Apex Legends and Valorant for HarperCollins and Bonnier Books.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday