

Newsletter 25 – Spring Term



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

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday 27 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 1&2 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Basketball Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Gym	
Tuesday 28 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 Tag Rugby Competition at Crewe and Nantwich Rugby club	
Wednesday 29 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6	
Thursday 30 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3-6 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Singing Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Singing	
Friday 31 st March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 5&6 Football Yr 1&2 Cricket	
Advanced Notice:	31 st March – Easter Assembly	
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: Jacob B (RA)

KS1: Uzra (1A), Luna (1B), Carter (2A) Jiya (2B)

KS2: Harleigh- Jean (5A) Tamera (3B), Tristan (6B), Kaydie (6A), Imogen (3B) Cassidy (4A) Chyann (4B)

Sports Awards

KS1: Maja (2A), Hardie - Rose (1A)

KS2: Muhammed (5B), Darcey (6A)

The Hub

The Hub children always love to explore cause and effect in practical ways. This week they have investigated forces through balloons, pumps, pneumatic toys and gravity walkers.



Nursery

This week the Nursery children have been exploring different emotions through stories and songs. We have discussed what it looks and feels like to feel happy, sad, excited, angry and worried. The children then took it in turns to use a range of natural materials to create some emotion art.



Reception

This week we have been learning about minibeasts and the children have made their own worm hotels. We discussed how the worms wiggle and dig tunnels in the soil. The children have enjoyed observing the worms in their new habitat.



Year 1

To introduce our new topic for next half term, we went on a visit to Delamere Forest. Our new topic is called 'In the Woods' and we completed two activities run by rangers at the forest; Amazing Forests and Habitat Investigators.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 had a fantastic time at Nantwich Museum finding out all about the Great Fire of Nantwich.



Year 3

Last week we went on a trip to the Catalyst Science Museum and had a lot of fun! We explored the interactive galleries, participated in a light show to learn about light, including refraction, natural and chemical luminescence, thermal imaging and infrared. We looked around the upper floor observatory at the 3 types of nearby bridges and used the interactive resources to build our own arch and beam bridges.



Year 4

In Year 4 we have been learning about the digestive system and the incredible journey our food needs to take. We carried out an experiment to get a better understanding of the job of each organ. Here are photos from our digestion experiment; we had so much fun experimenting with 'poo'.

Digestion experiment



Digestion experiment



Year 5

On Monday, Year 5 climbed Bosley Cloud. Despite their reservations, all children made it to the top and were very proud of themselves; they had all demonstrated perseverance and resilience. They enjoyed their lunch whilst taking in the views of Cheshire and later worked as a team to build dens and toast marshmallows. It was a wonderful experience, with many children commenting that they would like to return with their families.



Year 6

Today, Year 6 took part in an amazing science enrichment day called MedicFest. They had an opportunity to explore medical equipment and gain a deeper understanding of how their body works. The aim was to teach children about the importance of good health and they had a lot of fun in doing so.



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% 😞

Art News

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!



Arts Ambassadors

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

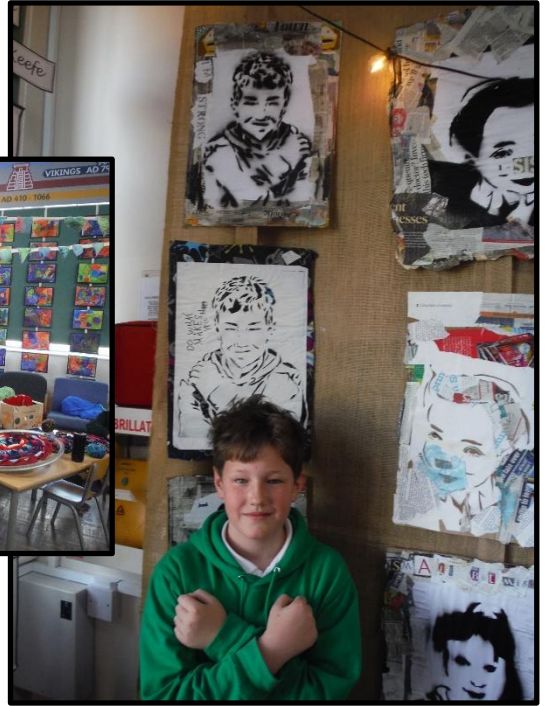
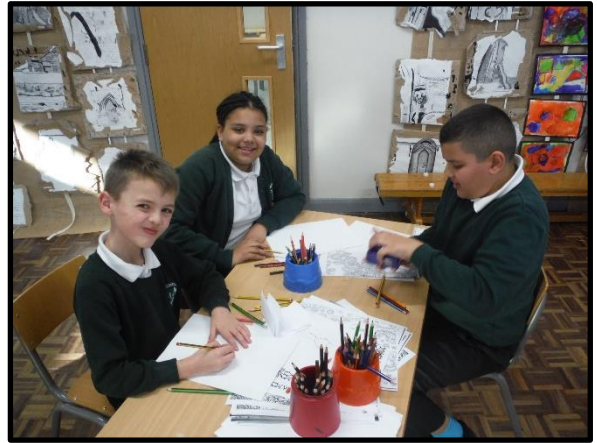
6B: Nadia

Well done to everyone!

Art Exhibition

We had a fantastic time during Parents' Evening this week exhibiting artwork in the hall from all each Year Group. It was lovely to see so many families coming through and children so proud of their work. Well done everyone – we loved seeing you all and celebrating together! Our Arts Ambassadors did a great job helping children come and weave concentric circles in our "Kandinsky Corner"! 😊







Sport News

Year 1 & 2 Gymnastics Competition at Camm Street Gym

On Wednesday 22nd March, 6 children were selected to represent the school in a Year 1 & 2 Gymnastics Competition. The competition was held at Camm Street Gym where the children were split into 2 groups. The children who performed the team had all their scores added up together to make up their final score. The children performed the same routine which involved a forward roll, teddy bear roll, back support, balancing and jumping. The children were against 6 other school teams and they managed to finish in second place overall. Mr Barton, Alisha and Jasmine Evanson were so proud of the all the children. A massive well done to all!



Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 classes will be going swimming for approximately 6 weeks as part of the compulsory National PE curriculum. The sessions will begin on Tuesday 18th April and will finish on Tuesday 23rd May 2023. The classes will go swimming from 1:30 till 2:30pm.

Your child will need to bring in their **swimming costume and a towel**. If your child forgets their kit, we will contact you during the morning to try to arrange for their kit to be dropped off. Alternatively, we can provide spare swimming costumes, shorts and towels if kit cannot be brought in. Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery in the pool, so all must be removed before they enter. Please ensure that all earrings are removed before children come to school, if the children cannot remove the earrings themselves. In addition, long hair must be tied up in a swimming cap.

If you have any questions about Y3 Swimming, please speak to the PE Team or your child's Class Teacher.



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 star jumps can you do in 60 seconds?

Can you beat Mr Barton's score 48 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.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



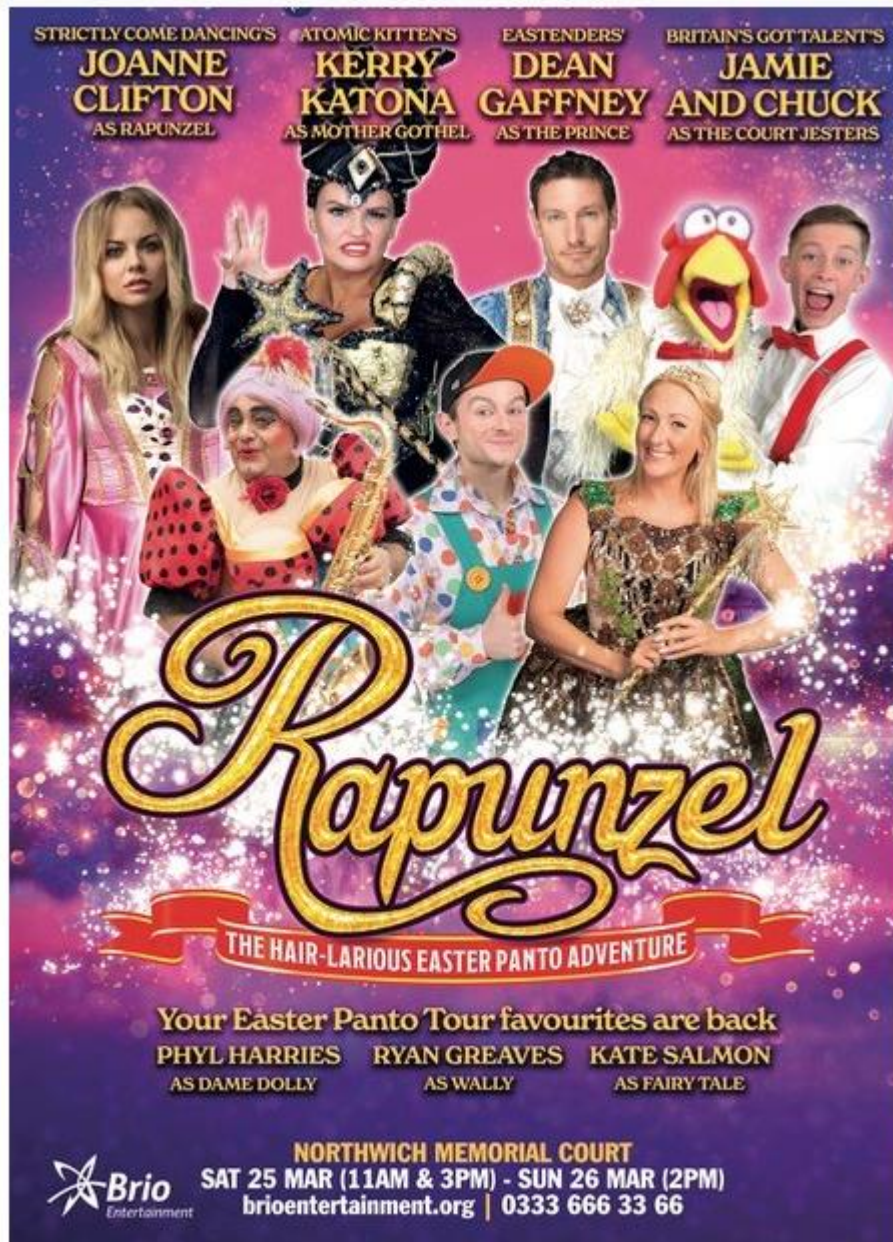
BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

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>

Spring Pantomime

RAPUNZEL is playing at Northwich Memorial Court this weekend (**Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March**) with a star-studded line-up: Northwich favourite Kerry Katona, Eastenders' Dean Gaffney, Strictly Come Dancing champion Joanne Clifton, Britain's Got Talent 2022 runners up Jamie and Chuck and Northwich panto legend Ryan Greaves!



There is an opportunity for you to receive a £1 discount for every ticket you buy. To receive the discount all you have to do is enter the code EASTER23 when purchasing the tickets from www.brioentertainment.org

The cast are looking forward to welcoming many faces, new and old, for another laugh-a-minute ride through panto land next week.