

Newsletter 15 – Autumn 2



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

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Advanced Notice:	Clubs start wc 15 th January	
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.	

Nursery

This week we have had a very busy festive week in Nursery. First, we performed our Christmas songs to our adults at our Christmas Performance. Next, we had a special visit from Santa, where we all received a Christmas present. Then, we have had a Christmas Party where we showed off our best dance moves! We have also enjoyed baking Gingerbread Men, Christmas Yoga and playing in the snow.



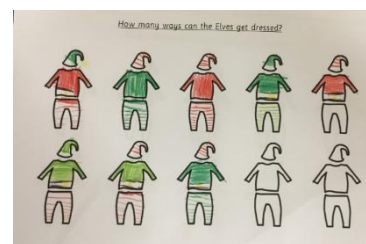
Reception

This week we had a special visit from Santa where we received a Christmas present, watched the pantomime Beauty and the Beast and enjoyed food and party games at our Christmas party. We have also enjoyed completing Christmas maths activities and getting busy with festive arts and craft.



Year 1

This week, we have worked with our partners to solve how many different outfits the elves could wear!



Year 2

Year 2 this week learnt about being a good friend! We played stuck in the mud and shared about our similarities and differences. It was really lovely to see!



Year 3

This week, we met Santa in the winter grotto! Santa read the story of A Christmas Carol to the children and then asked the children what they would like for Christmas.



Year 4

This week we had a Roman Feast. Traditionally, rich Romans would lie on the floor or lounge to eat, served by slaves whilst eating a range of food and listening to music being played. Whilst we didn't lie on the floor, we did try some classic Roman dishes, such as sourdough with moretum (soft cheese, herbs and olive oil), grapes, apples, figs and honey. The children were very brave and challenged themselves to have a go at eating some unfamiliar foods. Some even created new combinations (sourdough topped with moretum and a fig)!



Year 5

This week, we have had a very special visit from Santa. He read us a story and he even gave us a special gift to take away.



Year 6

Year 6 met Santa in the Grotto this week and shared the story 'A Christmas Carol' with us. He answered all our questions about how old he is, how he manages to travel the world in one night and about how he looks after his elves! He then gave us a gift to take away with us.



PE News

Y5 Swimming



All Year 5 children will be going swimming next term as part of the compulsory national PE curriculum. The sessions will begin on the afternoon of **Tuesday 9th January and will finish on Tuesday 13th February 2024.**

The children will be travelling, by coach, to the Crewe Lifestyle Centre, accompanied by members of the Year 6 team. Your child will need to bring in their **swimming costume/shorts 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. 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.

If your child has a medical condition which prevents them from swimming, they will require a signed doctor's note; otherwise they will be expected to swim. If your child has a one-off medical condition on one of their swimming sessions, then please speak directly to their class teacher, or send in a signed note. We will not accept the children's reasons for why they are missing swimming, without confirmation from an adult.

Clubs

Clubs will return after Christmas! Clubs will continue to take place after school, but also during lunchtime and before school to give the children as many opportunities as possible to take part in extra-curricular activities.

Clubs will run from **Monday 15th January – Friday 16th February**. Sewing club will only run for 3 weeks, on 16th, 23rd of January and 13th Feb. 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. **All clubs will go live on Arbor on Friday 12th January from 4pm.**

Miss Brown's year 5/6 before-school dodgeball club will continue after Christmas from 8:20-8:40am on the all-weather pitch. There is no need to book onto this club. The year 5 and 6 children can join in the club when they arrive at school.

Lunchtime and after school clubs – KS1 & KS2

Monday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location

Boys and girls Gymnastics (max 16)	1 - 2	11:45-12:20	Jasmine & Alisha Evanson (outside provider)	FREE	Irlam Hall
Boys and girls Gymnastics (Max 15)	3-4	3:15-4:15pm	Mrs Harrington WA PE Specialist	FREE	Irlam Hall
Boys football (max 20)	5-6	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch

Tuesday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Gymnastics (max 20)	3-4	12:00-12:35	Alicia Evanson Jasmine Evanson (outside provider)	FREE	Irlam Hall
Sewing Club (max 15)	3 - 6	3:15-4:15pm	The Sewing Coach (outside provider)	FREE	KS2 classroom
Boys and girls Gymnastics (Max 15)	1-2	3:15-4:15pm	Mrs Harrington WA PE Specialist	FREE	Irlam Hall
Boys and girls Yoga (max 20)	3-6	3:15-4:15pm	Fiona (outside provider)	FREE	Solar dome
Boys football (max 20)	3-4	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch

Wednesday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Street Dance	1 - 2	12:00- 12:30pm	Hannah Wood (outside provider)	FREE	Irlam Hall
Dance Club	3 - 6	3:15-4:15pm	Sophie – Young Arts Academy	FREE	Irlam Hall/Solar dome

(max 15)			(outside provider)		
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Thursday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Boys & Girls dodgeball (max 30)	5-6	3:15-4.15pm	Mrs Adamczyk WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch
Sportshall Athletics (max 18)	3-4 INVITE ONLY	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	Irlam Hall

Friday

Club	Year Group	Time	Staff	Price	Location
Boys & Girls dodgeball (max 30)	3-4	3:15-4:15pm	Mrs Adamczyk WA PE Specialist	FREE	Playground
Performing Arts (max 15)	3 - 6	3:15-4:15pm	Sophie – Young Arts Academy (Outside provider)	FREE	Irlam Hall
Girls Football (max 20)	3-6	3:15-4:15pm	Miss Brown WA PE Specialist	FREE	All weather pitch

Club places

If there is a high demand for certain clubs, we will look to ensure all children who wish to go to the club, but do not get a place this term, have the opportunity to attend the club at some point across the school year.

Below are the conditions that we will be following to keep our clubs process fair and consistent.

- If you would like your children to sign up for a club we recommend that you sign up on the day that the clubs go live. If you have been unsuccessful please make sure you pop in to the office and place your child on the waiting list.
- If you have been successful, please ensure your child is aware that the club will run for the whole half term and they are expected to attend each week.
- If your child no longer wants to attend it is your responsibility to contact the office to inform them that your child no longer wants a place. This way we can remove your child from the register and add someone from the waiting list.
- If your child does not attend for **2 consecutive weeks** (without reason) you will then be contacted and your child will be automatically removed to allow someone from the waiting list to attend.

- If your child has a space, we expect them to follow the school rules outlined in our behaviour policy during club. If your child displays disruptive behaviour you will be informed and their place will be removed.

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Weather

The school has worked hard to invest in an all-weather Astroturf so that your children can participate in sports all year round. This does mean that if it is raining during clubs such as football and dodgeball that clubs will continue to run on the all- weather pitch. Please make sure your child has the appropriate clothing i.e. coat, trousers, jumpers so that we can continue to offer high quality sports clubs.

If you do not wish for your child to participate when it is raining it is your responsibility to collect them at 3.15pm.

Sports clothing

Please ensure that your child has the correct clothing for their after-school club. If the club is run outside then jumpers, joggers and coats are needed. If your child participates in football we are asking if they can bring trainers as well as football boots (if they have them). Football boots will only be worn if the club is taking place on the field as we are no longer able to use studs on the all-weather pitch.

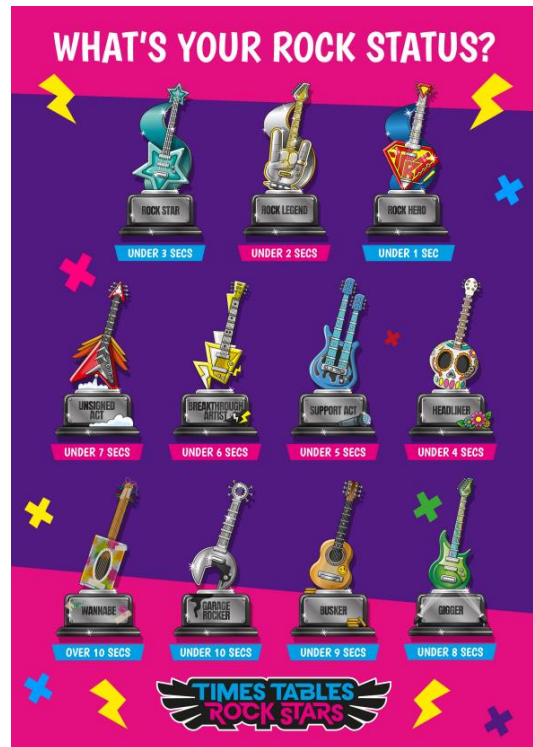
Please ensure that ALL children are collected from clubs outside the main reception on time.

If children are not collected from clubs on time they will be taken to Wizz Kids and will need to be collected from there. You will be charged for their time in Wizz Kids.

Maths News

Remember to log in over the festive period and practise your key skills on **Numbots** (Reception/KS1) or **Times Table Rocks Stars (TTRS)**.

Logging on for just a few minutes each day will make a massive difference to your basic number/times tables skills.



Attendance
Wk 11.12.23 – 15.12.23

Target 96%

Reception A – 91.6%
Reception B – 86.9%
1A – 93%
1B – 96.7% 😊
2A – 96.6%
2B – 95.6%



KS1 Attendance for last week - 93.4% 😞
Whole school attendance for the academic year – 95.9% 😞

Attendance
Wk - 11.12.23 – 15.12.23

Target 96%

3A = 95%
3B = 91.7%
4A = 97.9% 😊
4B = 96%
5A = 96%
5B = 93.67%
6A = 94.5%
6B = 96.5%



KS2 for the week = 95.1% 😞
Whole school attendance for the academic year – 95.9% 😞

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police: location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have 'hard fall' detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Wired*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC *Newsnight*, *Road to 5 Live* and the *ITV News* at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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HAVE YOUR SAY

About how children are invited for their vaccinations

SCW Child Health are seeking views of parents, carers and people working with families to help decide how to send invitations for routine childhood vaccinations.

This survey takes 5 minutes and will help us improve the service we provide to children and families.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!
Please take a few minutes to fill out our survey



HAVE YOUR SAY

Scan the QR code to take the survey or [click here](#)

For more information on childhood vaccinations and the diseases they protect against please visit vaccineknowledge.ox.ac.uk