

Newsletter 33 – Summer 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: | <u>WC 10.6.24</u> – Phonics Screening Check. Please ensure your child is in school every day during this period. | |
| 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: Joshua (RA), Danila (RB)

KS1: Miller (1B)

KS2: Cadence (5A), Patryk (5B), Jacob O(6A), Callum (6B) Alexia (3A)

The Hub

On Thursday we had The code Show come to visit the school. Gary brought with him some of the first computers ever created to some original games consoles and equipment. We joined in exploring the technology and learning how it works. We got to play on Donkey Kong, Space Invaders and even type our names in to old computers. It was so much fun!



Nursery

This week the children opened the magic story box and found Farmer Duck! First, we sang 5 Little Ducks. Next, we shared the book and practised some of the repeated phrases within it. Then, we made duck masks to pretend to be the Farmer Duck.



Reception

This week, the children have been exploring with the Bee-Bots. We have learnt how to enter instructions to make the Bee-Bots move correctly around the Bee-Bot mat. The children enjoyed programming the Bee-Bots and testing out their sequences.



Year 1

This week, year 1 had a very exciting visit from Zoo-Lab. They brought in lots of animals for the children to learn about, touch and even hold! We found out that animals belong to different groups such as reptiles and mammals. We learnt lots of facts about each animal, for example, frogs use their eyes to swallow and snakes smell with their tongue.



Year 2

This week, Year 2 have enjoyed solving a mystery in the outdoor reception area and it has led to some really fantastic writing!



Year 3

This week Year 3 have been introduced to the new book that they will be using in Literacy 'Jumanji'. To begin our learning, we had lots of fun playing the board game!



Year 4

Year 4 had a wonderful time at The Code Show. We learnt all about the history of computers and played some amazing retro games! The first ever edition of FIFA was particularly popular!



Year 5

This term, the children have been using ICT to showcase their knowledge and understanding of their history topic, The Mayans. They worked in groups to improve their digital literacy skills and enjoyed creating a Power Point of interesting facts and information about the ancient civilisation. They extended their learning by typing up their Amazon Rainforest Survival Guides.



Year 6

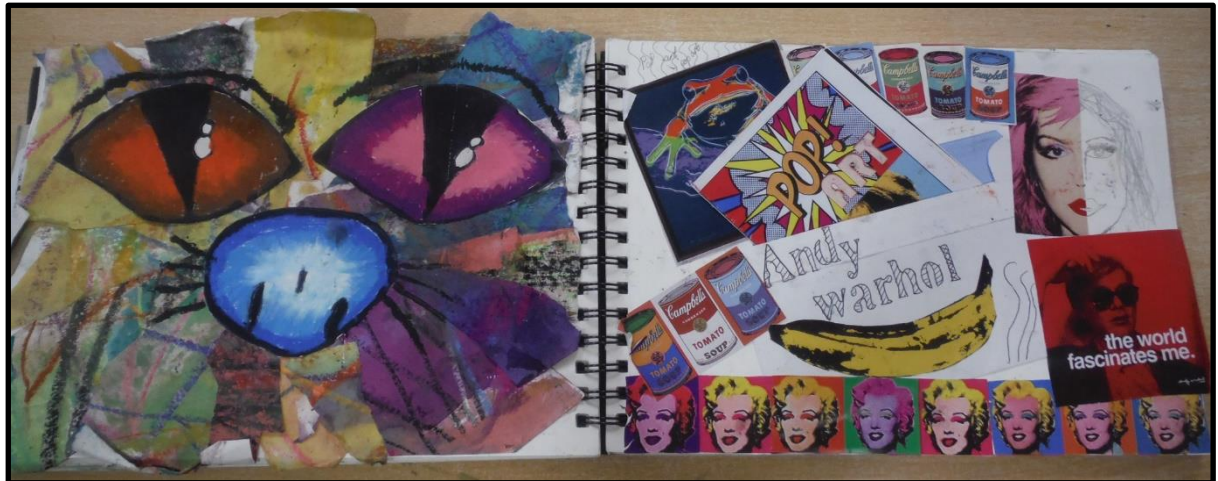
This week, Year 6 took part in The Coding Show. The children had a fantastic opportunity to use a selection of computers, games consoles and various other devices from eras gone by. As you can see, they had a great time, while also gaining a greater understanding of the development of technology in the 1980s.

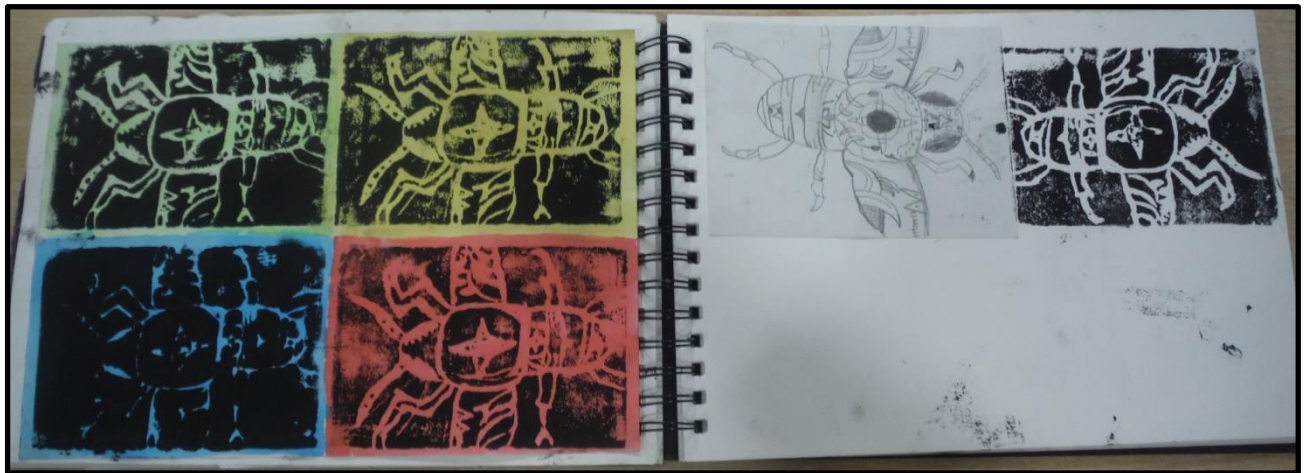


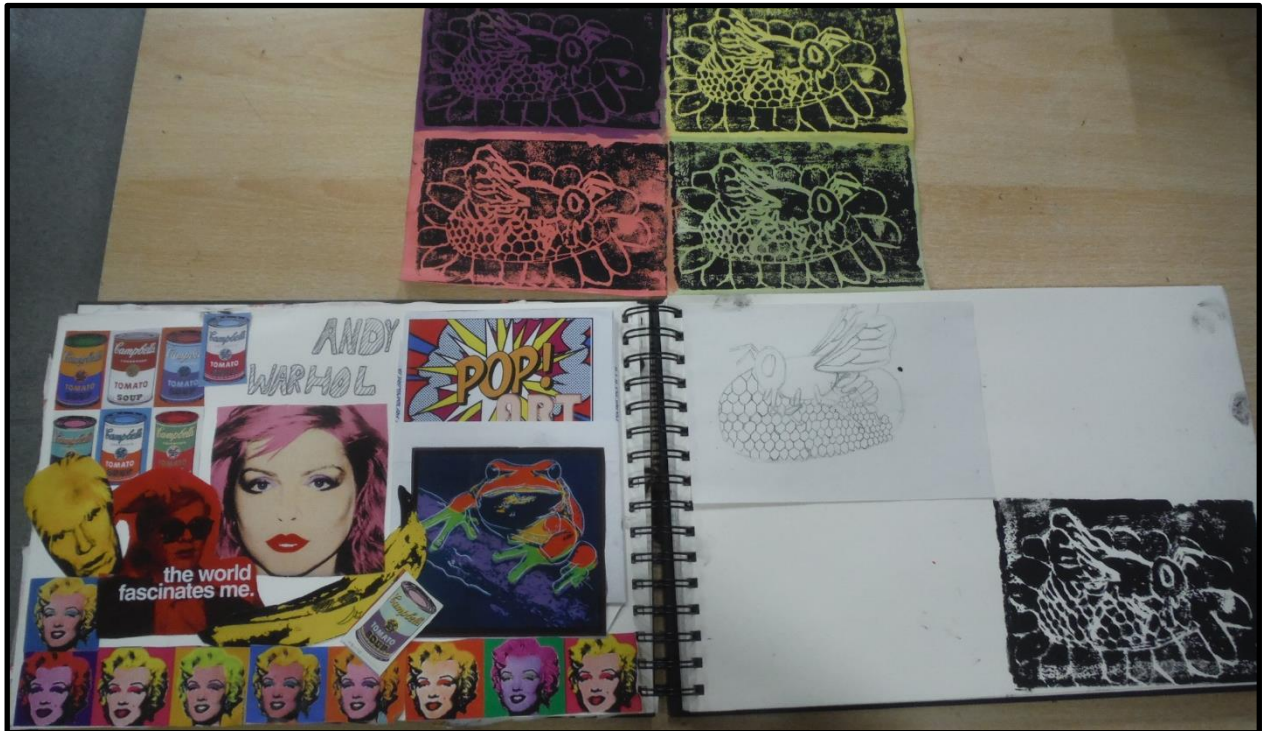
Art News

Focus on Year 4

Year 4 have been working on their sketchbook skills recently, with some stunning results! Our children have used their sketchbooks for beautifully presented artist research and for practising collage techniques as well as practise and real prints, based on their own drawings. We are blown away by the standard of artwork in Year 4 – well done!













All this incredible artwork was produced by: Theo, Olivia, Aylin, Anya, Lincoln, Theadora, Rosalie, Elina, Inga, Maryam, Samaiah, Bobby, Kaylub, Miran, Johnny, Brooke and Grace.

WELL DONE!

We have been able to show our sketchbooks as examples to other schools – and they have been as impressed as we are 😊

Greenpower Race Series

Over the last few weeks, a team of Year 5 and 6 children have been busily working on an exciting project to design, build and race a battery-powered race car. The build began back in the Easter holidays with final tweaks and race practise over the May half-term. This week saw the culmination of all of that hard work when the school team competed in the North West race competition in Lichfield. Every child who competed did fantastically well and the team completed every race without picking up a single penalty point.

Congratulations Team Wistaston, we're all very proud of you!



Thank you

Thank you to Mrs Whalley and Mrs Jones for giving up many days of their half-term to help run the Greenpower club – you are both very generous with your time and the project couldn't have run without you 😊

Thank you too to Mr Owen, a parent volunteer and STEM champion and Mr Boam, a great-grandparent volunteer and car enthusiast for your time, support and expertise – you are amazing!

PE News

Sports Day 2024

Our annual sports day took place today and what a fantastic day it was! Children competed in many races including the sprint, bean bag, sack, egg and spoon, and relay. The children ran their races brilliantly and had so much fun whilst doing it. Our overall winners this year were **SPAIN**.

| | Spain | Jamaica | Brazil | USA |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| KS1 | 179 | 146 | 143 | 132 |
| KS2 | 148 | 162 | 141 | 135 |
| Total | 327 | 308 | 284 | 267 |





Well done children and thank you to our fantastic parents and carers for your continued support!

KS2 Games For All Festival

On Wednesday 14 children from KS2 went to South Cheshire College to take part in many different activities, including, tennis, cricket, golf and athletics. The children enjoyed working together and challenging themselves and each other.



KS2 Tri Golf Festival

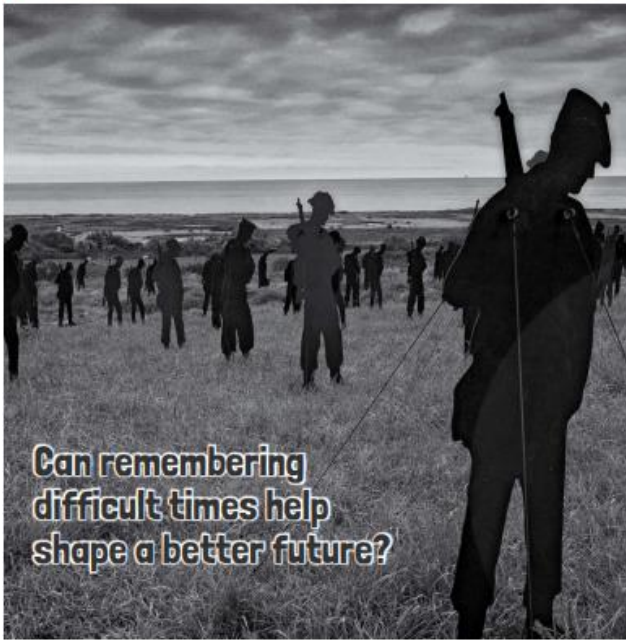


On Thursday 10 KS2 children took part in the Crewe and Nantwich Tri Golf Festival at Ruskin High School. The children had so much fun and enjoyed competing both individually and as part of a team. Well don

Picture News

Every week in assembly we share the Picture News image and question with the children. This resource helps children to learn about the world around us, whilst linking to British Values and supporting pupil's personal development.

We hope this enables you to have an interesting conversation at home with your child.



Can remembering
difficult times help
shape a better future?

In the news this week

6th June is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, the day in 1944 when Allied forces from thirteen different countries stormed five beaches in Normandy, France. This marked the beginning of the end of World War II. A World War II veteran, Henry Rice, who is 98 and from Surrey, has called for schools to teach children more about D-Day 1944. He believes that by learning about the history of it, they could urge politicians to avoid wars.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > Can you ask someone at home about their awareness of the World Wars? Do they have, or do they know anyone with, memories of the wars?
- > This week's poster image shows a tribute to all the soldiers, who lost their lives on D-Day in France. Do you know if there are any local events or tributes to D-Day being held in your local area?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Maths News

Remember, if your child is in Reception or Year 1, they will have access to an app called **Numbots**. If your child is in Year 2 or KS2 they will have access to an app called **Times Table Rocks Stars (TTRS)**.

Logging on for just a **few minutes** every day will make a massive difference to basic number skills and support your child to become confident mathematicians!

Check out the dedicated TTRS website for parents to answer any questions

<https://trockstars.com/parents/>



Learning to tell the time

Telling the time is an **important skill in everyday life**, but we all know how tricky it is to learn despite the number of devices we have in our homes that keep us punctual.



Before your child will be able to tell the time on a clock, they will need to grasp how time relates to their own experiences. You can start to increase their awareness of time from a young age by doing some simple activities and games.

How can you help at home?

Ovens, phones, microwaves, television and computers all tell the time, but the best way of learning how to tell the time and, importantly, understanding how time passes is by using **analogue clocks** (clocks with a minute and hour hand).

With little ones, start with analogue clocks rather than digital clocks. This is what they will be doing in school. Watch the hands move from seconds to minutes and then to hours, focusing on telling time to the hour and half hour.

It's very important that children can see clocks around the home, so put a clock in your child's bedroom. Ideally it should have a clear hour hand and minute hand as this will help them to understand that the short hand shows the hour and the long hand shows the minutes.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

Working together to keep our young people safe

Algorithms: Understanding Their Role in Social Media

Algorithms play a crucial role in organising content, ranking search outcomes and displaying advertisements on the internet, especially on social media. They are primarily used to arrange content in a user's feed. Given the vast amount of content accessible, social platforms use algorithms to prioritise content they believe will appeal to a user, based on what they have liked, commented on, watched and shared.

Algorithms can have negative impacts on young individuals. They operate on the assumption that any interaction with content indicates a desire for similar information. Consequently, if a young person views inappropriate material, they may receive more of such content. Over time, this content may escalate in inappropriateness, potentially exposing children to extremely harmful material.

How to support your child with the negative impact of algorithms

- 1 Social media limits**
Stepping away from social media and engaging in offline activities can enhance moods.
- 2 Curate feeds**
Exploring diverse content and following accounts that share positive content can help create a more uplifting social media environment.
- 3 Notice reactions**
Assisting your child in identifying content that triggers negative feelings and fostering healthy habits of disconnection can help disrupt the cycle of negative emotions.



Primary | June 2024

In this month's issue:

- Algorithms
- Edibles
- App focus: Reddit

4 WAYS ALGORITHMS CAN NEGATIVELY IMPACT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1



Mental health

Excessive engagement with negative content can increase anxiety and depression.

2

Misinformation and echo chambers

Young people may encounter misinformation and hate speech due to user-generated content in their feed, limiting exposure to diverse opinions and reinforcing existing views.



3



Body image and self-esteem

Social media promotes unrealistic beauty standards. The constant exposure to such content can negatively impact the self-esteem of young people who aspire to meet these standards.

4

Inappropriate content

It is very easy to come across content which is not age appropriate. This can be of a sexual nature, violent, sexist and racist.



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

How to Ensure Your Child's Safety During Play Dates:

Sometimes our children receive playdate invitations from families we aren't very familiar with.

While we want our children to enjoy time with their friends, their safety is paramount. It's perfectly acceptable to decline if your child is invited to a stranger's home. You can also suggest that the play date takes place with your supervision or at a local park where you can be present.

When you decide to allow your child to visit someone else's home, it's normal to feel a bit uneasy. Don't hesitate to ask questions about the environment they will be in.

4 question to ask before your child goes on a playdate

Who will be supervising the children?

Ensure that a responsible adult will be present with the children and that they will not be left in the care of someone else, like an older sibling.

Will there be any other unknown people there?

It's crucial to be aware of whether your child will be in the presence of unfamiliar adults or other children.

What activities will they be doing?

Verify that the activities are both safe and suitable for your child's age. While flexibility is key, prioritising your child's safety is essential.

Are internet connected devices monitored?

Ensuring that your child cannot access inappropriate content on another person's device is vital for their online safety.

The 'What should you do if....' game

Before your child goes on a playdate without you, it is useful to make sure they know what to do in specific situations. One way of doing this is by playing the 'What should you do if...' game.

Some examples are:

What should you do if someone asks you to do something you don't feel happy to do?

What should you do if someone plays a computer game which has lots of blood and shooting in?

What should you do if someone follows you into the bathroom?

What should you do if your friend suggests watching a movie that you wouldn't be allowed to watch at home?

What should you do if you want to come home?

App Focus: Reddit

Reddit serves as a platform where users can engage with like-minded individuals within various communities. It acts as a social news site for discussing current events, accessible both as a website and an app.

Risks linked to Reddit:

- Users have the ability to form 'subreddits' focused on diverse interests, yet adults with unknown intentions can create communities that might appeal to young users.
- User-generated content could expose children to potential grooming risks.
- Due to minimal moderation on Reddit, there is a prevalence of inappropriate content.



Age Restriction: 13

Tips for ensuring your child's safety on Reddit:

- Wait until your child is 13 years old before allowing them to use Reddit and ensure they provide their real age on their profile.
- Assist them in selecting suitable subreddits to follow and verify their appropriateness.
- Familiarise yourself with Reddit's functionality to assist and guide your child effectively.
- Adjust the message privacy setting to 'Whitelisted' to restrict messaging to approved contacts only.
- Turn off adult content in the feed settings for added protection.



Parental Conflict

A new app called 'Separating Better' has been launched for parents who have recently separated. It is completely free with no in-app payments and is available to download on Android and IOS.

Key features include:

- An emotional readiness assessment to determine a parent's readiness for the separation process.
- A personalised parenting plan with co-parenting agreement options to help shape the practicalities in a parent's life post-separation.
- A budget planner to help parents gain control of their finances as a new co-parent and to plan ahead for any shared or split expenses for the children.
- *Work it out* scenario videos to help identify any poor communication skills or disagreements between co-parents and demonstrate how to improve upon them.
- Expert advice and guidance articles on a wide range of separation topics, from communication and living arrangements to finances and practical legal advice.



Separating Better is designed to offer self-guided support for parents who are considering separation or are in the early stages of separation. This early intervention app offers emotional support and practical guidance. Separating Better is an early intervention support tool and progress tracker and therefore is **NOT** designed to offer support and guidance to parents who are involved in entrenched, high-conflict separation or dealing with post-separation issues such as parental alienation, interpersonal violence, or domestic abuse.

You can find more information here - [Separating better \(oneplusone.org.uk\)](https://oneplusone.org.uk)



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES ACTIVITY DAY

11AM-3PM 8 AUGUST 2024

**OAKENCLOUGH FAMILY HUB,
COLSHAW DRIVE, WILMSLOW SK9 2PZ**



**BBQ lunch and
refreshments provided**



**Sports, Bushcraft,
Arts and Crafts, Fire Pit
and much more**

**THIS ACTIVITY DAY IS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-19
(25 IF SEND OR CARE EXPERIENCED) AND THEIR FAMILIES
(*IF UNDER 12YRS, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT, 18YRS OR OVER).**

Book on EEUQ using the QR Code

For more information please contact: participation@cheshireeast.gov.uk

