



July 2025

Summer Term 2 - July 2025

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Ducklings Class Enjoy a Spa Day Treat!



As part of our fun-filled Sports and Wellbeing Week, Nursery were treated to a visit to 'Little Ducklings Day Spa' – and what a relaxing time they had!

The children had a wonderful experience exploring the theme of self-care and relaxation. It was a lovely way to balance all the active sports and movement activities we've been doing throughout the week. Here are some of the delightful spa activities the Ducklings enjoyed:

Cucumber Face Mist – The children were gently spritzed with a refreshing cucumber face mist, which had them giggling and feeling cool and refreshed.

Relaxing Foot Spas – massaging tubs with warm water and bubbles made for the perfect foot soak. The children loved dipping their toes and enjoying a quiet moment.



Calming Hand Massages – With soft music playing in the background, each child received a gentle hand massage using child-friendly lotion. Many described it as “so relaxing!”

Yogurt Face Masks and Cucumber Eye Slices – Using a natural, homemade yogurt mix, the children created their own simple face masks. Topped with cucumber slices over the eyes, it was a peaceful moment that felt just like a real spa.

Pedicures – For a bit of extra fun, the children also had the chance to enjoy a mini pedicure, choosing from a variety of colours (or just relaxing while their feet were pampered).



The Spa Day not only brought smiles and laughter, but it also gave the children a chance to slow down and learn how looking after our minds and bodies can feel really good. It was a beautiful way to promote well-being in a calm, playful setting.



We loved how much the Ducklings enjoyed the experience—and how well they embraced the spirit of self-care!



Wilderness Academy Kibblestone Year 5 Residential

Last month, Year 5 children attended Kibblestone Scout Camp for our 2-night residential.

After a short- and highly excitable- coach journey, our first task once we had eaten was to set up camp. This involved huge amounts of teamwork and resilience- after all- it was home for the next two days! The children did brilliantly- especially as the weather was extremely warm!

Activities on the first day included axe throwing, team building challenges and a game of 'Man hunt'... a particular favourite!

On day 2, after a lovely breakfast to replenish our energy supplies, it was off to abseiling and rock climbing in the morning. The staff were so impressed with the amount of bravery on display- the children were fantastic.

After lunch, the children participated in fire lighting and den building. Again, teamwork was evident in abundance and the children created some wonderful designs.

'Whittington's Got Talent' followed dinner- this was another firm favourite.

After packing away and sifting through piles of lost property- it was time for orienteering before heading home.

A fantastic time was had by all- on to Paris next year!

Several photos of all of the children who attended this residential can be found on the school's X account.



JTMAT Year 5 Forensic Science Day

Earlier this month 6 Year 5 children were invited to John Taylor High School to take part in a Forensics science day. The day was 'Fairy tale' themed and the children had to solve clues using scientific processes to find the culprit.

One of the tasks was discovering whether a poisoned apple was used. The children had to place pieces of the apple in different solutions to see if there was a reaction. They then had to compare footprints that had been found with some abandoned shoes to find the culprits shoe size and style. Another task was to use litmus paper to break down the ink used in the handwritten note. Their final task was matching fingerprints to ones that had been found around the scene to check if the suspect had been there. They also got to take their own fingerprints. After each task they children were given an envelope containing more clues to the next activity.

Once the children had completed the tasks they had to put together a presentation explaining who they thought the culprit was. The children loved seeing other children they knew from the other primary schools involved. Unfortunately, another JTMAT school took first place in this but all the children had a wonderful time using their science skills to solve a very tricky problem. All the children said, "It was a great day, we loved testing the pH levels of the apples to see how acidic/poisonous they were!"





Year 6- High School Transition days

At the end of June many of our Year 6s took the big, daunting step of visiting their high schools. Despite the initial nerves they all came back in great spirits, ready for their adventure to truly begin in September (truth be told I think some would have stayed longer than the 2 days!) Whilst there, they found out which form group were in and sampled a typical day's timetable. Science stood out as one of the favourite lessons as they got to use Bunsen burners and combine various elements to create a chemical reaction. However, one area stood out as the

unanimous favourite- the FOOD! Agreements rang out around the classroom when they were regaling the memories of the pizza, chicken wings and waffles! All the children came back pleased with all the new friends they had made. One child said, “ I did get lost but it was still great fun!”

It has been a privilege watching this group of children grow over the year- we all are so proud of their achievements in and outside of the classroom. We know that they are ready to face the new challenge of high school and we wish them all the best in their endeavours.

Year 6 - At First Glance

At first glance, our Year 6 cohort might seem like just an ordinary group of pre-teens. They face all the familiar challenges that come with this age—heartbreaks, sibling squabbles, disagreements with parents, and the rollercoaster of emotions that come with growing up. But anyone who has spent time with this group knows that their story doesn't stop there because this cohort isn't just ordinary—they are extraordinary.

When things get tough, they don't give up. They dig deep. Not just for themselves, but for each other. They rally around one another, offering support, encouragement, and kindness that goes far beyond their years.

I have never known a group of young people to show such genuine compassion and consideration for those around them. Time and again, they've proved that they truly look out for one another, and in doing so, they've given us a glimpse of the remarkable individuals they are growing into. They are funny, resilient, thoughtful, and courageous—and above all, they care. That is something incredibly special.

I am so, so proud—not only of what they've achieved, but of who they are.

Year Six, you have made your mark on the school and we can't wait to see the difference you'll make in the world.

With love,

Mrs. Leeson x



Military Craft Morning

This term's Military Craft Morning was so much fun, with the children creating beautiful sand art designs. They showed great care and creativity as they carefully layered the coloured sand to make their unique masterpieces. It was lovely to see them so focused and proud of their work, sharing their finished pieces with smiles all round.







OPAL Stay and Play

We'd like to say a huge **thank you** to all the parents, grandparents, carers, and family members who joined us for our recent **OPAL Stay and Play** event! Your presence helped make it a truly special afternoon.

The children were absolutely thrilled to welcome you into their world of play. From the adventurous building areas to the creative crafting corners, it was wonderful to see them proudly showcasing the exciting zones they've helped build. Watching them explain their favourite activities and how they use different spaces was a joy for all of us.

Your involvement means so much—these moments help strengthen our school community and show the value of outdoor play and exploration. We hope you enjoyed stepping into their shoes, even just for a while!

Thank you again for your support and enthusiasm. We're already looking forward to the next opportunity to welcome you in!





Whittington Sports & Wellbeing Week 2025

Promoting Wellbeing Through Sport and Mindfulness

Whittington's annual Sports and Wellbeing Week was a huge success, packed with energy, fun, and enrichment opportunities.

Enrichment:

Children across the school experienced a wide range of enrichment sessions throughout the week. Yoga and meditation offered calm, reflective spaces to practice breathing and relaxation techniques. Our STEM sessions encouraged curiosity and innovation, while cheerleading brought a burst of energy and taught rhythm, teamwork, and coordination. **In our Archery**

enrichment session, students honed their focus, precision, and patience, taking aim and hitting their targets!

House Competitions and Sports Day Spirit

Pupils proudly represented their houses in a series of house competitions, displaying resilience, teamwork, and great sportsmanship throughout. These friendly events added an extra layer of excitement to the week and reinforced our values of collaboration and encouragement.

Our annual Sports Day was another major highlight. The children participated in a variety of running, throwing, and team events, cheered on by proud parents, carers, and friends. The atmosphere was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see every child give their best and support their peers.

Mindfulness and Wellbeing

Mindfulness was a key theme throughout the week. Pupils explored activities such as making worry stones, learning hand massage techniques, and taking part in calming classroom-based reflections. Our youngest learners in EYFS were treated to a relaxing mini-spa experience, which introduced them to self-care in a gentle, playful way.

Bursting with Colour: Our First Ever Colour Run!

Thursday saw the debut of our first-ever Colour Run, organised in collaboration with the PTA. It consisted of two events—one for KS2 and another for KS1 and EYFS. Pupils ran, skipped, danced, and laughed their way through a series of paint-splattering stations, finishing the course covered in colour and beaming with joy. Even the teachers were splatted at the end!

The event raised an incredible £1,000 for the school—thank you to all who supported and joined in the fun. We may apologise for the mess, but we'll never forget the smiles.

Focus on Water Safety

This year, we also placed a strong focus on Water Safety, equipping children with essential knowledge and skills to stay safe near rivers, lakes, swimming pools, and the sea. Pupils completed both classroom-based activities and practical tasks, learning important facts such as:

- **Stop and think:** Always assess the risks before going near water.
- **Stay together:** Never swim alone—always be with an adult or friend.
- **Float to live:** If you fall into water unexpectedly, lie on your back, stay calm, and float.
- **Wear a lifejacket:** When boating or near deep water, a lifejacket can save your life.

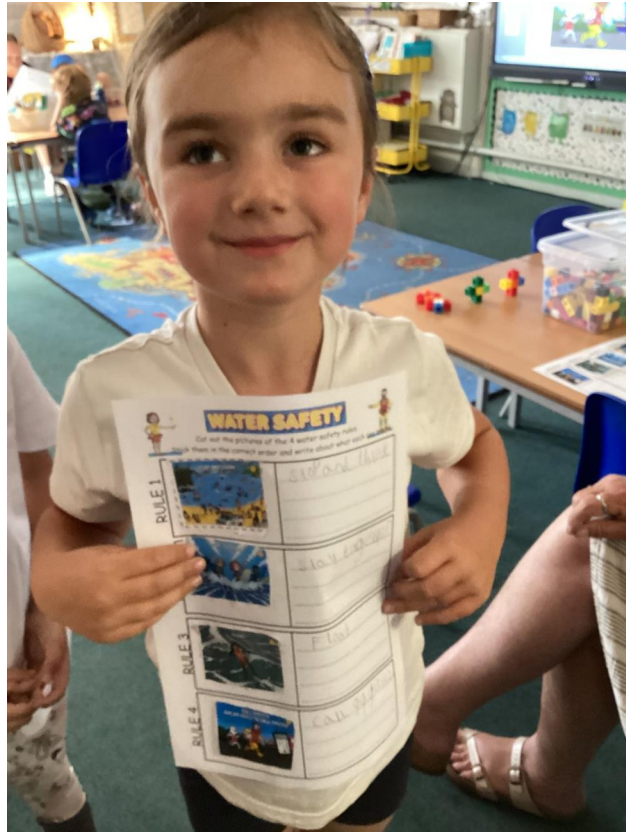
- **Know your location:** If there's an emergency, knowing where you are helps rescue services reach you quickly.
- **Call 999 in an emergency:** Ask for the **coastguard** if it's a water-related emergency near the coast.

These life-saving lessons will help children make safer choices around water, especially during the summer months.

Want to Learn More? Check Out These Resources:

- **RNLI Water Safety Advice** <https://rnli.org/safety> - Tips on beach safety, cold water shock, and how to stay safe near the water.
- **HM Coastguard: Beach and Coastal Safety** <https://hmcoastguard.uk/beach-safety> - Guidance on how to stay safe at the coast and what to do in an emergency.
- **Swim England Water Safety Resources** <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/water-safety/> - Resources for families and schools on swimming skills and water safety.
- **Canal & River Trust: Water Safety for Schools** <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers/learning-from-home/water-safety> - Educational tools and activities for children about staying safe near inland waterways.
- **Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS)** <https://www.rlss.org.uk/> - Lifesaving training, drowning prevention, and first aid information.







News From The Nest!



The Nest team have been delighted to welcome a lovely new staff member this term, but we still have vacancies to fill. If you are interested in joining our team as a Playworker we would love to hear from you. Shifts are available starting from a couple of hours a week.

To discuss further please email wac@whittington.staffs.sch.uk

Learning is not just for children!

This year Robins welcomed two trainee students from the JTMAT SCITT program. Miss Penny was our home school student for the Autumn and Summer term whilst we also had Miss Porter who visited on Mondays in the Autumn and then stayed with us through the Spring Term.

It was a busy but rewarding year for the Early Years team and Mrs. Richardson who mentored them both through their teaching practices. Robins class loved having lots of teachers and they were key in helping our trainees to hone their newly learnt skills into practice. The experience also helped our experienced early years staff reflect and review their good practice to enable the trainees to see the best of what we do, and learn some new skills from them too.

We are delighted to say that both Miss Penny and Miss Porter have been successful in gaining teaching posts for September and wish them the very best in the next stage of their teaching career. They will be wonderful!

We will be doing it all again next year when Robins and the Early Years team welcome Mrs. Wilcox. We are looking forward to meeting her before the end of term.

During our Inset day on the 4th July Year 1 – Year 6 staff had training across a range of subjects whilst the Early Years team had training from Early Years 'Royalty' Dr. Alistair Bryce- Clegg. He helped confirm that we are doing great things and also gave us ideas to continue our development journey in creating the very best start for our youngest children.







Thank you - A final note...

As we reach the end of another wonderful summer term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible experiences our children have enjoyed over these past few weeks.

From the excitement and independence fostered during our residential trip to Kibblestone, to the energy and enthusiasm shown throughout our Sports and Wellbeing Week, it has been a joy to watch our pupils grow in confidence and resilience. The Colour Run brought smiles, laughter, and a rainbow of memories, while our Summer Fayre showcased the strong sense of community that makes our school so special.

Our themed dinner menus have encouraged adventurous eating and sparked conversations about different cultures, and our youngest pupils in Ducklings have been thoroughly spoiled with their pamper sessions – they've never looked more relaxed! The creativity and focus demonstrated in Military Craft Club has been impressive to see, and of course, the endless hours of OPAL play continue to remind us of the importance of unstructured, imaginative play in childhood development.

None of these experiences would have been possible without the dedication of our fantastic staff team and the ongoing support of our wonderful school community. Thank you for your continued partnership in making our school such a vibrant and nurturing place for all our children.

As we prepare for the summer break, I hope you and your families have a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another year of learning, laughter, and memorable moments.

General Reminders



OPAL Please remember that children will be outside playing in all weather, please ensure they have wellies and a rain coat, a small pack-a-mac/puddle suit to keep in their bag or locker would be ideal. Mountain Warehouse in Lichfield give 20% off waterproofs if you mention Whittington.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS We have noticed a significant number of items delivered to the office that have been forgotten in the mornings, e.g. book bags, water bottles, lunch boxes and instruments. Please ensure that your child comes to school with all of their belongings each day.

LOST PROPERTY We currently have lots of lost property in the school reception area, please don't forget to come and claim any missing items.

SCHOOL CROSSING We now have TWO crossing patrols stationed near/outside school and ask that *everybody* models good road safety by crossing with them whenever they are on duty. If we don't use them, they could be redistributed elsewhere.

PARKING Please note that the school car park is for *staff only* and not to be used by parents for dropping off, collection or for The Nest at any time. Please park considerately along Common Lane; leave the white lines clear for passing cars and do not block access to driveways.

SCHOOL DINNERS All school dinners must be paid for the day they are taken at the latest, via our cashless payment system, ParentPay. Please read the following advice to set up email or text reminders to alert you when your credit limit gets low: [Payer guidance – How to set up email and text alerts – ParentPay Group](#)

SNACKS Reception and Y1-2 children receive daily fruit and veg snacks funded by the Government. All children in Y3-6 should bring in a healthy snack (**nothing containing nuts**) from home to have at mid-morning break.

DIARY DATES Please refer to the calendar on our school website for all the latest news and events: [Whittington Primary School - Calendar \(whittington-school.co.uk\)](http://whittington-school.co.uk) **TERM DATES**

Please check our school website for our term dates. **KEEPING INHALERS ON SITE** In order to keep your child's inhaler on site we require a care plan, asthma plan and a medicine in school form to be completed, we appreciate that requirements can change regularly but please keep the office updated so that we can keep your child healthy and safe in school.