



October 2025

Autumn Term 1 - October 2025

- Exploring Autumn with Ducklings
- Early Years Reception - Welcome
- Florence Nightingale Talk 2025 (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Stone Age (Year 3 and Year 4)
- Harvest Festival (Year 3 and Year 4)
- Rio Carnival Day (Year 5 and 6)
- JTMAT Christmas Card Competition
- Operation Encompass
- Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!
- Whittington Pharmacy First
- School Crossing Patrol Vacancy
- Open Mornings for Admissions 2026 - 2027 - ***Please Share***
- Reception Applications 2026 - 2027

- Minecraft Parents Guide
- Roblox Parents Guide
- School Improvement Building Works
- PTA Halloween Disco
- The Nest
- Children in Need – Non-Uniform Day!
- General Reminders

Exploring Autumn with Ducklings!

This half term our nursery children have been busy exploring the wonders of autumn. We wrapped up warm and pulled on our wellies for an autumn walk around the school grounds, collecting leaves, conkers, and acorns. The children loved using their treasure hunt lists to tick off everything they found!

Back in class, we read *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert and used our beautiful leaves to make leaf portraits. We also used our autumn treasures during our maths activities, sorting and matching them by size, shape, and colour.

The children also enjoyed getting creative with leaf rubbings, autumn tree paintings (mixing their own autumn colours), and conker rolling art. We even did some cooking- making hedgehog bread and autumn soup, with the children helping to chop the vegetables. Our playdough hedgehogs were another favourite!

Outdoors, there was plenty of fun to be had too- making conker rollercoasters with the guttering and autumn potions in the mud kitchen. The children also loved raking up piles of leaves and running and jumping in them- a perfect way to enjoy the season together.

It's been a lovely few weeks full of learning and creativity as we discovered all the magic that autumn brings!









Early Years Reception - Welcome

The EYFS team would like to say a very warm welcome to our new families this year and how proud we are of the children for how well they have settled into school life here at Whittington. We have had a lot of fun this half term, finding out about our new classrooms and garden areas. We loved learning about the colours when we read the colour monster and we have even made some yummy gingerbread men that we ate for snack. To end our half term we had a great time taking part in Diwali celebrations and learning how to dance like a firework! We cant wait to see you all again next half term!



Florence Nightingale Talk 2025

On Wednesday 1st October, the year 1 and 2s had a visit from one of our parents, Jon Otter, who talked to them all about Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and how our hospitals have changed over time. He is in charge of infection control across a range of NHS hospitals, including St. Thomas's in London which has the Florence Nightingale museum, so it was wonderful for the children to be able to ask questions to a real scientist and to link their learning about significant historical figures in history and their science learning last year

about hygiene and germs to real life. The children got their thinking hats on and asked him some great questions such as: what is the tiniest germ that you've had to deal with and if you could invent a machine to get rid of germs what would it do?



Stone Age

To start their 'Through the Ages' topic, children in Year 3/4 invited Kit and Twig from *Prehistoric Experiences* in to help them understand what life was like 10,000 years ago. The children arrived in school to find that a prehistoric cave had appeared on the field, complete with 2 cavemen. Once inside the cave they were transported back in time to the Paleolithic period. At first it was quite hard for them to understand their language as they spoke in a series of grunts and sounds, but as soon as they realised we spoke English it was easier. The children learnt about the very first humans and how we evolved quicker than the other primates due to the development of our thumbs, which allowed us to create tools and hunt effectively. The children held fossilized mammoth poo and had a hand-carved flint axe made for them by Twig. One of their favourite experiences was tasting the fish that they had cooked on the fire. They completed the day by making their own stone age jewellery out of clay and completing some brilliant cave art.







Harvest Festival

On Tuesday 7th October, our fantastic Year 3 and 4 children took to the stage for their Harvest Festival performance! The children had been working hard in the lead-up to the big day — learning about ‘harvest around the world’, ‘The history of harvest’ and ‘Foodbanks and food waste’. The children loved learning all the songs.

It wasn't just about the performance, though. As part of the Harvest celebrations, families kindly brought in generous donations for the Tamworth Food Bank. We were absolutely blown away by the response — bags full of tins, packets, and essential items were collected and will go on to help families in need in our local community. A massive thank you to everyone who contributed!

Well done, Year 3 and 4 — you should be really proud of yourselves. You brought a smile to everyone's face and reminded us all of the importance of kindness, gratitude, and community.





Rio Carnival Day



JTMAT Christmas Card Competition

We're excited to share a creative opportunity for our pupils — the **JTMAT Trust-wide Christmas Card Competition 2025!**

Could your child design the official Christmas card for the Trust this year? The winning entries will be professionally printed and used by JTMAT, and each winner will receive:

- A printed copy of their design
- A winner's certificate
- A voucher to spend on art supplies

This competition is open to all children across JTMAT schools. Designs should be drawn on one side of an A4 sheet of white paper or card and kept flat (no text, glitter, or 3D items, please).

All entries must be handed to your child's Headteacher by Monday 10th November 2025.

Unfortunately, late entries cannot be accepted.

Could you design a Christmas card to be printed and used by the Trust?

ENTER JTMAT'S CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

WHAT YOU COULD WIN!
 Win a printed copy of your Christmas card, a certificate and a voucher to spend on art supplies. One winner from a JTMAT primary school, and one winner from a JTMAT secondary school.



COMPETITION RULES

1. This competition is open to all children attending any JTMAT school.
2. The design should be based on your own imagination/idea.
3. Your design should be completed on one side of a white piece of A4 paper or card.
4. Please ensure the design is flat and text free. ie. with no writing, no cotton wool or 3D objects as this can cause issues with scanning designs for printing.
5. Posters must be submitted to your Headteacher by Monday 10th November. Late entries unfortunately cannot be accepted.

"We believe in the power of education to improve lives - and the world."



Operation Encompass

Our school is proud to be part of **Operation Encompass**, a national initiative that enables closer collaboration between schools and police forces.

Through Operation Encompass, schools are informed—before the start of the next school day—when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse or other circumstances that may affect their wellbeing.

In addition, our local police force will now notify us when a child is reported missing from home. This allows us to understand and support their needs appropriately when they return to school.

As part of this scheme, a trained member of staff—our **Designated Safeguarding Lead**, known as the **Key Adult**—receives this information in confidence and ensures the right support is provided to the child or young person.

The **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** recognises children who experience domestic abuse as victims in their own right.

At our school, we are committed to offering the best possible support to every pupil, and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass will be extremely beneficial for all involved.



Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!

As we move further into the term, we'd like to take a moment to talk about attendance and how important it is for every child's learning and wellbeing.

Being in school regularly helps children feel connected, build confidence, and make steady progress — every single day really does make a difference.

Attendance during one school year	equals this number of days absent	which is approximately this many weeks absent	which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

We know that families do their best to get children to school each day, and sometimes life gets in the way — illnesses, appointments, or unexpected events. However, we've already noticed some pupils with attendance below 90%, as well as an increase in early collections, late arrivals, and forgotten items being dropped off. These small interruptions can add up and make it harder for children (and their classmates) to stay focused and settled.

Please help us by making every effort to arrive on time and keep learning time uninterrupted wherever possible. A calm and consistent start to the day sets children up for success.

Important: It's also really important that our office is kept up to date each day regarding absences. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please contact us as soon as possible. We will continue to get in touch with you if we haven't received an update — this is part of our duty of care to ensure all children are safe and accounted for.

We truly value your support and partnership in helping every child enjoy the best possible start to their education. Together, we can make every school day count — for learning, for growth, and for happiness.

Whittington Pharmacy



WHITTINGTON PHARMACY

FLU VACCINATIONS
For Children Aged 2–3 Years

Now available at
Whittington Pharmacy Walk in Today



- Safe and supportive environment
- Local and convenient
- Helping families where GP access may be difficult

📍 138 Main Street, Whittington, Lichfield, WS14 9JU **NHS**

✉ whittingtonpharmacynhs@gmail.com ☎ +44 (0)1543 432 456



WHITTINGTON PHARMACY



FREE NHS Service:

Pharmacy First is available without an appointment to treat the following conditions for your children:

- Ear Ache (Children Aged 1-17)
- Impetigo (Over 1s)
- Sore Throat (Over 5s)
- Infected Insect Bites (Over 1s)



- Safe and supportive environment
- Local and convenient
- Helping families where GP access may be difficult

📍 13B Main Street, Whittington, Lichfield, WS14 9JU



✉ whittingtonpharmacynhs@gmail.com ☎ +44 (0)1543 432 456

School Crossing Patrol Vacancy

Are you looking for a part-time job that gives you the chance to serve your local community? If so, we might have the ideal opportunity for you.

Our School Crossing Patrol Service operates to assist school children and pedestrians on their journey to and from school. We regularly have vacancies for School Crossing Patrols throughout the County and would be pleased to hear from you if you may be interested in doing this essential work.

Are you looking for a part-time job that gives you the chance to serve your local community? If so, we might have the ideal opportunity for you.

[School Crossing Patrol \(Burton, Lichfield and Tamworth\) | 09 November, 2025 | Jobs and careers with Staffordshire County Council](#)

Opening Mornings for Reception and Nursery Admissions 2026 - 2027



Whittington Primary and Nursery School Open Mornings

Please click on the link below to book a place.



Come and experience the Whittington magic



01543 432487 - admin2@whittington.staffs.sch.uk

We are holding open mornings on the following dates:

Monday 3rd November 2025 at 10:00

Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 10:00

LINK - [Whittington Primary School - Admissions 2026-2027](#)

Reception Applications 2026 - 2027

The application process for a reception place for September 2026 will open on 01 November 2025.

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on the Staffordshire County Council: [Admission to primary and middle schools - Staffordshire County Council](#).

The closing date is 15 January 2026.

Minecraft Parental Guide



Minecraft Child Safety Settings

Minecraft itself doesn't have a big built-in "parental control" menu but depending on how your child plays (Java Edition, Bedrock/Windows, or console), you can manage what they can do through a mix of Microsoft account family settings, platform parental controls, and server/world settings.

Bedrock Edition (Windows, iOS, Android, Xbox, PlayStation, Switch)

- **Microsoft Family Safety**
 - Log into your child's Microsoft account via family.microsoft.com.
 - You can set:
 - Screen time limits.
 - Spending limits (requires adult approval for purchases).
 - Restrictions on joining multiplayer/Realms.
 - Restrictions on adding friends.
- **Xbox/Console Parental Controls**
 - Each console (Xbox, PlayStation, Switch) has its own parental settings that allow you to:
 - Restrict online play.
 - Control voice/text chat.
 - Block joining servers or Realms.
 - Limit age-rated content.

Java Edition (PC/Mac)

Java doesn't have built-in parental settings, so you'll need to manage through:

- **Server settings:** If your child plays on your own hosted server, you can whitelist who's allowed to join, disable chat, or use plugins/mods to filter messages.
- **Launcher account:** Java Edition is tied to a Microsoft account now, so you can still apply Microsoft Family Safety rules (e.g. screen time, purchase approval).
- **Chat reporting:** Mojang added reporting and chat filters—strong language and personal info can be filtered automatically if enabled in account settings.



General Safety Options

- **Mute Chat / Toggle Chat** (both editions): You can turn chat off in settings to stop interaction with strangers.
- **Realms vs Servers:** Realms are invite-only (safer). Public servers often have less control over content and players.
- **Resource Packs / Add-ons:** Keep an eye on downloads; use only trusted sources (Marketplace or well-known modding sites).
- **Play Together Locally:** On consoles or LAN, kids can play with just friends/family without internet strangers.

Roblox Parental Guide



ROBLOX Child Safety Settings

To set up parental controls on Roblox and ensure your child has a safe and age-appropriate experience, follow these steps:

Step 1: Link Your Parent Account

1. Log into your child's Roblox account (Has to be a child's D.O.B).
2. Navigate to **Settings** (gear icon).
3. Select **Parental Controls**.
4. Click **Add Parent Account**.
5. Follow the prompts to create or link your parent account.

Step 2: Set Up Parental Controls

Once your parent account is linked, you can manage various settings:

1. Communication Settings

- Go to **Parental Controls > Communication**.
- Adjust who can chat with your child in experiences and via direct messages. Options include:
 - **Everyone**
 - **Friends**
 - **No one**
- For users under 13, default settings are more restrictive.

2. Content Restrictions

- Navigate to **Parental Controls > Content Restrictions**.
- Set the **Content Maturity** level appropriate for your child:
 - **Minimal**
 - **Mild**
 - **Moderate**
 - **Restricted**
- You can also block specific experiences by adding them to the **Blocked Experiences** list.



3. Friends Management

- In **Parental Controls**, scroll to **Friends** and select **Manage**.
- View your child's friends list, and block or report users as necessary.

4. Spending Controls

- Under **Parental Controls**, go to **Spending Restrictions**.
- Set a monthly spending limit for Robux and subscriptions.
- Choose to receive notifications for every transaction or only for high spending thresholds.

5. Screen Time Management

- Access **Parental Controls > Screen Time**.
- Set daily time limits for your child's Roblox usage.
- View the top 20 experiences your child has played in the past week.

School Improvement Building Works

Reminder: Parking Changes During Building Works

As building work on our playground retaining wall continues, we wanted to remind families about the temporary parking arrangements in place until Friday 5th December:


Car Park Access: The school car park remains closed to parents throughout the duration of the works, as part of it is being used to store building materials and equipment safely.

Staff Parking on Common Lane: Please be aware that staff vehicles will be parked along Common Lane during this period, which may result in additional congestion during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. We ask for your patience and understanding as you navigate these temporary changes.

Planning Ahead: We recommend allowing a few extra minutes for your journey to and from school to account for any delays. If possible, consider walking, cycling, or carpooling to help reduce traffic in the area.

Progress Update: The works are progressing well, and we're grateful to the JTMAT for funding this important project, which will ensure the long-term safety and stability of our playground area. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support during this essential improvement work.

PTA Halloween Disco

 A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Halloween Disco! Thanks to your amazing enthusiasm and generosity, we raised an incredible **£672.83** for the school. Your support makes all the difference — we couldn't have done it without you!

The Nest

At The Nest, we've had a fantastic and busy term filled with creativity, laughter and seasonal fun! The children have enjoyed baking delicious cakes and getting into the Halloween spirit by making their own spooky decorations. We've also embraced the beauty of autumn with lots of themed crafts and activities — from leaf collages to conker creations!

One of the most popular activities this term has been working with Fimo clay. The children have loved designing and creating their own colourful models — it's been wonderful to see their imaginations come to life!

If you're passing by reception, do take a moment to have a look at our lovely autumn-themed notice board. It's full of the children's artwork and photos showcasing all the wonderful things they've been up to.

We're so proud of how imaginative and enthusiastic everyone has been this term — well done, Nest children!





Children in Need – Non-Uniform Day!



After half term, we're excited to be supporting **Children in Need** once again! On **Thursday 14th November**, we'll be holding a **Non-Uniform Day** to help raise money for this fantastic cause.

Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes and make a small donation to help make a big difference to children and families across the UK.

More information will be shared soon — but for now, pop the date in your diary and start planning your outfits!

General Reminders



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.

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.

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

SCHOOL CROSSING We have ONE crossing patrol 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.

INSTAGRAM Our Instagram is now live! Please follow us:
<https://www.instagram.com/whittingtonprimarylichfield> Many thanks!