



May 2026

Summer Term 1 - May 2026

 Attendance Matters

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 **Our Cake Sale raised an incredible £450 - Thank you for your support**

Attendance Matters – Every Day Counts!

Reminder of our school protocols:

Morning Registration

The school gates open to welcome pupils at 08:40 and close at 08:50. Pupils arriving after the gates have closed *report to the school office staff to be signed in with parent, reason for lateness given and recorded*. Pupils who are late, after the gates have closed, are marked as late before the register closes (L code). Morning registration is open from 08:50. Pupils arriving after registration closes (09:20), are marked as late after register closes (U code). This is an unauthorised absence and negatively impacts a pupil's attendance percentage.

Afternoon Registration

Afternoon registration is open from 1:00, 1:15 or 1:30, depending on the year group. Pupils arriving after registration closes (30 minutes after it opens), are marked as late after register closes (U code). This is an unauthorised absence and negatively impacts a pupils attendance percentage

Leaving the Premises During the School Day

Parents are requested to notify the school in advance if a child needs to be collected during the school day. The child is to be signed out before leaving the premises with a parent or carer.

Notifying the School of a Child's Absence

Parents/carers must notify school on the first and every day the child is unable to attend school by 09:00

Parents must give detailed reasons for absence. For example, 'child has a throat infection/been sick etc.' rather than just 'unwell/poorly'.

Name of person absence should be reported to: Mrs Justina Savory School Secretary.

Headteachers are unable to authorise absence for leave in Term Time unless the reasons for this are deemed to be exceptional.

Unauthorised leave of absence could lead to a Penalty Notice being issued by the local authority, per parent, per child.

As the holiday season approaches, please remember to submit any leave of absence requests in good time, please expect to receive a response within 2 weeks of submitting your request.

Policies and Leave of Absence forms can be found on the school website

here: <https://www.whittington-school.co.uk/page/?title=Attendance&pid=56>

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please remember to leave a message to inform the school of their absence.

Early Years celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday

Happy 100th Birthday

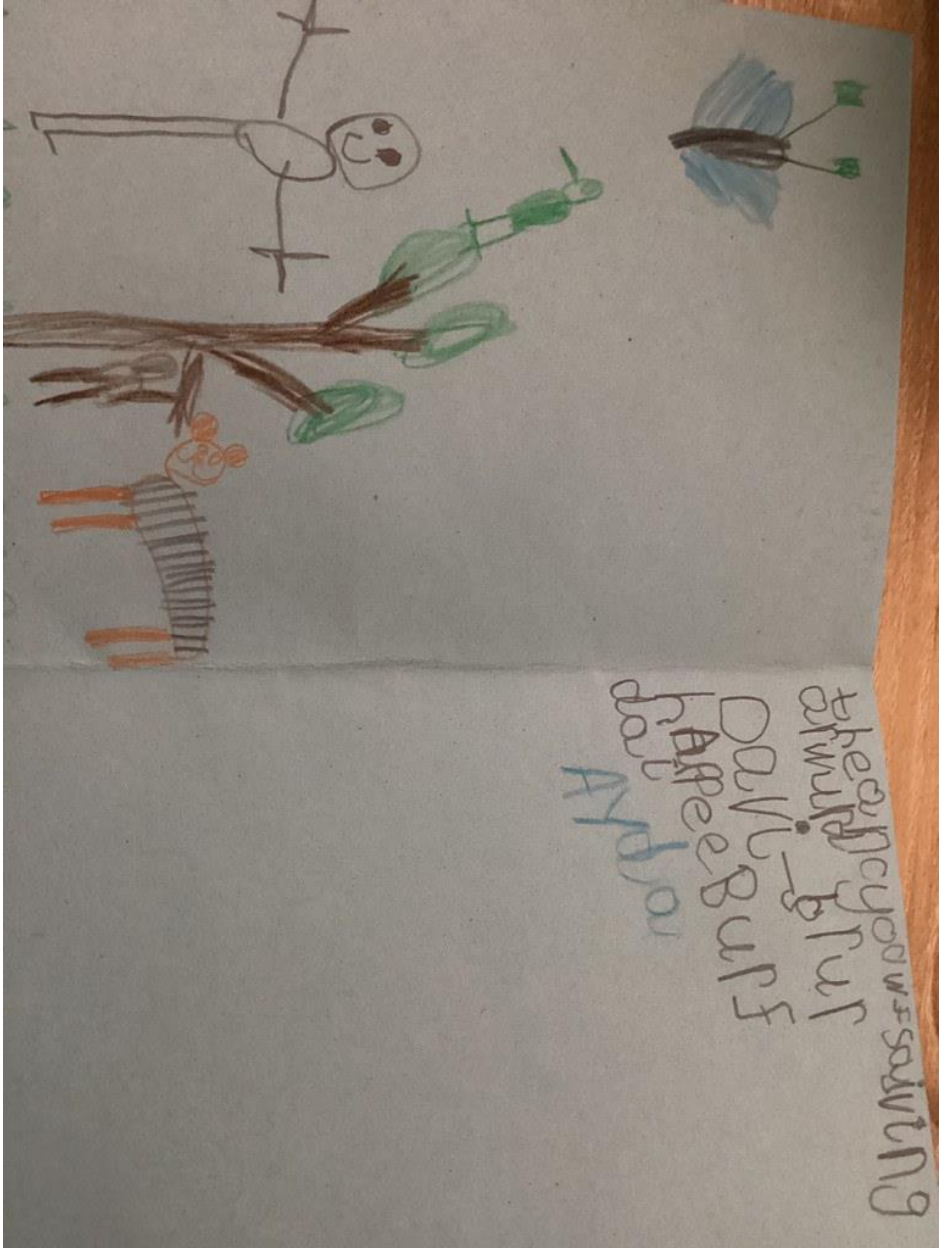
On Friday 8th May, Early Years celebrated Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday with special activities. We have been learning about the ocean this term so the children have been watching suitable clips from his documentaries, our favourite was the hermit crabs changing their shells.

The children learnt how Sir David has spent his life caring and teaching others about our wonderful, natural world so of course we needed an animal themed day. Reception children brought in a cuddly animal friend and made a big birthday cake which we shared with Ducklings at our birthday party full of animal songs and games.

In the morning the children made birthday cards, made party hats and even explored what 100 looked like using Numicon. Reception even had an animal themed phonics session where we had a tricky word hunt in the garden.

We all hope Sir David enjoyed his birthday as much as we did!





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Early Years Butterflies

Watching our caterpillars grow has been a wonderful experience for the Early Years children this half term. From the moment they arrived in our classrooms, the children have eagerly watched every stage of their transformation. We observed the tiny caterpillars grow bigger each day, form their pupas, and finally emerge as beautiful butterflies.

The children showed great care and kindness throughout the process, being very quiet and gentle around the butterfly house while curiously discussing the changes they could see. We were very excited to release the butterflies into the outdoors.

Of course, our butterflies quickly became part of the class family, and many were given special names. Some of our favorites included Pippin, Kevin, and Isabelle! The experience sparked so much wonder and curiosity. Well done Robins, Woodpeckers and Ducklings for looking after our newest recruits!







KS1 Village Walk

KS1 children enjoyed a lovely walk around our village as part of our learning about human geography features. We began by walking down Common Lane, passing the Dog Inn, before continuing along Main Street. Along the way, we spotted many interesting places within our community, including Downes and Daughters, the Co-op, the pharmacy, the Chinese takeaway, the Bell Inn, and Main Street Café. We also noticed the many houses that make up our village community.

At the Village Hall, we turned around and walked through a delightful little dog park. On our way back to school, we passed St Giles Church, the graveyard, and the church community hall. We also enjoyed seeing a nearby field with three horses and a beautiful display of wildflowers.

The children had a wonderful time exploring the village and learning more about the different places and features that are an important part of our local community.



Year 3 and 4 Egyptian Day

On 5th May, Year 3 and 4 were ‘walking like Egyptians’ as part of an exciting enrichment day linked to their topic, *The Ancient Egyptians*.

The children explored the Egyptians’ love of jewellery by designing and creating beautifully bejeweled collars fit for a Pharaoh. They also cracked the code of hieroglyphics and crafted clay sarcophagi, which were decorated with natural objects and symbols. Working collaboratively in groups, the children made traditional Egyptian bread, which they cooked over an open fire outdoors — and it was delicious!

Back in the classroom, they learnt new clay-modelling techniques to create coil pots, which they transformed into canopic jars. These will soon be painted to represent one of the gods associated with mummification.

The day was rounded off with a delicious Egyptian feast of figs, dates, olives, feta cheese, flatbread, yoghurt, honey, grapes, pomegranates and juice — a perfect ending to a fascinating day of hands-on historical learning.



Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes

The Year 4 residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes was one of the most exciting experiences the children had ever had. From the moment they arrived, they knew it was going to be full of adventure, fun, and new challenges.

One of the first activities they tried was archery. At first, it was tricky to aim properly, but with practice and encouragement, they improved and even managed to hit the targets.

Paddleboarding was another favourite—balancing on the water was harder than it looked, and there were lots of splashes and laughter when people fell in.

For those who loved a challenge, abseiling and the zipwire were unforgettable. Climbing up high was a little scary, but stepping off the edge and trusting the rope helped them overcome their fears. The zipwire was fast and thrilling, making them feel like they were flying through the air.

They also took part in the gladiator course, where they tested their strength and balance, and the problem-solving and challenge course, where they had to work together as a team. These activities helped them learn how to communicate, cooperate, and think carefully to solve tricky tasks.

At the end of each busy day, they stayed in cosy bunk beds with their friends, sharing stories and laughing before falling asleep. One of the best evenings was spent around the campfire, where they sang songs, enjoyed the warm glow of the fire, and made special memories together.

Throughout the trip, they learned lots of new skills and discovered that they were braver than they thought. Many of them faced their fears and felt proud of what they had achieved. Their time at Whitemoor Lakes was something they would never forget.









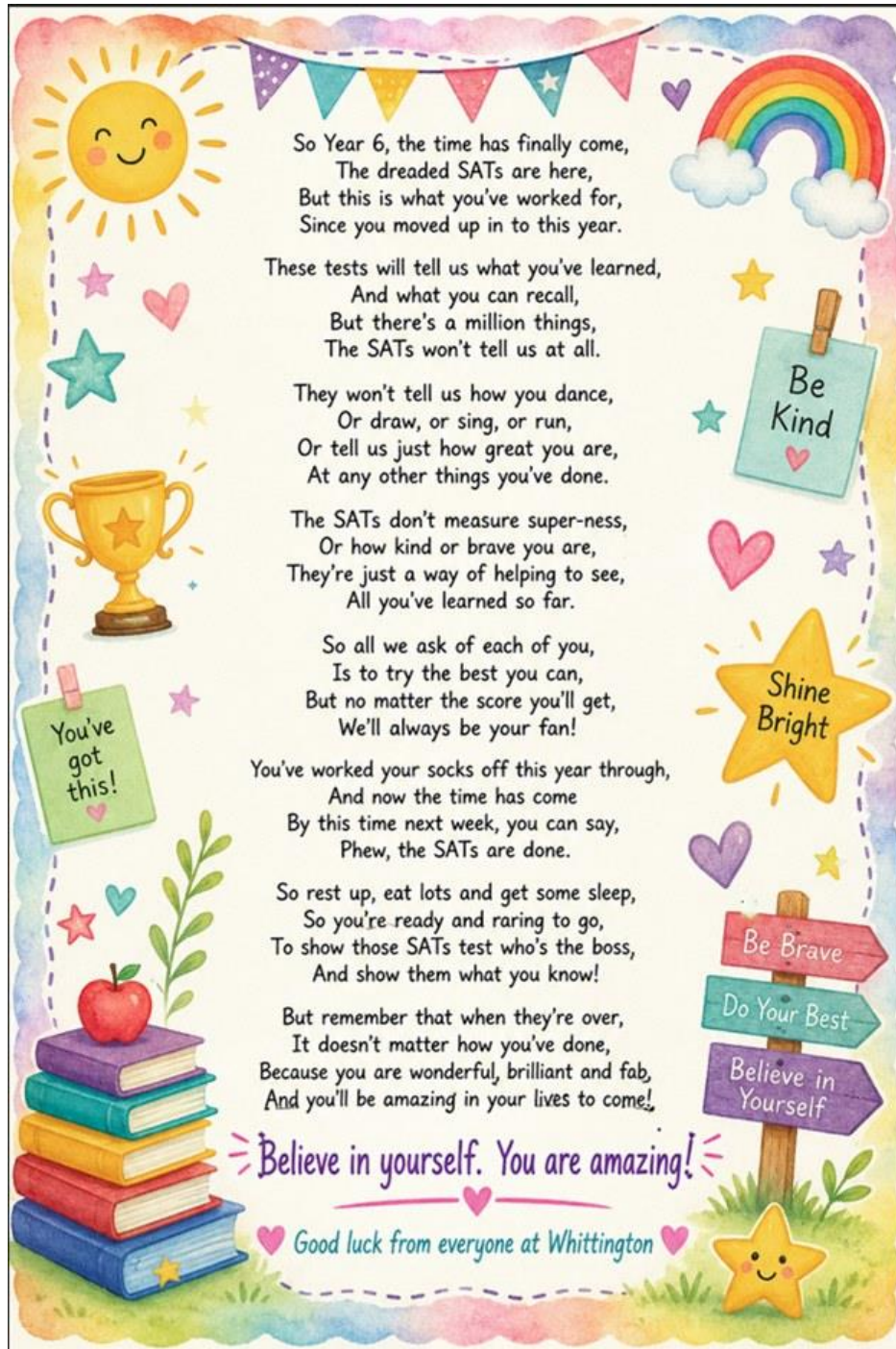
Year 6 SATs

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who have shown outstanding effort, resilience and determination during this year's SATs week. Throughout the tests, the children approached each challenge with a positive attitude, demonstrating how much they have learned and grown over the past year.

From early mornings to the final papers, Year 6 students showed excellent focus and perseverance. They supported one another, stayed calm under pressure, and gave their very best in every subject. Their maturity and hard work have truly shone through, and they should all feel very proud of their achievements.

In the lead-up to SATs, the children worked extremely hard in class, revising key skills and building confidence. It was wonderful to see that preparation pay off as they tackled each test with determination and self-belief.

We would also like to thank our families for their continued support and encouragement—it has made a real difference. Year 6 have been fantastic role models for the school, and we look forward to celebrating their success as they begin their exciting transition to secondary school.



Eco Council Notices

Some messages from the Eco Council:

1) Toxic fumes caused by vehicle emissions are harmful to our health. Children are particularly vulnerable to these toxic fumes and you might see drivers idling their engines outside of schools, unaware of the health impacts on those around them.

As part of our commitment to create a safer, healthier environment in our school, we will be promoting the 'Kick the Habit' campaign to raise awareness of the impacts of excessive idling. As part of this, we will be:

- Holding a poster competition for our pupils
- Asking parents/carers and teachers to make a pledge to turn off their engine at school We would love to see you get involved with the campaign. To help, you can:
- Turn off your engine outside school during pick up and drop off times.
- Encourage others to turn off their engine while waiting, to protect everyone's health. We have included some myths and facts overleaf.

2) Over the half term holiday, you may be looking for something to do! Please find attached instructions of how to make your own bug hotel using recycled materials.

3) Please also find some useful ways in which we can save water now that the weather is warming up.

4) We have been working hard to reduce, reuse and recycle in school. Please find some information about how you can reduce waste with you packed lunches in school.

Fact Sheet

Myth: Switching on and off a vehicle's engine wastes fuel and causes more pollution than idling.

Fact: With modern engines, the cost of turning off the engine and restarting it after a minute or longer pollutes less and costs less than leaving the engine idling.

Myth: A car's engine needs to stay on to keep the battery fully charged.

Fact: Modern batteries are more efficient and don't need to be running constantly to remain charged or use the radio.

Myth: It is better to idle a vehicle's engine because turning the engine off and on wears it out.

Fact: An idling engine will leave fuel residues that can damage engine components, causing costly wear and tear to your vehicle. Idling can cause spark plugs to become dirtier, more quickly. This can cause an increase in fuel consumption.

Myth: It is not an offence to idle a car.

Fact: The Highway Code states that 'You must not leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road'. You can idle your engine on a drive when defrosting your windscreen, but it's better for the environment and your health to use a windscreen protector.

Clean air makes B&NES a safer place

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

All Bugs Welcome

It is great to have lots of different bugs in the garden. They help to pollinate flowering plants and are often an important part of the food chain. For example, a ladybird eats greenflies which suck the sap from plants and damage them.

Why not make this little bug hotel? It will give them somewhere to hibernate in winter or shelter in summer.

You will need:

- empty washing capsules box
- cardboard tubes
- dry sticks
- hay or straw
- dry leaves
- gravel



Instructions:

1. Take your empty washing capsule box and fill it with cardboard tubes so that the ends are facing outwards.
2. Fill about half of the tubes with dried sticks.
3. Use dried leaves, hay, straw or any other organic materials to fill the remaining tubes.
4. Use a craft knife to make a hole in the top of the box.
5. Thread string through the hole so that you can hang it up in the garden.
6. Find a good place in the garden for your hotel. It could be hung on a tree or fence.



We hope the information on our website and resources is useful. It is your responsibility to note that some ingredients and/or materials used might cause allergic reactions or health problems and to ensure that you are fully aware of the allergies and health conditions of those taking part. If you have any concerns about your own or somebody else's health or wellbeing, always speak to a qualified health professional. Remember, activities listed within the resource should always be supervised by an appropriate adult.

Saving Water in the Garden

Water the garden earlier in the morning or in the evening to stop the water evaporating in the heat of the day.

Use a watering can to water the garden instead of a hosepipe.

Put mulch on garden beds to help the water stay in the soil.

Collect rainwater in tubs or buckets and use this to water plants.

Choose plants for your garden that don't need much water.

Sweep paths and driveways instead of hosing them.

Saving Water at Home

Use the half-flush button on the toilet when you can.

Scrape dirty plates into the bin instead of rinsing.

Fill the dishwasher completely before turning it on.

Try to wear clothes more than once before washing them.

Put a full load into the washing machine before starting it.

Have shorter showers.

Turn the tap off while you are brushing your teeth.

Keep a jug of water in the fridge so you don't have to run the tap to get cold drinking water.

Saving Water at School

Use a refillable drink bottle.

Don't leave taps running
when you're not using them.

Wash paintbrushes in a pot
instead of running water.

Report any water leaks you see
to a teacher.

Organise a group to promote water
conservation at school.





Bring a Waste Free Lunch

We have been working hard to reduce, reuse and recycle!

Packed lunches create a lot of waste. Here are some ways you can reduce the amount of waste left at the end of your lunch.

Only bring what you need. If you cannot finish all your food then you have brought too much



Instead of buying individual packets of snacks, buy a big packet and bring a portion each day.



Pack fresh fruit. It does not need any other packaging and it is good for you too!



Make sure you put any rubbish in the correct bin so it can be recycled.



Pack your sandwiches in a reusable container.



Bring drinks in a refillable bottle.



Supporting Emotional Wellbeing in Our School: Introducing ELSA

At our school, we understand that children learn best when they feel happy, safe, and supported. That's why we are proud to offer ELSA support.

ELSA stands for *Emotional Literacy Support Assistant*. This initiative is designed to help schools meet the emotional needs of their pupils, ensuring they are ready to learn and thrive. The ELSA programme was originally developed by Sheila Burton, an Educational Psychologist in

Southampton and later Hampshire. Its purpose is to build schools' ability to support pupils' emotional wellbeing using their own staff and resources.

Through specialist training, teaching assistants are equipped to plan and deliver personalised support programmes tailored to the needs of individual children and young people. These sessions help pupils develop important skills such as understanding their emotions, building confidence, managing anxiety, and improving social interactions.

At our school, our dedicated ELSA is **Mrs Stack**, who works closely with pupils to provide this valuable support.

ELSA sessions are much more than simply having a friendly chat or solving problems. They focus on creating a safe, respectful relationship where pupils feel listened to and understood, without fear of judgement or criticism. This supportive environment allows children to reflect on their feelings and experiences while developing practical coping strategies.

ELSA support is typically short-term and goal-focused, helping pupils gain the skills they need to overcome challenges and achieve greater success both in and out of the classroom.

By supporting emotional wellbeing, we are helping our pupils grow into confident, resilient learners who are ready to face the future.

Operation Encompass



The infographic features a background of hands holding a large key with a police cross on its head. The text is arranged in several callout boxes around this central image. The top right corner has the 'OPERATION ENCOMPASS' logo. The main title is 'Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.' There are six callout boxes containing quotes from various stakeholders. A small footnote at the bottom right reads '1 Domestic Abuse Act 2021'. The website 'www.operationencompass.org' is listed at the bottom.

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right! ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

1 Domestic Abuse Act 2021

www.operationencompass.org

Online Safety and Gaming



Online Safety & Gaming

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.





Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Benefits of Gaming

- 1 Can develop critical and creative skills
- 2 Can bring educational benefit and awareness
- 3 Is available to most audiences and family members
- 4 Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



Considerations for Gaming

- 1 Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
- 2 Parental awareness around purchasing
- 3 Active discussions around socialising safely
- 4 Reporting harmful or offensive content online

Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

- 1 It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
- 2 There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
- 3 It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
- 4 It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others

Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

- 1 Report the player or piece of content
- 2 Mute or block the player.
- 3 Manage their privacy settings or communication options
- 4 Speak with a trusted adult for support

To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/

or scan the QR code



Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content: reportharmfulcontent.com







News from The Nest!

Hello from the Nest Team! We have been busy this term with a Nest spring clean and sort out of our resources. This includes a replenishment of our favourite toys and looking at how we can improve some of the things we already have to make them more appealing.

We asked the children for ideas of things they might like to play with and for themes for our role play table and will be adding some exciting new items based on those requests.

Our key stage 2 children have been very excited to use our new sturdier scooters and outdoor toys. We are adding some extra items to our small world play including our airport, military and dolls house and we will be adding more soon.





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!



Come to our Charity Car Wash

Date Sunday 24th May from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

Location Lichfield Fire Station

Event Information

Charity Car Wash in aid of the Fire Fighters Charity



Make a donation

Find out more: www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/carwash

Fire Fighters Charity, Belvedere, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4HG.
Registered charity in England and Wales (1093387), Scotland (SC040096) and Isle of Man (1363)

Whitsun Half Term Activities



Free activities for young people aged 7 to 19yrs in Burntwood & Lichfield

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Soft Archery 10-11am / 7-12yrs	Dodgeball 11-12pm / 7-12yrs	Community Day in Market Square (Lichfield) 10-2pm	
Bank Holiday	Football 4-5pm / 7-16yrs		Dodgeball 5-6pm / 7-12yrs	Football 10-12pm 7-12yrs
No Sessions	US Girls 4-5pm / 8-11yrs 5.15-6.15pm / 12-19yrs	Basketball 4-5pm / 7-12yrs	US Girls 4.30-5.45pm / 8-11yrs 6-7pm / 12-19yrs	

For more information on locations and times please go to www.activelichfield.co.uk/holiday-fun-2/

*All sessions are subject to change

