



February 2025

Spring Term 1 - February 2025

- **Young Voices Concert**
- **JT MAT Funding**
- **NSPCC Number Day**
- **OPAL Update**
- **Silver Anniversary**
- **Valentines Disco**
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Young Voices

On Tuesday 14th January the school choir went to Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices Concert. In total, just under 6,000 other singers took part.

During the day we rehearsed with the conductor and the band to make sure that we knew all of the moves and harmonies. We then eagerly awaited the arrival of the audience so that the show could begin.

The concert was fabulous and all of the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They all sang their hearts out and performed for almost two hours.

As always, the children were impeccably behaved and did the school and their parents proud.

A massive thank you goes to Miss Loretto who has led the choir for many years. This was her last year as choir leader and we all wish her well on her next adventures!













JTMAT Fundraising

Back in 2024 JTMAT set out to raise money for two charities voted for by our pupils. Our school held a cake sale, which was a huge success! Collectively, all of the schools in the JTMAT have managed to raise £1600 for Cancer Research UK, £1600 NSPCC and £1600 for each school to split and put towards supporting leadership roles within the school! We are so proud of the money raised and both charities are very grateful. Thank you to all those who donated!



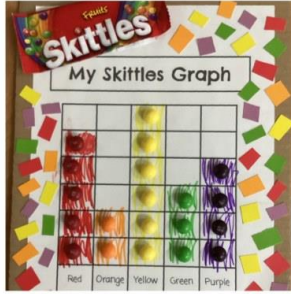
NSPCC Number Day

It was fantastic to see all of the children take part in Number Day this year. Their outfits were fantastic! Each class has taken part in range of maths activities throughout the day.

The children have wowed us all with their entries for the skittle competition. The children showcased their fantastic maths knowledge in a huge variety of ways.

KS2 have participated in a JTMAT Time Table Rock Stars competition and KS1 have competed in a number bonds challenge.

In total we have raised £216 for the NSPCC. Thank you for donating and for all of your support celebrating Number Day.









OPAL: Jan 25 developments

- Training day for all staff on the different areas of play and how the OPAL scheme will benefit our children.
- Request sent out to parents for resources and help to build our play zones and resources.
- Grounds meeting held to design a possible ground plan with the OPAL team.

- Staffordshire County Council contacted for possible resources and delivery made!
- Donations of Tyres received from Motoring Solutions UK.
- Play policy approved by the Governing body.

OPAL: Feb 25 developments

- Items collected from local businesses to add to our resource bank.
- Sheds and other storage ordered with funds from the PTA.
- OPAL bingo activity created for pupils to collect over the half term holiday.

Information shared on the website: [Whittington Primary School - OPAL - Outdoor Play And Learning Programme](#)

What next...

- **Big Build Day to start creating our OPAL environments and resources**





PAWPRINT FAMILY

Opal Bingo

 **OPAL BINGO**
BRING IN ANY OF THESE ITEMS TO TRY AND COMPLETE YOUR CLASS BINGO CARD

 Pots and Pans	 Hats	 Toy Cars or Trucks	 Guttering
 Dress up clothes	 Lego or bricks	 Noodles	 Ropes
 Suitcases	 Material	 Crates or baskets	 Gardening Tools
 Water containers	 Baking tins or pans	 Small world play	 Storage Boxes
 Scooters or bikes	 Kitchen Tools	 Netting	 Bags

Silver Anniversary



This January not only did we celebrated the New Year but also a big milestone for Mrs. Moran. She is celebrating 25 years here at Whittington! She has been a very important part of our Early Years Team and supported us in 2009 to create the Unit that we have today. She has been instrumental in giving so many of our children an excellent start to their Whittington journey as they begin in Nursery. Throughout the years she has worked with many different children and staff and has made everyone feel happy, safe and looked after. She really has been the backbone of Early Years. We would like to thank her for her dedication to the children and supporting their families over the years. I would also like to give my very personal thanks to Mrs. Moran for being here for me over the many happy years we have shared working together.

You're a legend Mrs Moran!

Mrs Richardson

Valentines Disco

Our recent Valentines Disco arrange by the PTA raised **£839.15**, many thanks to our lovely PTA for making this happen, it was fantastic to see the children having such a wonderful time!

Lunar New Year in Nursery

Ducklings Class have enjoyed learning all about the Lunar New Year, or Chinese New Year. We read the story *The Great Race* and enjoyed acting out the story, moving our bodies to match the animals from the Chinese Zodiac. We found out this year is the year of the snake, so we worked on our scissor skills snipping and printing swirly snakes.

We looked at how people celebrate Lunar New Year and made paper lanterns. We learnt how red is considered a lucky colour. We then enjoyed a delicious Chinese banquet- we tried sweet and sour, egg fried rice with noodles and prawn crackers! We had a fortune cookie to take home.

Finally we enjoyed watching videos of dragon dances, before creating our very own dragon costume, ready to shake our instruments loudly and dance our way around the school track!





Peer Review

On Wednesday 5th February, we held a Peer Review at school. During this, 3 members of the JTMAT came to scrutinise agrees aspects of our school improvement, including:

- Mr Dave Adams – Headteacher from Shobnall Primary School
- Mrs Lisa Farmer – Director of Primary School Improvement
- Mrs Jo Turrell – JTMAT SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Lead

We identified 3 areas of focus during the day and the reasons/context for our choices:

1. Challenge: Are pupils appropriately challenged and enabled to deepen their knowledge in a range of subjects across the curriculum?

CONTEXT: An Ofsted development point was for the most able pupils to be challenged appropriately across all subjects, however, we believe that all pupils should be challenged so that they can achieve their maximum potential. After much discussion with the children, we discover that they only felt they were being challenged if they had a challenge sticker in their book. We held meetings with all stakeholders to consider what challenge looked like at Whittington.

Teachers challenge us by:

- *Asking us questions to make us think broader and deeper*
- *Checking we can remember our previous learning*
- *Encouraging us to work on our own*
- *Giving us tasks so that we can show our learning in different ways*
- *Giving us next steps to help us progress*
- *Asking us to support each other with our learning*

2. Behaviour: Do staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and deal with low-level disruption quickly and efficiently?

CONTEXT: Previously we used Good to be Green as a behaviour strategy across school and with the support of an Educational Psychologist, who supported us with CPD, we moved to a restorative approach and changed our school procedure. In the recent JTMAT surveys, behaviour was highlighted as an issue in a few staff and a few parent comments. Through discussions with staff and at Parent Council, this seems to relate to concerns about low-level disruption with a minority of pupils. We have recently made some new additions to our behaviour procedure to address this.

3. Adaptive teaching: Have some adaptive teaching strategies been embedded into teaching and learning and what are our next steps?

CONTEXT: In September 2024, the five-a-day adaptive teaching strategies were written in to our School Improvement Plan:

To introduce the evidence-informed Five-a-Day principles into quality first teaching to ensure that high expectations for all children lead to improved outcomes. (Link to JTMAT Strategic Plan T&L 3)

- *Explicit instruction*
- *Cognitive and meta-cognitive strategies*
- *Scaffolding*
- *Flexible groupings*
- *Using technology (Link to JTMAT Strategic Plan T&L 6)*

To date, we have introduced the first 3 strategies and have also have training on AI to support staff with using technology to support learners. We have not yet looked at flexible groupings.

The day itself involved lesson observations in all classrooms, pupil interviews with children across school, subject leader discussions, book looks for English, Maths and Topic books across school.

Although we have not yet had the report back, it was an absolute privilege to show our visitors around school and have them go in and out of lessons to see high quality teaching and learning. They talked explicitly about how far we have come on our journey of adaptive teaching and to witness what they described as the 'exemplary' behaviour of our pupils. The children interviewed were very articulate in the pupil voice meetings and the books highlighted key successes and achievements.

As always, there were a number of things that were mentioned as improvement points which included:

- Developing a more consistent approach to classroom environments that are calm and purposeful
- Introducing the next strategy of 5-a-day – flexible groupings
- Embedding some further strategies linked to meta-cognition

We will know more once the report comes through but there were no surprises and all of these things are already in our School Improvement plan to be worked on this year.

Recruitment Opportunities

Play Worker at “The Nest” Wrap Around Care Club

Fixed term until 31st August 2025, part time, term time only for 38 weeks per year

Various hours available within our opening times of 7.15am to 9am and 3-6pm Monday to Friday

Salary: Grade 3 (SCP 4) £24,404 per annum pro rata

Hourly rate £12.65

John Taylor Multi Academy Trust (JTMAT) believes in the power of education to improve lives – and the world. As a partner academy in JTMAT, we are seeking to appoint a caring, enthusiastic and reliable Senior Play Leader to join our wrap around care team supporting our early years provision.

A successful candidate will possess:

- Enthusiasm, passion, and a nurturing approach to working with children
- Reliability and be flexible (to cover other shifts on occasion)
- Experience of working with children in a similar role would be ideal but not essential

As a Playworker you will help to plan and lead a range of suitable activities for children aged between 3 and 11 years old.

You will need to be reliable and committed to supporting the needs of all individuals within the Nest and be able to help provide a secure and caring environment in which they can flourish.

If you have a passion for excellence and share our vision, we can offer you the opportunity to be part of a successful and progressive Trust, which is committed to ensuring learning is at the heart of all we do.

If you wish to discuss this role, please contact The Nest Manager Mrs Claire Bourton by emailing wac@whittington.staffs.sch.uk or by telephoning 01543 432 487

Completed application forms should be emailed to wac@whittington.staffs.sch.uk

Only fully completed application forms will be submitted for shortlisting. CVs will not be accepted.

Lunchtime Playworker

Permanent, 7.5 hours per week working Monday to Friday 12noon to 1.30pm

Salary: Grade 2 £20,812 per annum pro rata

Actual salary: £3,663.59 per annum, £10.79 per hour

Pay due to be revised in line with recent pay increases.

John Taylor Multi Academy Trust (JTMAT) believes in the power of education to improve lives – and the world. As a partner academy in JTMAT, we are looking to recruit a lunchtime playworker to follow our new OPAL philosophy.

The successful candidate will be someone who:

- fosters an excellent relationship with all pupils
- supports the vision and ethos of our school
- is dedicated to ensuring the overall well-being of pupils
- demonstrates the drive and ability to ensure the highest possible standards for the children in their care

Duties will include pastoral support; supervising the children before, during and after their meal; assisting pupils with their table manners and use of cutlery and assisting with the cutting of food; patrolling the playground; organising games and activities; administering basic first aid and clearing equipment from the school hall.

Training will be provided.

If you have a passion for excellence and share our vision, we can offer you the opportunity to be part of a successful and progressive Trust, which is committed to ensuring learning is at the heart of all we do.

If you want to discuss this role, please contact Nichola Leeson, by emailing headteacher@whittington.staffs.sch.uk

or telephoning 01543 432 487

Completed application forms should be emailed to admin2@whittington.staffs.sch.uk

Catering Assistant (Grade 2)

Working Hours 10 Hours Week

£4,260 to £4,345

Hourly rate £9.60-£9.79

Pay due to be revised in line with recent pay increases.

Required ASAP

The Governors are seeking to employ a Grade 2 Catering Assistant to assist in the operation of the catering service to the required standard of the school specifications laid down by the County Catering Service.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Prepare food and beverages
- Cook under supervision
- Serve meals
- Set up and clear away service points and dining equipment and furniture
- Wash up
- Clean kitchen, scullery, dining area, access areas and furniture equipment
- Complete other related duties as directed. Additional duties and responsibilities would include:

- Promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons you are responsible for or come into contact with.
- Complying with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health and safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person
- Ensuring all pupils have equal access to opportunities to learn and develop.
- Liaising effectively with catering manager and other professional staff as part of the routine consultative process.
- Contributing to the overall ethos/work/aims of the school.
- Attending relevant meetings as required.
- Participating in training and other learning activities and performance development as required.

In order to apply for this post, you are required to submit an application form to admin2@whittington.staffs.sch.uk

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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.

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 \(whittington-school.co.uk\)](#) **TERM DATES** Please check our school website for our updated term dates which now includes an **additional inset day**. **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.




February half term

All sessions are FREE to attend and there is no need to book, just turn up and complete a consent form.

Day	Activity	Age	Time	Location
Monday	Basketball	7-11	10.00am - 12.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - Sports hall (WS7 3XH)
	Netball	7-11	10.00am - 12.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - Sports hall (WS7 3XH)
	Street Dance with Fusion	8-12	4.00 - 4.45pm	Fusion Dance Studio, Lichfield - Unit 28 (WS13 7AU)
	Circuit Training, Kickboxing & Yoga with M.A.M.A	8-12	4.00 - 5.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - Sports hall (WS7 3XH)
Tuesday	Soft Archery	7-11	10.00am - 12.00pm	Curborough Community Centre (WS13 7NY)
	JUST Play Football	12-19	2.00 - 4.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - 3G Pitch (WS7 3XH)
	US Girls	8-11	4.00 - 5.00pm	Curborough Community Centre (WS13 7NY)
	US Girls	12-19	5.30 - 6.30pm	Curborough Community Centre (WS13 7NY)
Wednesday	Basketball	12-16	2.00 - 4.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - Sports hall (WS7 3XH)
Thursday	Football	7-11	10.00am - 12.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - 3G Pitch (WS7 3XH)
	Street Dance	12-16	2.00 - 3.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - Studio 1 (WS7 3XH)
	US Girls	8-11	4.30 - 5.45pm	St. John's Community Church hall, Burntwood (WS7 1LR)
Friday	US Girls	12-19	6.00 - 7.15pm	St. John's Community Church hall, Burntwood (WS7 1LR)
	Dodgeball	7-11	10.00am - 12.00pm	Curborough Community Centre (WS13 7NY)
	JUST Play Football	12-19	2.00 - 4.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - 3G Pitch (WS7 3XH)
	Street Dance with Fusion	10-15	7.00 - 8.00pm	Burntwood Leisure Centre - Studio 1 (WS7 3XH)




Contact us for more info

01543 308835

isportsdevelopment@kchfield.ltdc.gov.uk

Getin2itLDC

Getin2itLDC

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actvelichfield.co.uk

1 - [Getin2it Half Term programme](#) for young people aged between 7-19years.