



April 2025

### Spring Term 2 - April 2025

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## A Celebration of Musical Talents

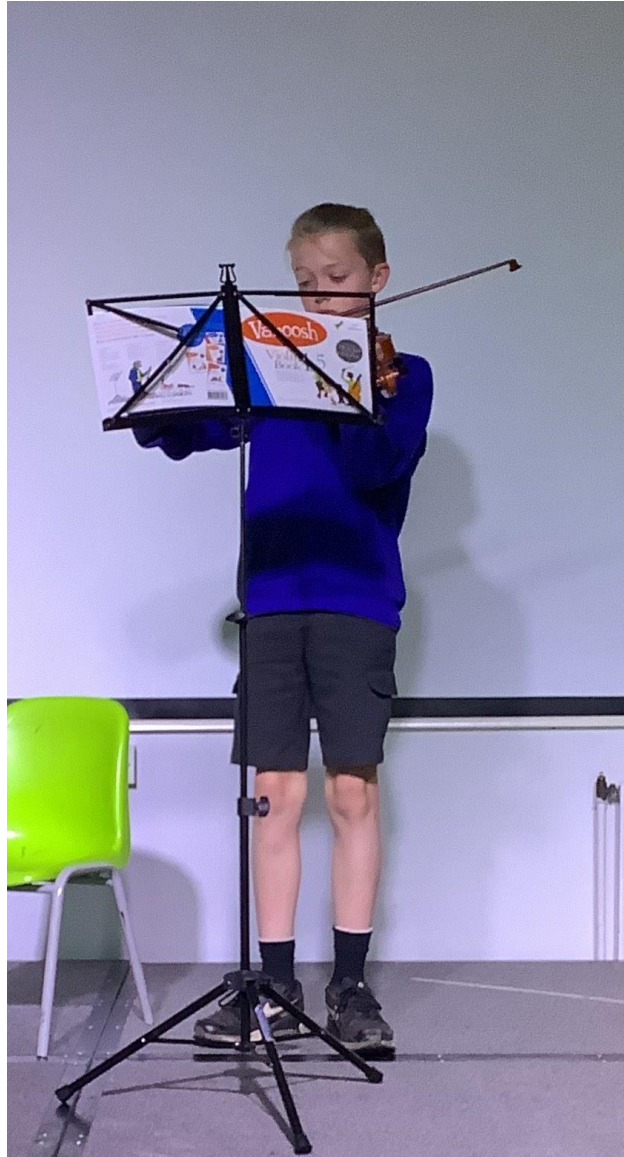
Our Spring Musical Evening was held on Tuesday 1st April with our musicians, choir and recorder group from across KS2. It was exciting to see such a range of instruments including the French horn, cello, violin, guitars, flutes and clarinets.

The evening, hosted by our two Year 5 comperes, got off to a wonderful start with a performance by the school orchestra. There followed a range of performances from soloists, duets and groups of musicians.

Our choir performed 'Naughty' from Matilda the Musical and the recorder group played pieces from the recorder festival that they were also going to perform in on the following day.

Having held the Spring Musical Evening for a number of years now, it is truly incredible to see the progress that our children make on their musical journey – from those that are just learning an instrument and were performing for the very first time, to those who are continuing to work their way through their music grades and are now quite accomplished performers. Such amazing talents; well done to you all!













## Military Kids Club

Being only short walk away from the barracks, we are proud to have a number of service children attending our school. We recognise that being a part of a military family can pose unique challenges. To provide the children with connections and support, MKC (Military Kids Club) is run once a week by Year 3 Teacher Mrs. Checkland and Community Development Worker, Molly Nash.

MKC is a safe place set up to give a voice to children who have one or more family members in the services. It's a chance for them to share their experiences, support each other and come together to celebrate their strengths.

Activities are child-led and self-directed, allowing the children to take part in a range of arts and crafts, board games, imaginative play and relaxed social time.

We couldn't be prouder of our service children!

To find out more about how we support our service children, you can find our pupil premium strategy statement in the policies and reports section of our website.

<https://www.whittington-school.co.uk/page/?title=Pupil+Premium&pid=52>



## Recorder Festival

On the 3rd April our school recorder group took part in the Staffordshire recorder festival with pupils from other local schools.

Throughout the morning the pupils had to show their skills and play the songs that they had been practising over the past few months.

The pupils then got the chance to show what they had learnt to their parents during the afternoon concert.

The pupils did themselves proud and everyone enjoyed the experience of performing live! Well done all the performers.











**OPAL IS OFFICIAL OPEN!**

We have now opened OPAL to the pupils and their lunchtime adventures can begin!

Over the past couple of months volunteers and staff have been using their skills to create different zones for the children to explore. They can now play with all their friends from across all the key stages in zones such as: The digging Zone, the pirate ship, the mud café, the potion station and much, much more.

A massive thank you goes to everyone involved as it has well and truly been a team effort. A special mention goes to Natalie Aucote whose imagination has turned pallets and simple resources in to places of wonder!

Feedback has already been really positive and the pupils are excited for what's to come.

Please visit our website to see more pictures.

[Whittington Primary School - OPAL - Outdoor Play And Learning Programme](#)

The children will be outside in all weather so please ensure to send your children in with some waterproofs, wellies, spare clothes, sun cream and a hat for the warmer weather. - All labelled please!













## 1 and 2 Twycross Zoo Trip

This term, Year 1 and 2 have been diving into their exciting science topic about animals, with a special focus on those that live in Africa. To bring their learning to life, the classes embarked on an unforgettable school trip to Twycross Zoo!

At the zoo, the children had the chance to see some incredible animals up close, including meerkats, penguins, gibbons, giraffes, rhinos, and gorillas! We even got to walk underneath the tiger sitting on top of the glass tunnel. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to observe these animals in their habitats and understand more about their behaviours.

The day also included an engaging African animal workshop, where the children learned about the most suitable habitats for zebras, helping them connect their classroom learning to real-world environments.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Gruffalo Discovery Land, where the children explored the magical world of this beloved character. It was the perfect way to end a fun-filled day!









## Year 3 and 4 Trip to Tamworth Castle

As part of their topic studies on the Anglo Saxons, Years 3 and 4 enjoyed an engaging and educational day at Tamworth Castle. The trip offered an immersive experience that allowed the children to step back in time and explore over 900 years of history.

The children wandered through the historic chambers and hallways of Tamworth Castle, gaining an understanding of how different groups such as the Saxons, Normans, Tudors, and Victorians lived in the castle over the centuries. The children were particularly excited to dress up and role-play in the various rooms, experiencing history first hand. A highlight was viewing real artefacts from the Staffordshire Hoard, some of which had not been seen before.

The adventure continued as the group bravely walked the castle turrets and climbed the tower. The clear day provided a breath-taking view over Tamworth, prompting enthusiastic cries of "I can see the Snowdome!"

The day included two engaging workshops. The first focused on archaeology, where students learned about how archaeologists uncover information about the past. They had the chance to examine authentic items such as drinking horns, Saxon jewellery, and pottery. In a hands-on sandbox activity, children excavated items including Saxon and Viking coins, brooches, animal bones, pottery, and even modern plastic pieces. Using their observation and analytical skills, they worked to identify the artefacts and determine their historical context.

The second workshop took place in the castle's great hall, where students learned about the historical battles between Anglo Saxons and Viking invaders. Children were assigned roles as Kings, Chiefs, churls, Earls, Thegns, or peasants. Equipped with replica swords and shields, they participated in a mock battle, enhancing their understanding of medieval warfare whilst having lots of fun chanting, "oot, oot!" and snarling at the enemy!

This trip to Tamworth Castle provided an enriching experience that really supported the children's learning about Anglo Saxons. Through interactive activities and exploration, the

children gained valuable insights into history. We couldn't run these trips without parents' contributions so many thanks to you all.









## France Trip 2025

At the beginning of March in the very early hours of a Monday morning many of our Year 6 children began their epic adventure to Paris with Mrs. Leeson, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Sharp & Miss Jones. We journeyed through the channel tunnel to the Chateau de Grande Romaine on the outskirts of Paris where we were to stay for four nights. The journey there was a long one but, as we were soon to find out, the children coped so well and behaved impeccably, which set the tone of our Tour De France!

When we arrived, we were greeted by our PGL reps, Hadder and Chris. Then children unpacked their bags and made their way to the playing fields where we discovered a past Brazilian Football team had practiced for the 1998 FIFA World Cup. After our first evening meal they explored the grounds of the Chateau with a team scavenger hunt, then they were all tucked up in their beds for our first 'sleepover' with their roommates.

Tuesday morning started as the rest of the week would by making our baguettes ready for our lunch whilst out and about in Paris. This was followed by a continental breakfast with of course fresh, warm croissants, pain au chocolate and hot chocolate! Delicious! Our first excursion was to the impressive Sacré-Coeur where we saw an amazing view of Paris. We then went into the church and soon realised we were in a Catholic Mass. The children were in awe of the Nuns singing and the beauty of the church. The staff were so impressed with the respect the children gave to this very special experience. This was a first for the staff too.

Following this we then went to the artist centre of Montmartre where the children were encouraged to use their French skills to buy gifts, glacés and crêpes. We then sat on the steps of the Sacré-Coeur to eat our lunch. After this we were whisked away by coach to the Stade de France where we had a wonderful behind the scenes tour of the stadium and heard some interesting tales of footballers and mega stars who have performed concerts there. We even had chance to walk out to the pitch through the tunnel! On our return the evening at the Chateau we played games with Chris (PGL) on the sports courts.

Wednesday began as Tuesday but we then went on a coach sight-seeing trip and saw the Notre Dame, Louvre and Eiffel Tower. We then went on a cruise down the Seine and shouted Bonjour to anyone we saw on the banks, they seemed very happy to see us and waved back! We then had a photo by the Eiffel tower and had lunch in the beautiful Parisian spring sunshine at the Trocadéro. We were then taken to the Musee d'Orsay where Mrs. Richardson gave the children a tour of the Impressionist art works. The children seemed impressed by seeing a real Van Gogh and other famous paintings. That evening we all made crêpes, although it was Pancake day the day before. We learnt what the ingredients were called in French. They were delicious!

Thursday was also a glorious sunny day which was perfect for Disney! We were all greeted by Mickey Mouse and the Chipmunks as we entered the park! It was very busy but everyone so patient waiting for the rides. After lots of fun experiencing many rides and doing lots of shopping we settled down to watch the parade. This was magical as you would expect. It was then time to go back, pack and sleep ready for our journey home on the Friday.

We would like to thank all the children for being so amazing on this visit. They showed respect and kindness to everyone and they were a privilege to take all the way to Paris.

#### [Whittington Primary School - Y6 in Paris 2025](#)

































## Parent Fundraising for PANS PANDAS UK - Jersey Walk

**PANS**

Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome

**PANDAS**

Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with  
Streptococcal Infections

One of our parents Peter is raising money for PANS PANDAS UK. Peter will soon be attempting to walk the 48.1 miles around Jersey which is an incredible challenge and we thought it would be wonderful if the school community could support him in this but it also provides a great opportunity to raise some awareness.

Please find some information below taken from The Charity - [PANS PANDAS UK](https://www.panspandasuk.org/).

## **Description**

PANS and PANDAS are neuropsychiatric conditions. This means they are medical conditions which have both neurological (e.g.. difficulties with thinking or moving) and psychiatric (i.e.. mental health) symptoms.

PANS and PANDAS are often grouped together because they share lots of symptoms in common. Both conditions can begin quite suddenly, and symptoms may come and go over time.

## **Symptoms**

People with PANS and PANDAS may experience a variety of different physical and mental health symptoms.

Such as:

- OCD
- Anxiety (heightened anxiety, separation anxiety, irrational fears, panic episodes)
- Tics
- Emotional lability and/or depression
- Irritability, aggression, and/or severely oppositional behaviours
- Behavioural (developmental) regression (increase in temper tantrums, loss of age-appropriate language, clingy behaviour not related to anxiety)
- Sudden deterioration in school performance (due to difficulties with memory, concentration, hyperactivity, impulsivity, new deficits of visuospatial skills)
- Motor or sensory abnormalities (dysgraphia, clumsiness, tics, new sensory sensitivities to light, noise, smell, taste or texture)
- Insomnia and/or sleep disturbances
- Enuresis and/or urinary frequency

\*Sometimes hallucinations and/or psychosis might be part of the symptoms experienced, however they are not officially part of the diagnostic criteria.

Remember that children with PANS or PANDAS may present with a different combination of symptoms, and that these symptoms may change over time. You do not need all the symptoms in the list to be diagnosed with PANS or PANDAS.

Here is a link to find out more about Peter's story: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/peter-stock-1>

## News From The Nest!



### Our new Door in the hall

During the Easter holiday a new door is being created in place of one of the hall windows. Please use this door when dropping off and collecting your child from a session. The door will be monitored consistently in the morning so we can greet you on arrival. Please use the doorbell to alert us to your presence when collecting in the afternoon.



We have been playing outside and making the most of the weather over the last couple of weeks along with enjoying some lovely spring themed crafts. Nursery and reception have added beautiful colourful flowers to our noticeboard to replace the muddy puddles!

The Nest team have been delighted to welcome two lovely new staff members 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](mailto:wac@whittington.staffs.sch.uk)

## Whittington PE Update



We are thrilled to have been awarded the AfPE Award with Distinction in recognition of our commitment to Physical Education, School Sport, and Physical Activity at Whittington. The application process was thorough and served as an excellent tool for self-evaluation. During the validator's visit earlier this term, she was highly impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge

demonstrated by our Sports Leaders and Sports Council, as well as the PE she observed on the day. It is truly rewarding to have our efforts acknowledged.

As we transition into the summer term and enjoy the improving weather, we look forward to an exciting schedule in our school sports offer, including Sports Week, intra-house competitions, additional external events, and our much-anticipated annual Sports Day!

## PTA Crafternoon

Thank you to those who took part in the recent Crafternoon session which raised a fantastic £473.71!





## Thank you - A final note...

What an incredible term it's been at our school! Our children have enjoyed a wealth of enriching experiences, from fascinating zoo trips and explorations of our local castle to exciting adventures abroad in France.

The musical talents of our pupils have shone brightly, particularly at the recorder festival where their dedication and practice were wonderfully evident.

We're especially proud of the successful launch of our OPAL play initiative. The transformation of our play spaces has been remarkable, thanks to your tremendous support. Whether you donated pool noodles and guttering or gave your time to help construct pirate ships and mud kitchens, your contributions have created magical play environments that spark imagination and joy every day.

We wanted to share our immense pride in our wonderful nursery and reception children for their spectacular Easter show performance! Every child shone brightly on stage, demonstrating remarkable confidence, enthusiasm, and joy. From the beautiful singing to the delightful actions and movements, they truly captivated the audience.

The children have worked so hard practicing their parts, and it was heartwarming to see their excitement and dedication pay off. Their smiling faces as they performed were absolutely priceless!

Today was a sea of purple as children showed their support for our military families – a wonderful display of our school community's care and respect.

As we close this term, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all families for your continued partnership in making our school such a vibrant place of learning and discovery.

Wishing you all a restful break over the Easter holiday!



## 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.

Save the date: Summer Fayre: 28th June 11am-3pm

