

Newsletter 26 – Spring Term



Wistaston Academy
Primary and Nursery School
Together We Learn • Together We Achieve

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday 27 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 1&2 Dodgeball Y1-2 Football Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Gym	
Tuesday 28 st March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3-6 Lunchtime Gym Swimming Y4 Yr 3&4 Football Yr 3-6 Sewing Yr 3&4 Performing Arts	
Wednesday 29 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6	
Thursday 30 th March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 3-6 Dodgeball Yr 3-6 Singing Yr 1&2 Lunchtime Singing	
Friday 31 st March	Before school dodgeball club 3- 6 Yr 5&6 Football	
Advanced Notice:	<p><u>2nd May 2.30pm or 5.00pm</u> – Phonics Screening Check parent meeting for Year 1 and invited Year 2s.</p> <p><u>Wednesday 24th May</u> Sports day for Reception up to Year 6 pupils- Weather permitting. If any issues with weather it will be rescheduled to Friday 9th June. Timings TBC.</p> <p><u>Thursday May 4th</u> Polling day- The Dunwoody Hall will be in use as a polling station on this day. No hot dinners will therefore be available, Clever cats packed lunches will be available for those who usually choose a school dinner.</p> <p><u>Friday 5th May</u> – Coronation picnic celebration.</p>	
Polite Notice:	<p>Please note the school office opens at 8.30am each morning and is manned until 4.30pm. Before and after these times, there will be no access to the Main Reception area.</p>	

We are Brilliant Winners

EYFS:

KS1: Prudence (1A), Luna (1B), Arianna (2A), Clara (2B)

KS2: Jiaxin (4B), James (4A), Aanya (3)

Sports Awards

KS1: Mason (2A) , Tommy (1A)

KS2: Riley (6B), Kassidy (4A), Sophie Mai (6B),

The Hub

To finish off our Spring-themed Art display, The Hub children have created some rabbit pictures using stencils and brightly coloured paints. Some of the children enjoyed getting their hands messy when they painted, but others wanted to use cotton wool and keep their hands dry.



Nursery

This week an egg arrived into Nursery. The children have explored the egg using magnifying glasses. We have read non-fiction egg books and discussed what we think is inside the egg. Nursery are very excited to find out what could be inside!



Reception

This week we have been learning about minibeasts and the children have made their own worm hotels. We discussed how the worms wiggle and dig tunnels in the soil. The children have enjoyed observing the worms in their new habitat.



Year 1

This week, Year 1 have started to plant seeds and get our garden ready to start growing! We planted broad bean, pea and courgette seeds. We are looking forward to observing these over the next few weeks and then plant them into our garden when they are ready.



Year 2

This week, Year 2 have had lots of fun planting some different seeds. We are hoping to grow carrots as well as lots of different flowers. We also planted some strawberry plants.



Year 3

This week, we learnt how to say specific fruit in French. We played a game of matching the French nouns to pictures of fruit. Then, we played a game of 'fruit sound splat', where we listened to the French noun and tried to point at the correct fruit described. Finally, we played a game of 'Apple Pie' changing the fruit we said to a French noun and trying to disguise our voices.



Year 4

On Wednesday Year 4 took part in an exciting educational workshop using Sphero robot balls. These machines allowed the children to drive and code their routes on the ground. They especially enjoyed the Cockroach Code Challenge.

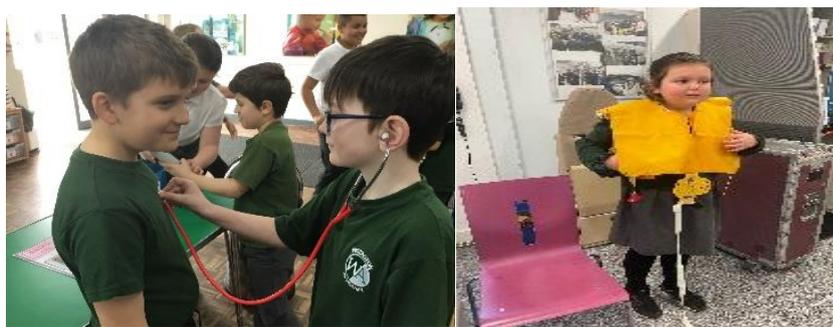


Year 5

This half term the children in Year 5 have been focusing on careers and aspirations in PSHE. We have explored careers of interest and considered what qualifications, skills and attributes are necessary for those aspirations. We were able to visit Cheshire College to explore what they have to offer young people which left many children enthused and excited about the opportunities and facilities available to them as young adults.

Last week, the children across UKS2, were able to take part in MedicFest, which also supported our learning in PSHE. The children learnt a lot about the NHS, practices and procedures undertaken by doctors, nurses and medical staff and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

It has been wonderful watching the children learn, explore and develop their understanding of the exciting possibilities and opportunities available to them in the future.



Year 6

In Science this week, we have explored and investigated simple circuits. We made our own and learnt that in order for a circuit to be successful, the electrical current must be able to pass through without any gaps in the circuit. Through the exploration of different components, we were able to test this fact and make our bulbs and motors work. We learnt that components only work if the circuit is complete.



Attendance

Attendance
Wk - 06.02.23 – 10.03.23

Target 96%

3A = 95.1%
3B = 94.6%
4A = 95%
4B = 96%
5A = 96.3%
5B = 95.3%
6A = 97.1% 😊
6B = 96.4%



KS2 for the week = 96.1% 😊

Whole school attendance for the academic year – 94.5% 😞

Attendance
Wk 06.03.23 – 10.03.23

Target 96%

Reception A – 93.6%
Reception B – 88.6.3%
1A – 90%
1B – 99.3% 😊
2A - 97.4%
2B – 95.3%



KS1 Attendance for last week - 94.1% 😞

Whole school attendance for the academic year – 94.5% 😞

Sport News

Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby at Crewe & Nantwich Rugby Club

On Tuesday 28th March, 8 children took part in a Year 5 & 6 tag rugby competition which was held at Crewe and Nantwich Rugby Club. The team played against a number of schools, where they managed to win a lot of their matches. Mr Barton and Miss Brown were so proud of the way the children passed the ball and worked as a team. Well done to all.



Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 classes will be going swimming for approximately 6 weeks as part of the compulsory National PE curriculum. The sessions will begin on Tuesday 18th April and will finish on Tuesday 23rd May 2023. The classes will go swimming from 1:30 till 2:30pm.

Your child will need to bring in their **swimming costume and a towel**. If your child forgets their kit, we will contact you during the morning to try to arrange for their kit to be dropped off. Alternatively, we can provide spare swimming costumes, shorts and towels if kit cannot be brought in. Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery in the pool, so all must be removed before they enter. Please ensure that all earrings are removed before children come to school, if the children cannot remove the earrings themselves. In addition, long hair must be tied up in a swimming cap.

If you have any questions about Y3 Swimming, please speak to the PE Team or your child's Class Teacher.



Sport Clubs News

This half term, clubs will run from Monday 17th April until Friday 28th April 2023

All clubs, including those delivered by outside providers, will be free of charge. If your child is interested in taking part in any of our clubs, please sign them up through Arbor as all the clubs are live, there are still some spaces left in some clubs. If Arbor won't let you make a booking it is likely the club is full.

Please make sure your child has got the right sports kit for the club they are attending such as tracksuit bottoms and a waterproof jacket as the weather is getting colder.

Monday

Year 1 & 2 Gymnastics Club with Jasmine and Alisha Evanson from Cheshire Gymnastics

11:45am till 12:25pm

Year 1 & 2 Football Club with Miss Brown

3:05pm till 4:05pm

Tuesday

Year 3- 6 Gymnastics Club with Jasmine and Alisha Evanson from Cheshire Gymnastics

12pm till 12:35pm

Year 3 & 4 Football Club with Miss Brown

3:15pm till 4:15pm

Thursday

Year 3 – 6 Dodgeball club with Miss Brown

3:15pm till 4:15pm

Friday

Year 5 & 6 Football Club with Miss Brown

3:15pm till 4:15pm

Please ensure that ALL children are collected from clubs outside the main reception on time.



UN Rights of a Child



Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.



Protected Characteristics



There may be times when someone's age affects how they spend their money. Not all children have bank cards or mobile phones and not all adults want to use them either. Everyone should be able to choose how they spend their money.



Sex



Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



British Values



Individual Liberty

People can choose how they spend their money. There may be benefits and consequences of spending money in each of its forms, which may vary for each individual.

E-Safety

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TWITTER



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be ‘trending’. Twitter users can engage with other people’s posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or ‘tweesting back’ (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person’s Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a ‘view count’ feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven’t reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction: to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account’s authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their ‘policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content’ (freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach). No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter’s most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag’s meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with ‘trending’ hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child’s tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter’s privacy settings so that your child can’t be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won’t be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they’ve seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message’s possible motive. Emphasise that it’s not a good idea to retweet something if they aren’t sure it’s correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child’s tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child’s again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else’s tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It’s important that young people think about what they’re about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed ‘nudges’: little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The ‘mute’ feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child’s timeline. The other user won’t know that they’ve been muted.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the ‘blue tick’ system, it’s essential that young Twitter users understand what this means: in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they’ve been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update | https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=etd>