



Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Summer Term 1 2025

Newsletter

Head teacher's Message

As we come to the end of a short but action-packed half term, it is clear just how much our school has packed into the past few weeks.

From memorable residential trips that encouraged teamwork and independence, to the focus and determination shown during SATs week, our pupils have tackled every experience with energy and positivity. It has been a pleasure to see them making the most of every opportunity and use their [Penguin Power](#).

We rounded off the half term with our much-loved May Fayre. A huge thank you to everyone involved—whether helping to organise, run a stall, or simply attending to enjoy the festivities. The event was a real celebration of our school spirit and community togetherness.

This half term's **Root** value has been *Respect*, and the children have shown thoughtful engagement in exploring what respect looks, sounds and feels like in everyday life. Their maturity and understanding have been evident across the school.

Wishing all our families a safe, happy and relaxing half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final part of the school year.

Warm regards,

Mrs Noon

Pre-School

It has been a wild and wonderful term in preschool! We had an exciting visit from a vet and spent time petting and caring for friendly guinea pigs. The children loved learning how to look after animals and what they need to stay healthy and happy. We have also been exploring the amazing world of mini beasts, uncovering fascinating facts about our tiniest creatures. A special highlight was our visit from an ex-soldier, who showed us his badges, talked about his time in the army, and shared stories about VE Day. Our little builders have been letting their imaginations run free with creative loose parts play. On top of all that, we have been working on numeral recognition and, in literacy, creating beautiful pictures to go along with our learning!



Reception

Our EYFS children have made a splash this term as we dive into our exciting *Seaside* topic! The classroom has been buzzing with imagination and creativity, especially in our seaside-themed role-play area. The children have loved pretending to visit the beach, building sandcastles, enjoying ice cream shops, and even spotting "seaside creatures" in their play.

Alongside all the fun, we have been busy with some fantastic seaside-themed crafts. From cheerio starfish to sandy backgrounds for our role-play area, the children have shown incredible focus and creativity. We have also been truly amazed by the progress in their writing and phonics – their confidence in sounding out words and forming letters has been a joy to see. Well done, everyone!

Another highlight has been the start of our Forest School sessions. The children have embraced the great outdoors with so much enthusiasm – exploring, building, and learning through nature. It has been wonderful to see their teamwork, curiosity, and independence grow during these sessions.

And there's even more to look forward to – our upcoming farm trip is just around the corner! We cannot wait to share this special experience together and continue making memories as we learn about the world around us.

Year 1

Our Year 1 children have really enjoyed immersing themselves in our new Geography topic, *"I Do Like to Be Beside the Seaside."* They had lots of fun playing in the seaside café, creating detailed observational drawings of shells, and making their own jellyfish and seaside pictures. Through these activities, they have learned that some people live by the sea, not just visit on holiday, and they now understand that the "coast" means the land next to the sea.

The children also wrote thank you letters to the volunteers from our recent *Yew Tree Trail* trip, which have been sent in the post — a wonderful way to practise their writing skills and show appreciation.

In class, the children are demonstrating great determination and perseverance with their writing. They have also been showing fantastic enthusiasm and using mathematical language confidently as they explore numbers from 50 to 100.

We are so proud of their progress and cannot wait to continue this exciting learning journey.

Year 3

Year 3 Shine in 'Vocal Ease' Concert!

This term, our talented Year 3 pupils have been busy rehearsing for an exciting musical performance as part of the *Vocal Ease* concert — and what a joyful journey it's been!

From the first notes of "Super Trouper" to the final chorus of "With a Little Help from My Friends," the children have thrown themselves into learning and performing classic hits by **ABBA and The Beatles**. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and growing confidence have been an absolute joy to witness.

Alongside learning lyrics and melodies, children also developed key musical skills such as pitch, rhythm, and harmony — not to mention a healthy dose of stage presence!

The final performance was a real treat, with children singing their hearts out and filling the hall with energy and excitement. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers there to support and enjoy the show.

A big thank you to all the staff who helped bring this musical experience to life, and of course to our amazing Year 3 singers.



Year 4

What an incredible term it has been for Year 4! We have wrapped up our *Oceans and Seas* topic by exploring important ways we can protect and preserve our precious waterways. The children showed great awareness and care for the environment—such important thinking for future changemakers! During this topic, we also investigated the Grace Dieu Brook and had an inspiring immersion with a representative from Severn Trent Water. In English, the children wowed us with their thoughtful poetry based on *The Mousehole Cat* – full of vivid imagery and emotion. As well as producing imaginative innovations of the story, creating their own storm creature and other



A highlight of the term was definitely our **residential visit to Whitemoor Lakes**. It was amazing to see the children step out of their comfort zones, showing real **resilience, confidence and teamwork** throughout all the activities. We are so proud of how they supported each other and made the most of every challenge! Our trip inspired some truly **inspiring recounts**, and memories which will remain with them for a long time.

We have made a brilliant start to our new history topic on the **Anglo-Saxons Invaders**—curiosity is high and we cannot wait to dig deeper into their fascinating world.

Looking ahead, excitement is building as we get ready to make our treats for the May **Fayre**, and we can hardly believe we are already beginning work on our final topic of Year 4. Time really does fly when you are learning and growing every day!

Year 5

This term, Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed their computing lessons, especially learning how to program MicroBits. The children showed fantastic creativity—coding everything from flashing messages to simple games and timers. It has been amazing to see their ideas come to life through code and to watch their confidence with programming grow each week.

A special highlight this term was the visit from Pippa, the school dog. The children created such a calm and welcoming environment for her, showing great maturity, patience, and kindness. Pippa clearly enjoyed the attention and was relaxed and happy thanks to the thoughtful atmosphere the children helped to create.

We have also been blown away by the energy and enthusiasm in our dance practice sessions. The children have worked incredibly hard to learn routines and moves—always giving 100% effort and doing it all with huge smiles on their faces. Their teamwork, rhythm, and positive attitude have made every session a joy.



Year 6

It might have only been a short half term, but Year 6 have certainly proved that a lot can happen in just four weeks! From revising and sitting their SATs to launching into summer fun and creativity, they have crammed in an impressive amount — and done so with smiles, resilience and plenty of enthusiasm.

The half term began with a thought-provoking trip to the Warning Zone, where children explored real-life scenarios around safety, peer pressure and decision-making. It sparked mature conversations back in school and helped set the tone for taking responsibility and thinking ahead — a perfect theme as our children prepare for secondary school.

Of course, SATs week was a big moment and Year 6 rose to the challenge brilliantly. Calm, focused and determined, every child gave it their all. Behind the scenes, the whole school rallied round — younger year groups kept extra quiet, teachers offered support and reassurance, and a few nerves were met with warm smiles and encouragement.

To celebrate all their hard work, we surprised Year 6 with an epic Fun Day! From games on the field to a water balloon battle and our very own pop-up cinema, the day was full of laughter and light-hearted fun. A massive thank you goes to our fabulous parents for helping keep the surprise and for generously providing the ice cream, sauces, toppings, sweets and popcorn — it was a real treat for a truly deserving bunch.

Not stopping there, Year 6 also helped to host and enjoy our sunny May Fayre, sharing in a fantastic community event full of stalls, performances and school spirit.

And just as this half term ends, the excitement begins again... We have officially launched our end-of-year production! Scripts are being handed out, auditions are underway and there is already a buzz around what promises to be a show-stopping finale to the children's time at primary school.

So, although the calendar said "short half term," Year 6 have shown that when you bring energy, teamwork and positivity, you can fit in a whole lot of amazing



Here is to a well-earned rest — and an unforgettable final few weeks ahead!

Sporting News

Girls' Cricket Success at Ibstock Town CC – Monday 19th May

We are incredibly proud of our girls' cricket team, who represented the school brilliantly at the North West Leicestershire competition held at Ibstock Town Cricket Club.

For some of the team, this was their first ever experience playing cricket – but you would not have known it! With determination, enthusiasm, and superb teamwork, the girls showed real resilience and a fantastic eagerness to learn throughout the day.

Their hard work paid off, securing **4 wins out of 5 matches** and achieving an impressive **3rd place finish** overall!

It was a fantastic team effort – full of energy, pride, and sportsmanship. Well done to all involved – what a wonderful achievement!

Year 4–5 Badminton Team Shine Again!

On Thursday 10th April, our Year 4–5 Badminton Team took part in their second event of the year at Newbridge High School. After already securing victory in the Autumn Term, the team were full of confidence as they faced schools from Willesley, Packington, and Hugglescote.

Each of our five pairs played in-group matches, showing fantastic teamwork, focus, and skill. Impressively, all our teams progressed to the **quarterfinal stage**, having lost only **one match** along the way! A Whitwick team, capping off an incredible day of badminton, also won the final.

With these brilliant results, Whitwick were crowned overall winners and will now go on to represent North West Leicestershire in the County Final this June – for the fourth year in a row! Well done to all the players for your fantastic effort and sportsmanship – and a huge thank you to Carol Spencer for running the event so smoothly.





Year 6 Badminton – Victory

A huge well done to our Year 6 badminton team who took part a Year Badminton Final at Babington Academy in Leicester on Wednesday 7th May. The team played brilliantly against other schools from Leicestershire, representing the school with outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork and determination. We are incredibly proud to share that they won the event for the third year in a row—a fantastic achievement! Well done, Team!



Rose Bowl Quarterfinal Victory – Year 4/5 Football Team

On Monday 12th May, our Year 4/5 football team played a thrilling

Quarterfinal match at home against Hugglescote Primary School. It was a closely fought game, with both teams showing fantastic skill and determination. Despite the pressure, our team showed great resilience and teamwork, working hard from the first whistle to the last. Their efforts were rewarded with a well-deserved 3–1 victory! We are incredibly proud of the players for their commitment, sportsmanship and positive attitude throughout the match. This brilliant result means the team now progresses to the semi-finals of the Rose Bowl – an amazing achievement! Well done to everyone involved.





Uniform

As we move into the warmer months, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school uniform expectations. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that all our pupils come to school dressed appropriately and ready to learn.

Our current school uniform is as follows:

- **Navy cardigan or jumper** with the **school logo**
- **Black or grey trousers** (not tracksuit bottoms) or a **skirt/ / pinafore dress/Shorts**
- **White or blue polo shirt** (no logo required)
- **Black shoes or trainers** with **minimal logos**

As the weather improves, pupils are welcome to wear **blue and white chequered summer dresses or jumpsuits**, in keeping with our school colours.

Please ensure that **all uniform items are clearly named**, so that any lost items can be quickly returned.

Wearing the correct uniform helps promote a **sense of belonging** and ensures that all our pupils feel part of the school community. Thank you for helping us maintain these high standards.

Safeguarding

Protection Children is everyone's business!!

At Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School, we understand the utmost importance of having robust systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare. All our staff and volunteers are vigilant and alert to any potential concerns about our pupils. We have a comprehensive safeguarding and child protection policy, which is available upon request from the school office.

If you have any concerns, please speak to the head teacher. We will treat your concern seriously and with the utmost care.

Parking

Please remember to park only in legal parking spots and to respect and adhere to all posted no-parking zones. Your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment around our school is greatly appreciated. Let us work together to ensure the safety of all our students and families.



We would kindly like to remind everyone to drive and park safely and considerately when dropping off or picking up children from school. Unfortunately, we have seen and heard reports of some dangerous and inconsiderate parking and manoeuvres.

The safety of our children is always our top priority, so please ensure you are parking appropriately and driving with care around the school.

How Can You Help?

- Park further away and walk to school
- Keep your speed down
- Park in a safe place following the Highway Code.
- Do not park on pavements
- Turn your engine off as soon as you have parked
- Keep the school gates clear at all times - stopping here, even to drop off your child for a short period of time, is dangerous
- Do not enter the school car park unless authorised to do so
- Do not block local residents' drives
- Leave the middle of the road free, with enough room for other road users to easily pass through
- Leave enough room for emergency vehicles to easily pass through
- Make sure your child leaves and enters your vehicle safely to and from the pavement
- Check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a car door
- Take care when reversing
- Remember - it only takes one vehicle to be parked inconsiderately for there to be an impact on accessibility to emergency services or others. Do not be that one.

Further to the notice sent on WEDUC on 23/01/25. Please note that parking violations can be reported through the following link. <https://www.leics.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/driving-vehicles-traffic/report-illegal-parking/> Thank you to those drivers who put the safety of our pupils first

Free School Meals

If you think, you may be entitled to free school meals, please claim these by contacting the following number: 0116 3055417 or visit <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals> .



It is particularly important for parents of children in EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 to register, even if your child is already receiving a free hot meal. Registering will enable the school to access funding for your child every year while they remain in primary school. They are not obliged to have a hot meal every day. This funding will help provide valuable support for your child.

Nut and Egg-Free School

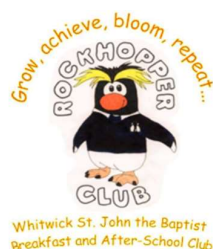
Please can we remind you that we are a nut and egg-free school due to children with allergies? Children **should not** be bringing anything into school that may contain any type of nut or egg. Anything that is brought in will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. This includes Nutella products. Your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for all students is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Egg Free Zone!



'Rockhopper' Breakfast and After School Club



If you require a space in our breakfast or after-school club, we kindly remind you to book via ParentPay. For any inquiries, please contact Miss Steadman on Weduc or phone 07704 144227 or the school office 01530 832116.



Term Dates

Spring Term

Schools Open	Tuesday 7 th January 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st February 2025
Schools Close	Friday 11 th April 2025

Summer Term

Schools Open	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day	Monday 5 th May 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 26 th May - Friday 30 th May 2025
Schools Close	Wednesday 9 th July 2025

Autumn Term

Bank Holiday	Monday 25 th August 2025
Schools Open	Tuesday 26 th August 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 20 th - Friday 24 th October 2025
Schools Close	Friday 19 th December 2025

Spring Term

Schools Open	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 16 th - Friday 20 rd February 2026
Schools Close	Friday 27 nd March 2026

Summer Term

Schools Open	Monday 13 th April 2026
May Day	Monday 4 th May 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May 2026
Schools Close	Wednesday 8 th July 2026