



# Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School

## Summer Term 2

## Newsletter



### Head teacher's Message

Dear Parents / Carers

As we come to the end of another school year, it is the perfect moment to reflect on what a year it has been. A year full of excitement, perseverance, resilience, fun and, of course, plenty of **Penguin Power!**

Having had the joy of reading every child's report, I am immensely proud of what they have all achieved. Whether it's cracking a complex maths concept, learning to code in computing, taking up a new instrument, braving a residential trip, or building new friendships, every single child has grown in confidence and skill.

This term, our school value has been **Friendship**. The children have explored what friendship really means, especially in times of change. Their reflections have been inspiring — they understand that friendship is about '**Being kind, being fair and always being there for each other.**'

As the year draws to a close, I hope every child leaves for the summer break feeling proud of their efforts and looking back on the year with fondness.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our parents, carers and family members. Your support, encouragement and involvement throughout the year have made such a difference and are truly appreciated by all of us here at school.

Wishing you all a wonderful, restful summer holiday filled with fun, family time and a little adventure. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August ready for another exciting year ahead.

### Staffing Update

As we finish the year, we also say some fond farewells to members of our wonderful team. We will be saying goodbye to **Mr Gent**, **Jane from Pre-School**, **Mrs Moisey**, **Mrs Hanley** and **Mr Swales**. Each of them has played a special part in the life of the school, and they will be missed by pupils, staff and families alike. We wish them every success and happiness in their new ventures and thank them sincerely for all they have given to Whitwick.

Looking ahead to the new school year, I am delighted to share some exciting news. **Mrs Woolcock** will be joining us in August as our new Deputy Headteacher. She brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm and is very much looking forward to meeting everyone and becoming part of our Whitwick community.

We are also pleased to be welcoming **Miss Straw** and **Mr Radcliffe** to the team in August. They are both excited to get to know the children and families and to be part of the wonderful learning and life of our school.



## Celebrating 70 Years Together

On Saturday 14th June, we opened our doors to the community to mark 70 years of Whitwick St John. It was fantastic to see so many past children, parents and staff coming back through the gates, sharing stories and memories that remind us what this school means to so many people.

The choir, ensemble, netball players and Eclipse dance group did us proud and really showed what Whitwick is all about.

Here is to the next 70.

## New Benches for Our Playground

Three new benches have been installed on the playground, funded by our PTA before they stepped down. The benches are high-quality and made from recycled plastic, ensuring they will last for years to come and provide a sustainable addition to our outdoor spaces.

A final thank you to the **PTA** for this lasting contribution to the school.



## Pre-School

**What a Term of Creativity!** This term has been bursting with imagination and hands-on learning as our pre-schoolers embraced the world of Traditional Tales. From building homes and vehicles like little architects and engineers to whipping up porridge in true Goldilocks style, we have loved exploring stories through messy, meaningful play. We also celebrated movement and teamwork during our fun-filled Sports Day, and soaked up the sunshine with some splashy wet and wild water play.



## Reception

As our wonderful EYFS children come to the end of their time in reception, we have had a fantastic final term packed with creativity, exploration, and exciting new experiences!

To mark their final term, the children created their very own clay penguins. Using fantastic sculpting techniques and careful painting, each child produced a unique model to be proud of. It was a lovely way to celebrate their time in



Storytelling has been a big part of our learning this term, with a particular focus on *The Scarecrow's Wedding*. The children brought the story to life through imaginative role-play, retelling the tale with enthusiasm and flair.

Outdoor learning has continued to be a big hit, with the children spending lots of time exploring and discovering in our outside area. A favourite new addition has been the water wall, which has provided endless fun and opportunities for problem solving, teamwork, and sensory play.



One of the most exciting highlights of the term was our very first school trip to the farm! The children had a wonderful day feeding the animals, enjoying the sights and sounds of farm life, and letting off steam in the soft play area. Their smiles said it all!

We are incredibly proud of all the progress the children have made this year. They have grown in confidence, independence, and curiosity, and we cannot wait to see where their learning journey takes them next as they move into Year 1.

## Year 1

As the school year draws to a close, Year One have had a busy and exciting Summer Term, full of outdoor adventures, hands-on learning, and lots of fun!

We started the term with a wonderful visit to the Yew Tree Trail. The children had a fantastic time enjoying a variety of outdoor activities, including shelter building, a nature walk, nature-themed crafts, and even a spot of minibeast hunting! It was a lovely day out, and the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring and learning in the great outdoors.

Back in the classroom, our Geography topic has taken us on a journey to the seaside. The children have loved learning all about seaside locations and comparing them to where we live. There has definitely been a lot of dreaming about upcoming summer holidays!

In Design and Technology, the children have become healthy snack designers! Inspired by the seaside, they explored tasty alternatives to the classic ice cream, including some delicious fruit kebabs. After some fun fruit taste testing, they created their own colourful and nutritious snacks – we were all very impressed with their creativity and enthusiasm.

PE this term has been full of energy and sunshine, as the children have enjoyed athletics sessions out on the school field. They worked hard to prepare for Sports Day and all their efforts paid off. Sports Day was a huge success, with every child showing fantastic team spirit, excellent behaviour, and a positive attitude – well done, Year One!

As we reflect on the year, it has been wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence and ability. They should all be very proud of their achievements.

We wish all our families a happy, restful, and sunny summer break – we look forward to seeing you again in August!



## Year 2

As we reach the end of the summer term, Year 2 have been as busy and enthusiastic as ever! One of the highlights of the past few weeks was our Sports Day, where the children showed fantastic team spirit, determination, and energy. There was plenty of cheering, smiling, and excitement—especially during the water race, which was a firm favourite with everyone!

In class, we have been exploring our final topic of the year: *Transport*. The children have really enjoyed learning about how different vehicles work and how transport has changed over time. To finish the topic, they used their creativity and problem-solving skills to design and build their very own vehicles—each one unique and brilliantly imaginative!

It has been a truly wonderful year. I hope the children leave Year 2 with a head full of knowledge, a heart full of happy memories, and a big sense of pride in everything they have achieved. Wishing all the children and their families a joyful, restful summer and all the best for the exciting adventure of Year 3!

## Year 3

Y3 have been busy learning all about biomes this half term. The children mapped the six different land biomes before focusing on three key biomes: the tundra, taiga and grasslands. They are able to explain the climate of each and the flora and fauna that live in the biomes. Finally, they decided which biome they would choose to make their home before making a diorama of their chosen biome landscape.

In D&T, the children have been learning about the Eatwell Guide. They have developed their skills in sandwich making, including peeling, chopping and grating different ingredients and planning a new and exciting sandwich filling. We are looking forward to an Y3 picnic where the children will plan and make their own food.

Sports Day was a great success with the children competing for their houses in a range of events including hurdles, sprint, distance run and relays. There was a great atmosphere – thank you for all of your support.



## Year 4

Year 4 have had an incredible half term exploring the fascinating world of Anglo-Saxon invaders. On our immersive topic day, the children learned to write using runes and were captivated by the epic tale of *Beowulf*, crafting character descriptions and diary entries from his perspective.

In Science, the children enthusiastically investigated states of matter, sharpening their enquiry skills through hands-on experiments. They also showed great teamwork and perseverance in PE, completing athletics and tennis units. Art lessons were filled with creativity as pupils explored different media to produce striking sculptures.

It's been a brilliant term for sport, with many children proudly representing the school in competitions. Sports Day was a great success, with pupils earning House points and celebrating their efforts.

As part of their transition, the children met their new teachers (well one new teacher) and explored next year's classrooms, building excitement for what's to come.



## Year 5

### What a Sports Day!

What a brilliant Sports Day we had! The children gave it their all, with huge smiles, great determination, and so much encouragement for one another. It was lovely to see such excellent teamwork and sportsmanship across the day. A big thank you to everyone who came along to cheer them on — your support means so much!

### Castle Rock Taster Trip

Our visit to Castle Rock was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience what secondary school might be like. They represented our school brilliantly, showing maturity, enthusiasm, and curiosity throughout the day. It was lovely to see them so engaged in their lessons — a great step towards their next chapter!

### Djembe Drumming

In music, the children have amazed us with their Djembe drumming skills. Despite having only a few lessons, they worked incredibly hard to keep rhythm and tempo together as a group. Their focus and effort really paid off — it's been a joy to listen to them play.

### Aspiring Architects

Our recent Art lessons have been nothing short of inspirational. The children have been learning all about architecture, developing their ideas through sketchwork, and designing some truly creative and thoughtful house designs. Their attention to detail and imaginative thinking has been fantastic to see



## Year 6

As the academic year draws to a close, it is hard to believe that our incredible Year 6 pupils have reached the end of their primary school journey. The final half term has been, without a doubt, the busiest and most memorable five and a half weeks of their time at Whitwick – packed full of excitement, laughter, reflection and achievement.

The curtain quite literally rose on this half term with rehearsals for our much-anticipated production, *Pirates of the Curry Bean*. From line learning and stage directions to pirate accents and costume changes, the children poured their energy and enthusiasm into every rehearsal. Their hard work culminated in a wonderful dress rehearsal performed to the whole school, followed by two show-stopping evening performances to proud families. The laughter, joy and pure talent on display reminded us all of how special this year group truly is.

Shortly after, we celebrated their many contributions to school life in our Final Rocket Assembly. It was a heartfelt moment to honour the dedication these pupils have shown throughout the year as librarians, Reading Pals, Playground Pals, members of the Worry-Less Team and Team Captains. Their sense of responsibility and commitment to the school community has not gone unnoticed and they should feel very proud of the impact they have made.

With just a few days left to prepare, Year 6 threw themselves into rehearsals for their Leavers' Assembly, highlighting their creativity, humour and many heartfelt memories. Yet just before the final performance, we whisked them away on a Surprise Trip to Twin Lakes – a well-deserved treat to celebrate all their hard work and an unforgettable way to say goodbye to their time at Whitwick.

They then stepped into their future for two transition days at their new secondary schools – a taste of what lies ahead and the beginning of their next big adventure. Finally, they returned to us for one last celebration: a beautiful Leavers' Assembly that moved many to tears, followed by a fun-filled, energetic Year 6 Disco to end it all with a bang.

We could not be prouder of this cohort. Throughout all the rehearsals, transitions, assemblies and events, they have shown maturity, kindness, resilience and spirit. They are truly outstanding children who have left a lasting mark on our school and we will miss them dearly.

To each and every one of you in Year 6 – thank you. Thank you for the joy you have brought to Whitwick, for the leadership you have shown and for the wonderful individuals you have become. We wish you all the very best as you take your next steps into secondary school and beyond.

Go forward with confidence, kindness and the knowledge that you are capable of great things.





# Sporting News

## Cricket Champions!

Well done to our Year 5–6 cricket team, who played brilliantly in the recent tournament held at Ibstock Cricket Club. The team showed outstanding skill and determination throughout the day and rewarded with a well-deserved win in the final against Donisthorpe Primary School.

Their success means they now progress to the Grand Final, where they will face Heather to decide who will go on to represent North West Leicestershire in the County Finals.

The players represented our school with pride and displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament. A huge well done to everyone involved.

## Netball Success at NWLSSP Tournament!

This half term, two of our fantastic Whitwick netball teams travelled to Ashby School to compete in the North West Leicestershire School Sports Partnership (NWLSSP) netball event. The pupils represented our school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day.



In the group stages, Team A remained unbeaten, winning all of their matches, while Team B performed incredibly well—winning two games, drawing one and losing just one. Both teams earned a well-deserved place in the quarter-finals, where they faced each other in a closely contested match. Team A progressed to the semi-finals and secured another victory to reach the Grand Final.

We are delighted to share that Team A will now compete against Willesley and Griffydam to decide who will go on to represent North West Leicestershire at the county final.

A huge well done to all the children who took part—we are extremely proud of your efforts and achievements.

## Netball Grand Final

A huge well done to our Year 5–6 netball team, who triumphed in the Grand Final against Willesley and Griffydam on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at Ashby School. Their skill, teamwork and determination shone through as they secured victory and earned the honour of representing North West Leicestershire in the County Championships at Loughborough University.

## Year 3-4 Girls' McDermott Shield

Well done to our Year 3–4 Girls' Football Team, who played their second pool match on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June against Hugglescote Primary School at Whitwick.

The girls showed fantastic spirit and determination throughout the match, playing with great teamwork and resilience against a very strong opponent. The final score was 4–2 in Hugglescote's favour but our team can be incredibly proud of their performance and positive attitude. Well done, girls – a great effort all round!





### **Year 5-6 Cricket Grand Final**

A huge well done to our Year 5–6 cricket team, who qualified for the Grand Final and took on Heather on Tuesday 10th June at Ashby Hastings Cricket Ground. The players showed excellent skill, spirit, and sportsmanship against a very competitive opponent. Although Heather won the match by 14 runs, we are immensely proud of our team's effort and determination. A big well done to Heather on their victory and best of luck to them at the County Championships!



### **Year 3–4 Girls' Football Team – McDermott Shield Champions!**

After a series of exciting matches against local schools, our Year 3–4 Girls' Football Team proudly represented Whitwick in the McDermott Shield tournament at Coalville F.C. In the final, on Wednesday 25th June, they faced a determined Broom Leys side. After a closely contested first half, Whitwick led 1–0. Showing great teamwork and confidence, the girls dominated the second half, scoring four more goals to secure a fantastic 5–1 victory! The team lifted the McDermott Shield with pride and we could not be prouder of their performance, attitude and determination throughout the tournament. A huge well done to all the players and a big thank you to the parents for your continued support!



### **Premier League Primary Stars**

A huge well done to our Year 5–6 mixed football team, who earned the honour of representing Leicester City FC at the Premier League Primary Stars event at Wolverhampton Wanderers' stadium on Wednesday 11th June. After qualifying through two tournaments earlier this year, the team showed tremendous spirit despite the early start, competing against Bournemouth, Brighton, Manchester United and Manchester City. While they did not progress beyond the group stage, the children enjoyed a fantastic experience and created memories to last a lifetime. A huge thank you to all the parents for your unwavering support throughout the journey, especially on match day at Wolves.



Well done to all the children who took part in the recent Saffron Lane Athletics competition. It was fantastic to see so many pupils proudly representing the school and giving their best. Every athlete demonstrated outstanding determination and perseverance throughout the event.

We were thrilled to return with two medals and even more pupils qualifying for their individual and relay finals—a brilliant achievement for all involved. It was a memorable experience, and we are already looking forward to next year's competition!

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### **Quad Kids Success!**

A huge well done to both our Quad Kids teams who represented us brilliantly at the NWLSSP events at Ashby School on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Our Year 3–4 team performed with energy and enthusiasm on Tuesday and our Year 5–6 team showed the same fantastic spirit on Wednesday. Out of ten competing schools, both teams secured the Bronze Medal —what an achievement! Thank you to all the children for your dedication and to the parents for your support.



### **Netball County Finals – Bronze Medal Success!**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, our Year 5-6 Netball Team proudly represented North West Leicestershire at the County Finals, held at the prestigious home of Loughborough Lightning at Loughborough University. After progressing through two tough qualifying tournaments, the team earned their place among the top 10 schools in Leicestershire. They performed brilliantly throughout the day, winning 3 out of 4 matches in their pool. Despite narrowly missing a place in the final by just one point, they went on to compete in the 3rd/4th place playoff. With determination and skill, the team secured an impressive 5–2 victory, earning a well-deserved Bronze Medal and finishing as the third-best netball team in the county! A huge well done to all the players for their teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship – we are incredibly proud of you. Thank you also to all the parents for your fantastic support throughout the competition.



### **Year 4–5 Football Team – Rose Bowl Finalists!**

Well done to our Year 4–5 Football Team who proudly represented Whitwick in the Rose Bowl Final against a strong Willesley Primary School side, played at Coalville Town F.C. on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. This marked the fourth consecutive year that Whitwick has reached the final—an outstanding achievement in itself! Willesley started strongly and took control in the first half, building a commanding lead. However, after the break, our team showed fantastic determination, resilience and spirit, battling until the final whistle. Despite finishing as runners-up, they should be incredibly proud of their efforts and progress throughout the season. A huge well done to the whole team for their commitment and teamwork over a great season.





## Uniform

In Preparation for the new academic year, 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**

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

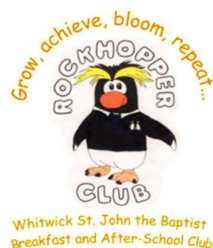
Please can we remind you that we are a nut and egg-free school due to children with allergies? Children **should not** be bringing anything into school that may contain any type of nut or egg. Anything that is brought in will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. This includes Nutella products. 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 2025-2026

### Summer Term

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

### Autumn Term

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

### Spring Term

|                |                                                                 |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Schools Open   | Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                            |
| Mid-Term Break | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 |
| Schools Close  | Friday 27 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026                              |

### Summer Term

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

