

Growing Today, Ready for Tomorrow

Headteacher: Mrs R Mobbs



Newsletter

Summer term 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Unbelievably, we have reached the end of another half term! Please have a read of the terms newsletter to find out what has (or hasn't been!) happening since May half term!



Whitchurch News

Goodbye

Sadly, we say Goodbye to Miss Rudolf, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Warner (works in our kitchen) today. We would like to thank them all for their hard work and commitment to the children of Whitchurch Combined School. Although Mrs Mitchell is retiring, we do hope to see her doing some supply teaching in school, next year!

Marvellous Monday

Thank you to all those parents that came into school on the 10th June for Marvellous Monday. We hope you enjoyed seeing your children in their classrooms with their books and showing you their learning!



House Point Winners!

Well done to Hartwell House, led by Sid and Florence for winning the House cup for 2023/2024. The children across the school have worked tirelessly to get dojos and house points to contribute to the scores – there was less than 100 house points between Hartwell and 4th place!



Parking

Thank you to those parents that have signed the 'Parking Pledge' on ParentMail. There are still some outstanding pledges however we have had nearly 100 families sign the pledge. We hope the stickers, which

have been given out in our Friday celebration assemblies, have found their way to you. Please put them in your car windows! We have plenty spare so if you are missing any, please see Mrs Berridge in the office for a spare! Here is Logan, Year 5, standing by our parking pledge banner outside school with his car sticker!



Whitchurch is 50!

Preparations for our 50th Anniversary are in full swing now! Please buy your tickets now using the QR code below or on ParentMail ready for our celebration extravaganza on Friday 13th September! We would like to thank **Signum Sign Studio** for providing us with the amazing banner outside school and on the Oving roundabout which **Ecom Fibre Networks** have installed for us!



School Events

There have been lots of exciting events for all classes and whole school events this half term too. Here are the highlights!

KS2 House Games

KS2 enjoyed a morning of Athletic Sports on the first Tuesday back of half term! They took part in long jump, javelin, shot put and football golf! Well done for all the children for taking part and for S4A for organising! Ascott House were the overall winners so well done to them!



Year 5 Cricket at Stewkley

Mrs Evans took nine Year 5 children to play cricket at a sunny Stewkley Cricket ground just after half term. The children learnt some new cricket skills including batting, bowling and fielding and then put these into practice against other schools.



Bikeability

During the week beginning 24th June, Years 5 and 6 were able to take part in Bikeability. The children brought their bikes into school and were taught about road safety. At the end of their training, the children then rode to Oving with the instructors. Luca (Year 5) said, "We learnt lots of things about major and minor roads, the importance of signalling while moving, who has priority on roads when cycling and we went to Oving to practise these skills on real life roads!" All of the children achieved their Level 2 Bikeability. Years 3 and 4 were able to practise their skills for Level 1 Bikeability after school on the playground. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the chance to ride their bikes safely and to learn how to be more aware when riding.



Year 6 'Summer of Fun' - Cadbury World, Go Ape, Ninja Warrior and the beach at West Wittering!

As part of their 'Summer of Fun' activities, Year 6 not only went to the beach in West Wittering on the South Coast, but had trips to Go Ape!, Cadbury World and Ninja Warrior UK in Milton Keynes. Rita and Lily, Year 6 had this to say about their days out: "These trips were incredible and for our last moments as a class these memories will stay with us forever. Our first trip to Cadbury World, was literally full of chocolate and full of great memories, especially when we went on the ride! It was so much fun! Our Second trip was to Go Ape! In Wendover Woods was a great experience too! We got to do the high ropes course and for some of us, overcome our fear of heights! Our third trip to to the Beach at West Wittering was fab too! We even got Magnum ice-creams from Mrs Hutton too!".



Year 6 Production – 'School-O-Vision' Song Contest

Wow! It was amazing! Well done to all of Year 6 for their production of 'Whitchurch School-O-Vision Song Contest'. The children spoke so clearly on the stage, looked brilliant in their costumes and made the audience laugh with lots of brilliant jokes! A huge thank

you to Mrs Hutton, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Forsythe and Mrs Sewter for putting the whole show together.



Year 6 Transition Games

The Year 6 children loved going to the Transition Sports Games at Waddesdon Secondary School earlier this term! The children took part in lots of activities with other local schools including dodgeball, cricket, bench ball, football, netball, long jump and relay. The children represented the Whitchurch fantastically well and all showed the school's values at all times!



Reception class - Oxford Museum

Reception had a great trip to the Museum of Natural History in Oxford. The children really enjoyed learning about insects from all over the world, how important insects are to us and all the interesting features they have. Hissing cockroaches were held by all children, which was a highlight! Exploring the museum and having a trip out on the coach has given the children such brilliant memories and really enhanced the enthusiasm they have for the topic they are learning.



Sports Morning KS2

The KS2 children all enjoyed an action-packed sports morning, despite the searing temperatures! The children completed sprint races, relay races, one lap runs and some fun games like tunnel ball, under/over and using team work skills to move a tennis ball from one end of the track to the finish point! Well done again, to Ascott who won the trophy for the team with the most points!



KS1 Sports Morning

On a much cooler day, Reception, Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a Round Robin of activities that showcased their sporting skills! Cricket stump throws, egg & spoon, sack races and some traditional sprints were enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Felix in Reception class for being a great photographer!



Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to cheer the children on both mornings!

New Reception Class Coffee Morning

On Wednesday 10th July, Mrs Fowler, Mrs Lawson and the Reception Team ran a 'Stay & Play' for the new children while the parents got to enjoy coffee and cake in the hall. Our new children were able to familiarise themselves with school and to have fun playing games. Thanks to everyone involved!

Hudnall Park – Year 3 Residential

Year 3 were so excited to go on their residential to Hudnall Park on 17th June. They were away for three sunny days and two exciting nights! The children had a great time and really enjoyed experiencing being away from home. They took part in a range of activities – from den building to team games and low ropes. Lots of the children said that their favourite activities were the unplanned ones, for example, seeing baby deer curled up alone in the grass and having free time to play with their friends after an early morning get up! Reflecting on what they had learnt at the end, children talked about how much more confident they felt, with several children feeling so proud that they could spend the night away from their parents.



Whipsnade Zoo – Year 1

Year 1 had a lovely day at the zoo and were very lucky to see a four-day-old giraffe, baby meerkats, the lion eating his lunch, and many animals as seen in the photos. The children enjoyed watching the otters playing in the water. They saw wallabies, deer, rhinos, horses, and camels during our ride on the steam train. Walking around the zoo they also saw zebras, hippos, waterbuck, and flamingos.

The children had a workshop learning about the different types of vertebrate animals. They then entered the aquarium and butterfly house to see which ones they could find.



Rectory Farm – Year 2

As part of their topic, Year 2 went to Rectory Farm Earlier this term. They had a tour around the farm and enjoyed picking their own. Despite the rain, the children all had a fantastic time and they all even came home

with a large punnet of strawberries each. George and Harriet said, "We were really loved picking the strawberries and trying them! They were the best ones we've ever tasted! We also got to taste some gooseberries, raspberries, blackcurrants and redcurrants too!"



Year 4 - Verulamium Museum

Year 4 had a brilliant end of term trip to the Verulamium in St Albans. The children undertook a workshop learning about Roman Artefacts from Roman Britain. They also had the chance to be an archaeologist! They then visited the famous Hypocaust just outside the Museum. Oscar said, "We had a really great time! The best part was looking at the mosaics. They were so big but all made with such tiny squares!" Erin said that it was great to see the real-life objects not just on a computer screen. She enjoyed picking up some old Roman forks and some old nail clippers, which was great!



The Whitchurch General Election!

On the 4th July Whitchurch Combined School took part in their own General Election that mirrored the one taking place across the UK. The children all got the opportunity to place a large 'X' and vote for either the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats or the Green Party. In the lead up to this, the children had been learning about the four main parties with visits from the three political parties. We thank Rob Butler (Conservatives); Laura Kykre-Smith (Labour) and Steve Lambert (Liberal Democrats) for coming to Whitchurch and telling us about their political parties, what they stand for and allowing your children to ask them some questions! The winning party at Whitchurch was the Liberal Democrats, closely followed by Labour with the Green Party in third place and the Conservatives in fourth place. Thank you to Mrs Carson for organising these wonderful opportunities for the children to learn first-hand about politics!



District Sports

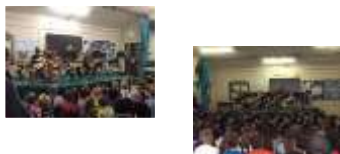
Mrs Hunt and Mrs Spring took a strong team of children to District Sports at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium on Monday 8th July. The children competed against 7 other schools all of a similar cohort size. We had numerous first and second places finishes but regardless of placing, ALL the children put in 110% effort. Thank you

to the parents for supporting their children too. I know Mrs Dallas, Chair of Governors, could barely speak by the end through all the cheering! So... as a result of this... we came in **1st Place!** What an amazing effort from absolutely everyone! With the Year 5 and 6 footballers winning as well this year, Whitchurch is turning into a sporting powerhouse!



Guitar Assembly with Mr Allen

The children showcased their brilliant guitar playing skills in an assembly on the 4th July with Mr Allen. The children have weekly lessons both individually and in small groups and it is safe to say we have some budding Ed Sheeran's! The children also have drum lessons with Mr Ottaway and Violins and Keyboards with Mr Hart. If you are interested in your child(ren) having Music lessons in school, please do speak to Mrs Berridge and she will give you the appropriate details.



James and Jack Manders Drumming Assembly

The children were also treated to a drumming and guitar masterclass from James Manders and his son Jack. Both the children and adults were rocking to 'Seven Nation Army' by the White Stripes! The children in Reception class especially loved 'rocking out'! If you are interested in your child learning the drums, please contact the office or visit James Manders' website directly! <https://www.drumsinschools.co.uk/enrolment-form/>

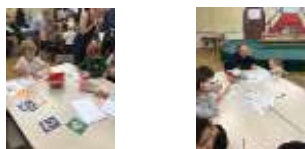


Neurodiversity Coffee Morning

On Monday 1st July we held a neurodiversity coffee afternoon for parents of children with ASD or ADHD or those seeking diagnosis. Unfortunately, the number of parents attending was very low. The parents who did attend are keen to set up a group to support each other, if you would be interested, please let Mrs Berridge in the school Office know and we will pass your details on.

Reception Mini Beast Madness!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Minibeast afternoon. The children really enjoyed sharing their songs they have learned to entertain their parents. It was so lovely to see everyone in full crafty flow. Such a great way to end one of our favourite topics.



Meet the Teacher

Thank you for attending your 'Meet the teacher' sessions earlier this term. As a reminder, here are the names of the class teachers for September:

Reception: Mrs Lawson (Mon/Tues) and Mrs Fowler (Wed/Thurs/Fri)
 Year 1: Mrs Compton
 Year 2: Ms Brown
 Year 3: Mrs Carson
 Year 4: Miss Sisk
 Year 5: Mr Soar (Mon/Tue/Wed) & Mrs Atkinson (Thurs/Fri)
 Year 6: Mrs Hutton (Mon-Thur) Mrs Bareham (Fri)
 PPA cover: Mrs Williams, Mrs Bareham and Mrs Hunt

Speech Competition

Year 4, 5 and 6 took part in the Speech Competition on Monday 22nd July. It was brilliant to see all the children perform so clearly and confidently. It was a very difficult decision to pick the winners but eventually we came to a decision. Well done to the following children for taking part: Annabelle, Erin, Otilie, Henryk & Tommi (Y4); Harriet, Isla-Jade, Rebecca, Austin & Arthur (Y5); Tanmaya, Lily, Isla & Orlando (Y6)
 Winner in Year 6 – Lily B
 Winner in Year 5 – Rebecca F
 Winners in Year 4 – Erin F
 Overall winner – Lily B



Awards

Governors Progress Awards

The Governor Progress Award is awarded to the child who has made excellent progress in Reading, Writing and Maths in the year group. The Governors presented the annual Governors Progress awards in assembly on Monday 22nd July. Each child received a certificate and the overall winner for each year group received a book token.

The winners were:

Reception: Reading – Advik, Writing – Layla, Maths – Siena

Overall winner: Siena

Year 1: Reading - Blake, Writing - Aron, Maths - Zaara

Overall winner: Aron

Year 2: Reading – May S, Writing - Florence, Maths – Felix

Overall winner: May S

Year 3: Reading – Jack L, Writing – Amelia M, Maths – Erin L

Overall winner: Erin

Year 4: Reading – Ethan, Writing – Jessie, Maths – Mikhail

Overall winner: Mikhail

Year 5: Reading – Teni, Writing – Tafara, Maths – Daniel

Overall winner: Tafara

Year 6: Reading – Maisie, Writing – Anya, Maths – Orlando

Overall winner: Anya



Lillian Price Award

Olivia A in Year 6 was awarded the Lillian Price award in recognition for her outstanding service to the school. Well done Olivia! A brilliant achievement.



Sport Award

The Sports Award given by Mrs Hunt has been another real tough decision to make! However, with all staff input, Mrs Hunt has chosen Florence and Orlando from Year 6! Florence has been a District Sports Stalwart! This year she participated in back-to-back 800m and relay races. She did both with a steely determination and smile! She has also represented the school brilliantly at Girls Football and numerous sporting festivals over the years. Orlando captained the victorious school football team this year and always showed great sportsmanship whenever he played. Like Florence, he has represented the school at lots of festivals and district sports events! Well done both!



The Simon Blore Award

This award is given to the child in each year group that has shown the Whitchurch values throughout the year.

Here are the winners:

Reception: Hermione

Year 1: Margot B

Year 2: Hannah F

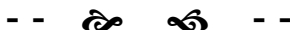
Year 3: Cole T

Year 4: Otilie J

Year 5: Immy W

Year 6: Alice W

Overall winner: Otilie



Leavers Assembly

Y6 Leaver Assembly was today at 9.00am. Year 6 parents joined us in the hall to share in their child's memories of Whitchurch. It was an emotional rollercoaster!

They are now gone off to Oving Hall in a bus for their celebration party and food! Have a lovely holiday and good luck in September.



Poetry competition

We held a school poetry competition earlier in the summer term. This was based on the poetry unit being taught in each class and so the style varied depending on the Year Group. The standard was very high and it was difficult for the class teachers to choose 5 poems from each class to put forward for the final judging. The winners were chosen by Mrs Janet Sampson (the Head of English at Aylesbury Grammar School and a former governor of our school). Here are the winners:

Reception: Finnian

Year 1 - Eliza

Year 2 - Felix
Year 3 - Jamie
Year 4 - Scott
Year 5 - Daniel
Year 6 - Jenna

Mrs Sampson chose the following children as exceptional winners - they each received a poetry book: Eliza, Jamie and Jenna.

Mrs Hutton gave a special award to Emily in Year 4 who has shown a particular enthusiasm for poetry this year.



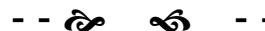
PTA Events

Summer Fayre

Wow, what an amazing afternoon again despite more inclement weather affecting the event. The hall was absolutely jam-packed with children and parents. The event was an amazing success and we raised **£1,763**.

A big thanks to Mrs Bowler and the PTA team for organising and all the parents/carers for coming and helping! Mrs Bowler and Mrs Patrick are sadly stepping down from their roles on the PTA as chair and finance officer this year. We thank them both for their many years of support to the PTA and school!

The PTA each year work incredibly hard to help school support the children and enable us to buy extra resources and enrichment activities for all children. We work together as a team to try to give the children exciting and fun experiences over the year. Please remember that the PTA are a small group of parents and they are all volunteers. It is really important that we all remember to say thank you for giving their time and their care to all our children at school. Without their support and your donations, the school would not be able to buy many of our resources. If you have any thoughts or concerns about the events planned, please contact the school office rather than using the WhatsApp groups. It would also be great to hear any positive feedback on the events planned by the PTA and school.



It has been a great jammed-packed year, full of many exciting opportunities. Thank you for all of your help and support; we really do appreciate it. We hope you have a lovely Summer holidays and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs R Mobbs and Mr M Soar

Here is a reminder of the dates for when we come back.

INSET	3/9/24 and 4/9/24
5th Sept	Children back to school

