

# Growing Today, Ready for Tomorrow

Headteacher: Mrs R Mobbs

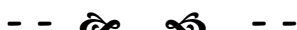


## Newsletter

October Half Term 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to first newsletter of the year. After a very wet September and October the Summer holidays seem a distant memory!



### The School Team

**Here is a list of the staff team for 2024-25:**

Reception teachers: Mrs Lawson (Mon & Tues) and Mrs Fowler (Wed, Thurs & Fri)

Reception teaching assistants: Mrs Little and Mrs Band (Tues – Thurs mornings)

Year 1 teacher: Mrs Compton

Year 1 teaching assistants: Mrs Perrett and Mrs Clarke

Year 2 teacher: Mrs Brown

Year 2 teaching assistants: Mrs Heron and Mrs Norder

Year 3 teacher: Mrs Carson

Year 3 teaching assistants: Mrs Cristofoli and Mrs Sewter (mornings)

Year 4 teacher: Miss Sisk

Year 4 teaching assistants: Mrs Spring, Mrs Rose and Mrs Band (Tues – Thurs afternoons)

Year 5 teacher: Mr Soar (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Atkinson (Thur & Fri)

Year 5 teaching assistant: Mrs Forsythe

Year 6 teacher: Mrs Hutton (Mon–Thur) & Mrs Bareham (Fri)

Year 6 teaching assistant: Mrs Evans and Mrs Brentnall

SENDCo: Mrs Williams

PPA cover: Mrs Bareham, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Williams

Secretary: Mrs Berridge

Bursar: Mrs George

Caretaker: Mr Little

Headteacher: Mrs Mobbs (Mon-Wed); Mr Soar (Thur & Friday)



### Whitchurch News

#### Whitchurch WAS 50!!!



### Afternoon Tea

What an event! We all had such an amazing time celebrating the school being on the North Marston Lane sight since 1974. In the afternoon we had afternoon tea with lots of previous students and staff visiting and reminiscing about days gone by! They all enjoyed a tour of the school as it is today in 2024 – thank you to our wonderful Year 6s who expertly showed our guests around!



### Live Music!

In the evening, we enjoyed a good old celebration with live music from local musician Ed Cusick. A fantastic time was had by all. A big thankyou to the WCSis50! Group who organised the event and to everyone else that supported, either with kind donations or simply volunteering their time to ensure the event went smoothly – here's to another 50 years!



### School Bell

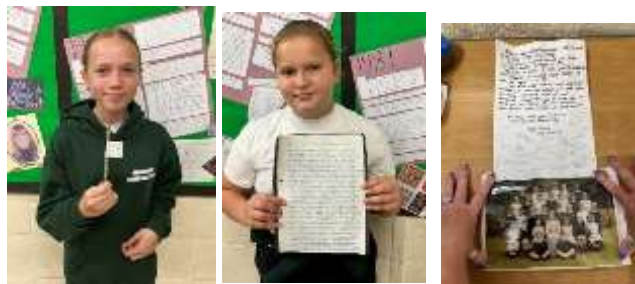
As a part of our celebrations, the school received a gift from the Parish Council. The old school bell was refurbished and housed in a brand-new location outside the KS1 classrooms. The bell now sits resplendent for future generations of children and staff to enjoy! Thank you to the Parish Council for organising all aspects of the renovation and installation! Here are our house captains proudly show off the bell!



### Time Capsule

Finally, we opened up a 'Time Capsule' from 1996 in one of our celebration assemblies and learnt about life all those years ago. Here is Isla-Jade with Abbi with a pencil and letter that we picked out. We also learnt about the Year 3 class that made the time capsule. Our

current Year 6s are currently in the process of making another time capsule ready to open in another 28 years!



### Thank you - Sponsorship

Due to our ever-expanding sporting offer at Whitchurch, local businesses **Hannon Builders**, **Vass Tech** and **John Dennis, Land Rover 4x4** have all kindly donated monies towards two new football kits, some cross country/athletics sports vests and some coats for teachers. We hope to have these ready to wear in the coming months. We thank the three companies for their extremely kind donations.

### Vision and values

Here is a reminder of our vision and values at school.

Our vision is:

**'Growing today, ready for tomorrow'**

Our five values are:

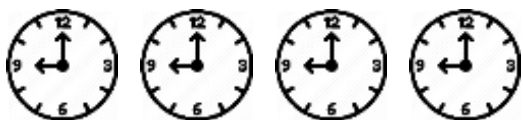
**Be kind**  
**Be respectful**  
**Be proud**  
**Be resilient**  
**Be curious**

Children have been working hard to learn the vision and the values. We have been discussing them in assemblies and PSHE lessons to help the children understand what they mean and how we show the values in school and lessons.



### Start and end of the School Day

The school day continues to start at **8:45am**. Please ensure you child is in school by this point. The black gate is open at **8:35am for Year 1–6** and the Reception classroom door is open from **8:35am** too. If you arrive **after 8:45am**, please sign your child in at the office. Children should not be signing themselves in. Should you be after **3:30pm** collecting, please go to the office where your child will be waiting. There is a charge for any child collected after this point. Please also ensure that you are parking considerately and not on the Zig-Zag lines outside the school. These provide vital access to the school in the event of an emergency.



### Uniform



Thank you for ensuring that your child is dressed well, ready for school.

A few reminders:

- Hair bands need to be in school green and long hair should be tied back.
- Hair gel should not be worn – the boys look great without it!
- If children have their ears pierced, they should wear small plain studs, not hoops or rings in their ears. For safety, earrings will need to be covered with tape if recently pierced or removed on PE days.
- As we move into the winter months, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately and has a coat in school with them. Boys will need to wear trousers instead of shorts.
- Hair that is long and below the chin should be tied back and out of the face.

The uniform guidance is on the website for your reference.

<https://www.whitchurchcombined.co.uk/uniform-information/>

Please remember to **label your child's clothes with their name**. We already have a huge amount of lost property in school, with no names on it.



### Open Days for Reception 2025

In the last couple of weeks, we have had a number of open morning, afternoon and evening sessions for prospective parents for our Reception class in September 2025. If you have a child born between 01/09/20 and 31/08/21 and missed the sessions, we would be happy to show you around. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment.



### Exciting opportunities

**Already this half term there has been lots of exciting events going on at school! Here are our highlights!**

#### Year 3 Chiltern Open Air Museum

Year 3 went to Chiltern Open Air Museum on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October. The children took part in a Stone Age workshop in the morning and an Iron Age workshop in the afternoon. Tristan said, "I loved using the sticks to throw like spears and hit the stretched-out animal skins which were like targets." Cassidy also said that she loved lighting fires using the flint and metal. She managed to do it after her 2<sup>nd</sup> go!



#### Year 1 Medieval Day

Year One have been learning about medieval times in their 'Turrets and Towers' topic. They have learnt about the parts of the knight's armour, George and the Dragon,

different parts of a castle, the role of the monarch and medieval banquets. For their medieval day the children dressed to the theme with some fantastic costumes including dragons, maids, knights and princesses. In the morning the children took part in fun activities in preparation for a medieval banquet. Before the banquet started Year One enjoyed taking part in some medieval dancing. The children all sat around one long table as they would have in medieval times and enjoyed a delicious banquet! Margot said, "The best bit about medieval day was the banquet. We tried some new foods which were really tasty! We also dressed up as medieval knights and did some activities like making place mats, castles out of 2D shapes and stained-glass windows!"



### Year 6 Imperial War Museum Trip

Year 6 had the exciting experience of not only going to the imperial War Museum in London, but travelling by train and underground to get there! The children met at Aylesbury Vale Parkway and travelled down to Marylebone train station where they caught the Bakerloo line to Lambeth North. A short walk later and they were at the Museum. The children learnt about World War I and took part in a Workshop where they got to go in the trenches and made a short documentary about the war. Logan said, "My favourite bit of the day was going on the train with my class mates and making the documentary at the museum!" The children also found time to visit the cenotaph and see Big Ben, the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament! Well done to Mrs Hutton, Mrs Evans and Mrs Brentnall for ensuring that the children had a great day!



### Year 6 National Art Gallery

Yesterday, in school, the Year 6 children had an online visit from the National Art Gallery. The children had a talk from a museum curator about how the paintings told the story of two Greek Myths they had studied in class. The session was done over 'Zoom' due to the ongoing refurbishment of the gallery in London. The children agreed that the session had deepened their understanding of Greek mythology – and had been great fun!

### Maths Workshops

Thank you to those parents, grandparents and adults that attended the Maths Mastery workshops at the end of September. The feedback from parents who attended was 100% positive and parents enjoyed the chance to

learn about how Maths is taught to your children. We are looking to run a 'Writing' workshop in the Spring term so please look out for the dates and pop along!



### Reception phonic meeting

Mrs Fowler was delighted to see lots of the Reception parents attend the phonic meeting. If you were unable to attend please speak to Mrs Fowler or Mrs Lawson for the information provided.



### Author visit

Through our link with Tring Bookshop, we have been lucky enough to have Adam Baron visit the school and tell us about his new book: Oscar's Lion! The KS2 children loved hearing about how he became an author and what inspires him to write! If you have some spare time at half term, please do visit 'Our Bookshop' in Tring. There are lots of amazing books in the shop and the staff, led by Ben Moorhouse, are really knowledgeable and will love talking to your children about the books they love reading!



### Harvest Assemblies

The Harvest Assembly for Key Stage 1 and Reception took place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, with the assembly for Key Stage 2 taking place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Thank you to everyone who made the time to come and watch. The children shared many ideas about harvest with us. Thank you for all your kind donations, which have been collected by the Aylesbury Vineyard (Food Bank.) Well done to the house captains for loading the tins into the crates and putting them in the van!



### Book Fair

The Book Fair was held during the week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> October. It was very busy and it was great to see so many children being enthusiastic about books and reading. We have raised a whopping £581 which will be spent on new class sets of reading books in school!



## KS2 Games

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, KS2 enjoyed a house games competition. They played games like end ball, football and dodgeball. After an action-packed morning, Ascott won the competition and received a trophy to celebrate. Luca, Year 6, said that he was proud of his team and that they did so well. He also said that dodgeball was his favourite activity as he is especially good at it!



## Football

Football is huge at Whitchurch!

Not only do we have the Year 6 Football team, but now we have a Year 5 football team competing in League Matches. Coupled with Mrs Spring's Whitchurch Kites and S4A's Thursday after school football club, Whitchurch is the only place to be for school football at the minute!

## Year 6

The Year 6s have played two games so far against St Louis in the cup and last Friday against North Marston. The Year 6s lost their cup game against St Louis 1-5, but won their league last week against North Marston 8-0 with hat-tricks from Logan and Harvey!

## Year 5

The Year 5s had their first game against Waddesdon last week and played a tough Year 6 team, they lost 8-0 but gained great experience. Well done to Max for being player of the match!

## Whitchurch Kites

The Whitchurch kites kicked off their season this week with 16 girls taking part. The score was 1-1 at half time, but the girls went on to lose 4-1. A great time was had by all.

All our Whitchurch football teams have shown great resilience and respect in all the matches we have played! A big thank you to the parents Mr Nicholls, Mr Hird and Mr Waite for all their help in making football happen for our children.

## School Council

The children in each class from Year 1 to Year 6 have voted for their School Council representatives for this year. They are:

- Year 1 - Margot and Roman
- Year 2 - Gracie and Sunny
- Year 3 - Harris, Sophie and Ava
- Year 4 - Roisin and Ethan
- Year 5 - Emily and Benny
- Year 6 - George T, Phoebe and Louis

## House Captains

All staff voted for the House Captains in Year 6 for this year.

Mentmore – Rebecca and Seb  
Claydon – Edie-Beau and Logan  
Ascott – Abigail and Luca  
Hartwell – Imogen and Arthur

## Peer Mentor Training

The Year 6 peer mentors have had their two sessions of training which enables you to be qualified for this role. This means that they can help younger children to solve problems when they are on the playground. They help find children other people to play with and organise games like tag. Faith-Lilac and Maisie said, "In our training we learnt about the importance of asking open questions to get more detailed responses from children so you can understand their point of view and how to help."

## Parents Evenings

Thank you to all those parents who joined us for Parents Evening this week. We hope the sessions were useful. If you have any questions or queries about anything, please talk to your class teacher.

## Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to those parents that joined us last Friday for the Macmillan Coffee afternoon. The house captains loved serving the delicious cakes made by staff! Thank you to Mrs George for organising the event and Mrs Forsythe and Mrs Evans for helping ensure the afternoon was enjoyed by all! **£132.40** was raised by the event! Thank you for attending and supporting the event!



## COME JOIN US!

We would like to invite you to visit your child and their classroom on the **25<sup>th</sup> November**. Please use this time to engage with your child and really get to know what they have been learning.

- **Marvellous Monday - YR – Y6 from 2:40pm**

Please come to the school office at the above time and Mrs Berridge will show you through to the classroom.



## The National College

Whitchurch Combined School continue to be signed up to a website called the National College which has lots of amazing resources to support yourself and your children online. There are also lots of practical guides for you as parents to help manage your children safely online. Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow: <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/whitchurch-combined-school> and complete your details. Once

you're set up, you'll be able to choose 'Parent/Carer' as your user type and get instant access to all training and resources.



### PTA Events

#### Cake sale

The Y1 and Y6 bake sale was a huge success on the 25<sup>th</sup> September raising £240! Lots of delicious cakes were bought and sold!

Some important dates for the diary!

- **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** – Mufti Day: Raffle prizes
- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** – PTA Bingo
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December** – Mufti Day tombola and **Christmas Fayre from 3:15pm – 5pm**
- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December** - PTA Christmas float in Whitchurch – from **5pm**.

More details to follow!

For further information on the PTA, and all the great work they do, please have a look at their page on the website.

<https://www.whitchurchcombined.co.uk/wcs-pta/>



#### Lunchtime rewards

We have continued this term with the golden tickets at Lunchtime. The golden ticket means the children receive a dojo and also the ticket is entered into a lucky draw on a Friday assembly. Four tickets are pulled each week and the winners can choose a prize from a special box. At the beginning of next half term, all the tickets will be put back into the box and 20 tickets will be pulled out in assembly. These children will join Mr Soar for a tea party after half term.



Thank you for all of your help and support this half term. We hope you have a lovely half term and we will see the children back at school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**.

Mrs R Mobbs and Mr M Soar

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

DATE	EVENT
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Break up for half term holiday
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Children back to school
6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	'Robin Hood' pantomime performance to children.

6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mufti-Day for PTA Raffle
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 5 Space Centre Trip
8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 6 Remembrance Assembly
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Reception Class 2025 Open Morning (10am -11am)
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Individual Class Photos
13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 3 Hudnall Park Residential meeting
14 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 1 Warwick Castle
15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Year 2 Hazard Alley
18 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Safety Week
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Governor Day
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Flu Vaccination Clinic
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Marvellous Monday
29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	PTA Bingo Night
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	PTA Mufti Day - Tombola
6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Fayre 3:15pm - 5.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 1 Production - Evening
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Key Stage 1 Production - Evening
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception Class Christmas Performance (am)
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 House Singing Competition
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reception/ Key Stage 1 Christmas parties
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Concert
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 3 and 4 Christmas parties
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christingle Service
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Year 5 and 6 Christmas parties pm
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Last day of term
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	INSET DAY - NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Children return to school

