

Growing Today, Ready for Tomorrow

Headteacher: Mrs R Mobbs



Newsletter

Easter April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the Easter newsletter. This is definitely one of the busiest half terms we have ever had! From Book and Science Weeks to multiple sporting events, we've had it all! Read on to find out more!



Whitchurch News

Whitchurch Combined School and our work in the Community

As part of our work this year in school, we have been looking at developing our work with the community of Whitchurch. We would love to develop our relationship with the village and local businesses and explore how the community could be part of a child's journey through school.

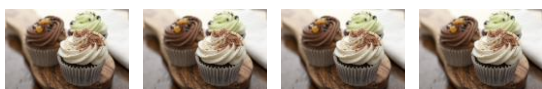
We now have seven local businesses on board. They will be talking to children in assembly in May, during our 'Independence and Work' week, to give the children an understanding of work/careers and how they benefit the community. The businesses are also hosting work experience for our Year 6 pupils in June.

If you read this and are interested in being involved, please contact the school office on 01296 641418. We look forward to hopefully working with you in the future to help bring our community together and to work in partnership to shape our children to become responsible, successful adults and help our children by 'Growing Today, Ready for Tomorrow' – our school motto.

Whitchurch PTA

We would like to thank all the members of our PTA for all their hard work and time throughout the school term. Please contact the school if you could spare time to help our wonderful team who do so much for the children of the school

Thank you also to the PTA for organising the Year 2 and 5 Cake sale last Friday. There were lots of delicious treats and cakes to enjoy!



PTA Disco

Reception/KS1 and KS2 Discos! **Wednesday 7th May**. More details to follow after Easter!

PTA Bingo

We have another bingo night planned in for the evening of **Friday 9th May!** Please save the date!

A big 'Thank you!'

We would like to say a huge thank you to **Hannon's Builders, John Dennis Land Rover** and **Vass Tech**, for sponsoring and providing new Athletics vests and football kits for the children. The new running vests were proudly debuted at the Ascott Cross Country event and the football kits are now at the printers. We would also like to thank Mrs Dallas, Chair of Governors, for securing the sponsorship and Mrs Hunt and Mrs Spring for organising the kit.



Mrs Lear – Geography Assembly - KS2

A big thank you to Mrs Lear who came into school earlier in the term to talk to the KS2 children about her passion for Geography. Mrs Lear, who has children, at Whitchurch is also a Geography teacher at our local secondary school Sir Thomas Fremantle School in Winslow. She explained how amazing geography is and explained everything from tornadoes to migration. The children asked lots of fascinating questions and I know Mrs Lear was impressed with the knowledge the KS2 children shared with her during the assembly.

Parking Buddies

As a school, we are always looking at ways to improve road safety and parking outside the school! The addition of parking buddies will serve as a strong visual reminder for everyone to park more considerately, helping to keep the area around the school safer for children. A big thank you to **Mrs Law** for organising them and **Montage Marketing Agency, The PTA, Cousins Garage, Hampden Equine, Oving Logs** and **The White Swan Pub** for sponsoring the buddies! Here is Eliza, Annabelle, Jessie, Hannah and Rebecca with the new parking buddies outside school ready for after the Easter break!



Parents' Evening

We held parents' evenings on Monday and Wednesday of this week. It was great to see so many parents and guardians attending their sessions.



Easter Egg Raffle

The Easter Egg raffle was once again a huge success. We had over 130 eggs donated. Thank you to Stanley (Y1) whose Nan who works in Tesco and donated lots of Eggs; everyone that donated an egg and Mrs Berridge and Mrs George for organising the raffle! There were lots of happy children in assembly this morning! In total, the children raised £467 from the sale of raffle tickets. This is a huge amount of money to go to the Alzheimer's Society. Amazing!



Year 6 SATS

All Year 6 children across the country will be completing their SATs tests in the week of **Monday 12th May**.

Our Year 6 children have been working hard all year to consolidate their skills and knowledge and to take on board the Year 6 National Curriculum.

The SAT tests are used to evaluate your child's educational progress at the end of years 6 and also identify if they need additional support in a certain area. Mrs Hutton and Mrs Bareham will make sure all the Year 6 children are prepared for the tests. Please support your child by making sure they eat well and get an early night so that they are ready to do their best.



Please make sure that your child is in school and on time this week. If your child is ill, please phone Mrs Mobbs as soon as possible to talk through arrangements.

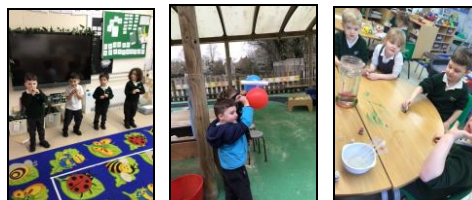
To help keep the children relaxed, we are holding a SATs breakfast from **8.15am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** mornings of the week of 12th May. The children last year loved having breakfast with their friends and really enjoying chilling out before the tests started. A letter with more information about the breakfast will follow from Mrs Hutton.



Exciting opportunities

Science Week

During the week of 10th March, the school celebrated Science Week, each class took part in a variety of activities along the theme of 'change and adapt' and 'wow science'. Each year we take part in Science Week to engage and inspire the children's interests in science. Feedback from children last year was that they love the hands-on science activities and those wow moments we have in science such a potion-making which is why we aimed to include more of this again this year. Here are some photos from reception class enjoying their science week experiments!



Year 1 British Motor Museum

Year One have been studying vehicles in their topic 'All Aboard' and took a trip to the British Motor Museum. They looked at the very first cars and noted the differences between those and the cars we have today.

The class had a materials and movement workshop in connection with Year One's science topic materials. In the workshop, the children learned about the importance of friction. Working together in groups the children created cars using Lego and tested these on different surfaces. Throughout the tour of the museum, the guides discussed the different materials each of the cars was made from. Roman, in Year 1, said, "My best bit was when we went in an old police car. We were all squashed in the back when we went around some roundabouts!" He also said that they all enjoyed going on a bus that was over 100 years old! Sounds like great fun!



Year 4 Rivers Trip

Year 4 had an exciting and educational trip to the River & Rowing Museum in Henley. The day was filled with hands-on learning and outdoor exploration, helping the children deepen their understanding of rivers and the natural environment.

At the museum, they explored different aspects of the River Thames, learning about its locations and significance. They also looked at the effects of erosion, discovering how water shapes the landscape over time. The children then investigated animal habitats, spotting signs of wildlife and discussing how different creatures rely on the river for food and shelter.

After their time inside the museum, the class walked down to the lock and weir, where they observed how water levels are controlled and how boats pass through. This was a fascinating part of the trip, as they could see the river in action and understand the importance of these structures.

The children also had the chance to step into the world of *The Wind in the Willows*, exploring the story's connections to the river. They enjoyed looking at the charming exhibits that brought the adventures of Mole, Ratty, and Toad to life. Jamie and Freiya, in Year 4, said, "We went on a boat down the River Thames, under an arch bridge and saw a large lock that we went through. The boat trip was great fun! We even saw a real-life crane!" They also saw to a real life estuary and enjoyed learning about the famous *Wind of the Willows* book which based at Henley-on-Thames.



Book Week

Whitchurch enjoyed another fantastic 'Book Week' during the week of the 3rd March. On the Wednesday the whole school enjoyed their Round Robin activities where they took part in space-related activities. The children wrote space poems, space biscuits and read a variety of space-themed books! To end the week, the children enjoyed a dress-up day and a 'Snuggle up with a book' session, where the older KS2 children 'buddied-up' with younger KS1/Reception children, found a space in the school and enjoyed reading together! There were some fabulous costumes too.



Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Day

Yesterday the children in Year 5 enjoyed a brilliant enrichment day from the company 'History off the Page' to consolidate and further their knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons. The children used quills and parchment to write letters to King Alfred the Great, made cross pendants, undertook some weaving and completed some role play with bow and arrows. In the afternoon they completed an archaeological dig searching for some real-life Anglo-Saxon artefacts. A big thank you to Mrs Venn, Mrs Wilson, Ms Rice, Mrs Webster and Mrs Day for helping out on the day!



Space Workshop – Reception class

On Monday 24th March Reception Class were treated to a visit from Peter Bassett and his travelling Astronomy Roadshow! The children went into a huge, black dome and learnt about star constellations and how Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon. The children gazed in awe and wonder at the amazing show! They then got to hold some different types of rock, including some moon rock! James and Eddie, our resident Reception class Space Experts, said, "The best part was when we saw the aliens in the dome and when we got to lie on your backs and see all the stars and meteors exploding to Star Wars Music! So cool!"



Year 3 Roald Dahl Trip

Year 3 enjoyed a trip to Great Missenden to find out all about Roald Dahl's life. In the morning they explored the galleries in the museum and the children learnt all about editing in a really engaging workshop. In the afternoon we went on a walk around Great Missenden and saw places that Roald Dahl loved and that inspired his writing as well as visiting his grave. Emily and Haider said, "The museum was great fun. We learnt that Roald Dahl wrote on yellow paper and used really sharp pencils when he wrote! We also found out that Roald Dahl was a fighter pilot in the RAF but crashed his plane. After his accident he wrote adult books and then finally children's books!" Emily also enjoyed sitting in writing chair which had a hole to help his bad back!



Year 6 Bletchley Park

Year 6 had a very enjoyable trip to Bletchley Park to support their topic on D Day. Whilst there, the children had the opportunity to decode Morse Code messages, type a message on an enigma machine, discover more about the events leading up to D-Day and learn about the important work carried out at Bletchley Park during the war years. Abi said, "We learnt about how all the Bletchley Park employees all lived in secret on site so as not to share secrets with any potential enemies. The best part was seeing the huge library in the manor which contained lots of history about WW2. We also got to see the Enigma machine and learnt how it was operated – very complicated!"



Easter 'Craft'ernoon – Reception Class

This afternoon, our Reception class took part in a Craft Easter afternoon. It was great to see so many of our Reception parents in school to help their children create their Easter crafts. The children completed a range of fun activities including Easter cards, painting and chalks. They all had a fantastic time! Thank you to Mrs Fowler and the Reception team for organising this end of term treat!

Sport at Whitchurch



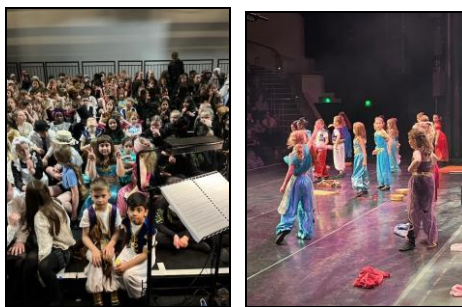
KS2 House Sports Competition

On Tuesday 18th March S4A held a KS2 House rounders competition. The children competed in their houses playing a rounders game. The children enjoyed a sunny morning on the field where the eventual winners were Hartwell. Well done to all who participated and to the S4A team for organising!



Year 3 Energize

Year 3 finally completed their Energize Performances this term after months of preparation from Mrs Carson, Mrs Guttridge and the Year 3 team. They enjoyed performances at the Wycombe Swan on Thursday 20th March and on Saturday 22nd March. Mrs Carson was especially proud of the children on both occasions as there was lots of waiting round before they performed! Here they are the evening of the 22nd March singing and dancing in a full auditorium! Ollie and Ava's favourite memory of Energize was when they did the dance, 'The sounds of the Souk' in front of a whole theatre twice! They couldn't believe there was over 500 watching them!"



Football

All the boys and girls completed their football matches this half term.

The **Year 6 Boys** team played Swanbourne at home just before half term, losing 2-4 with both goals from Logan; High Ash at home where they got a creditable 2-2 draw, with goals from Austin and Harvey. They concluded their fixtures by playing a tough Newton Longville team away. They lost 6-1, despite a great team goal from Harvey.



The **Year 5 boys** have been brilliant too this term. They secured their first win against Quainton with a 1-0 victory and had some narrow defeats to Brill (2-1) and Oakley (1-3). All the boys played brilliantly and their heads never dropped despite playing some bigger, more physical year 6 teams!

Thank you to Mrs Spring for the following words about the Whitchurch Kites!

The world of Whitchurch Kites has certainly been a very busy one with our much-anticipated league games finally getting underway.

Whitchurch: 1-1 Swanbourne. Goal by Mollie
Whitchurch 1- 0 Newton Longville. Goal by Mollie
St Michael's 8 – 0 Whitchurch
Whitchurch 0 - 2 Quainton

The girls have produced fabulous performances with some lovely passing moves, bundles of enthusiasm, grit, determination and importantly smiles. I couldn't be prouder of them. Apart from St. Michael's the other games could easily have been wins. Well done all.

Along with Years 3 and 4, they have also had a six-week block with Wycombe Wanderers so thank you to them and Kelly for this, teaching them lots of extra skills.

Mr Soar very kindly arranged a game against Wingrave Wasps which was a great display of sportsmanship and teamwork. Huge credit goes to Wingrave with their six players and no subs who put up a super fight but the Kites came out 2 - 0 winners with one from Mollie and it's was so lovely to see all of Jessie's hard work pay off with her first goal for school. Thank you Mr Soar.

You have all been a super credit to school and should be so proud of all you have achieved this season with huge improvements in your play and those happy smiles. One more friendly to go on the last day of term!

Huge thanks also to Mr Hird for being our referee but also your super support and encouragement to me and the girls. We are so grateful and appreciative to you and your time you give up for us. A huge thanks also to Mrs Evans for being there for us as ever to deal with any bumps and bruises.

Finally, a huge thanks to you as parents for your support to me and the girls from the sidelines. Encouraging them in their football and all the transporting arrangements amongst you that mean the girls can play, which I know can be difficult.



Cross Country at Ascott House – Saturday 15th March

Here is Mr Lamb’s Cross-Country Report – a big thank you to him, Mrs Hunt and Mrs Spring for expertly training and preparing our runners this year!

‘I just wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for allowing me the privilege of coaching the school cross-country team this season. It has truly been an honour to work with such a fantastic group of young athletes, and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

Sport has always played a huge role in my life, ever since I first started running at the age of eight. Running, in particular, is the foundation of so many sports—it requires nothing more than a pair of shoes and the willingness to get out there and give it a go. Whether it’s setting off straight from home, running with friends, or training with a club, the beauty of running is its simplicity and inclusivity.

I must admit, I had a rather ambitious vision before we started our Monday lunchtime training sessions - something akin to the disciplined warm-ups of the Ethiopian running squad! However, reality quickly set in, and I soon found that coaching a group of enthusiastic young runners was more like herding cats than training elite athletes. But from day one, the goal was simple: have fun and finish with a smile. Winning was never the priority; effort, enjoyment, and personal improvement were what mattered most.

It was brilliant to see more and more children voluntarily giving up their Monday lunchtimes to join in, demonstrating real commitment. As the group grew, and with only around 20 minutes per session, I floated the idea of Saturday morning training to Mrs. Hunt, thinking we might get a handful of keen runners. To my delight, we regularly had around 15 runners turning up each week—motivated not just by the training, but also, perhaps, by the promise of biscuits at the end!

Parents, younger siblings, and older siblings all got involved, and these sessions became a fantastic community event. Rain, shine, and plenty of mud—we tackled it all together, preparing for race day. And what a race day it was!

Year 3/4 Girls ran superbly, with Year 4’s Anvitaa and Amber finishing in the top 10. The Year 3 girls—Cassidy, Elsie, Sophie, Harriet, and Florence—put in a fantastic effort, with special mention to those four who stepped up to run again in the Year 5/6 girls’ race,

without hesitation. That level of spirit and determination is what cross-country is all about!

Year 3/4 Boys saw Alessio showcase his talent, which he had been hinting at during training, and he went on to win the race! A brilliant achievement. Cole, Ethan M, Jamie, Jack, and our Year 3 debutants—Guy, Harris, George, Felix, Oliver, and Max—all put in great performances.

Year 5/6 Girls gave us another thrilling race, with Annabelle and Mollie neck and neck toward the finish. Bella ran strongly, and once again, our fearless Year 3 girls—Cassidy, Elsie, Sophie, and Harriet—took on the challenge of a second race.

Year 5/6 Boys faced stiff competition from some very strong county runners, but Harvey still placed in the top 10 with an excellent performance. Austin, Oscar, Noah, Scott, Henry, Stanley, and Lewis all gave it their all, showing great determination.

The best part of the day? The smiles. No matter where they finished, every child took part and found their own personal victories, and that’s what really counts.

Lastly, I want to give a special mention to Florence from Year 3, my Coach’s Athlete of the Season. Cross-country isn’t just about winning - it’s about perseverance, commitment, and progress. Week in, week out, Florence turned up, put in the effort, and made the most improvement. A huge well done to her!

Special thanks to Rosalie and Farmer Paul for the use of their land and to also to Felix Gregory for his enthusiasm in starting each run rep off.

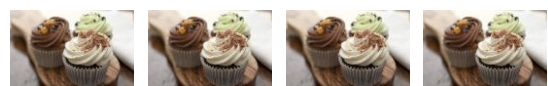
And finally, a massive thank you to all the parents, teachers, and children for making this such a brilliant experience. Your support and enthusiasm have been incredible. I’m already looking forward to next year!’

John Lamb



PTA Events

Thank you to the PTA for organising the Year 2 and 5 Cake sale last Friday. There were lots of delicious treats and cakes to enjoy!



Pupil of the Week

Well done to all the children who have been Pupil of the week this half term!



Thank you for your support over this half term. It has been a busy half term and the children have been involved in many exciting activities.

Don't forget the children start back to school on **Wednesday 23rd April 2025**. We hope you have a lovely Easter and a restful holiday.

Mrs R Mobbs and Mr M Soar

Dates

22/4/25	INSET
23/4/25	Children return to school
28/4/25	Year 5 PGL (all week)
6/5/25	Class Photos
7/5/25	PTA Discos R/KS1 & KS2
9/5/25	PTA Bingo
12/5/25	Year 6 SATS
19/5/25	Independence and Jobs Week
20/5/25	KS2 House Games
23/5/25	Break Up for Half Term
2/6/25	INSET DAY
3/6/25	RETURN TO SCHOOL

