

Whitchurch C of E Primary School

School Matters

30/01/26

Dear Parents,

We have continued to discuss our school value of *Respect* this week. As part of this, we have been thinking about how we show respect for adults, particularly our parents. We have encouraged the children to reflect on all that their parents do for them, and how they can show gratitude—one important way being through consistently respectful behaviour. Please do talk to your children about this at home. We have challenged them to:

- Say **please** and **thank you**
- **Listen** when they are being spoken to and follow instructions
- **Help** at home – including tidying up around the house
- And, my favourite suggestion from a Year R child: give parents **lots of hugs**

I would also like to remind all parents about our commitment to the *Smartphone-Free Childhood* initiative. Currently, children in Year 6 may bring a smartphone but are not permitted to use it during the school day, and Year 5 may bring a brick phone. All mobile phones must be switched off and handed to a member of the Year 5/6 staff before morning register; they will ensure the phones are kept safely in the school office.

From September 2026, **no children will be allowed to bring smartphones to school.**

Additionally, children are **not permitted** to wear smartwatches that can make or receive calls, play games, or record images or audio. Any smartphones in Year 5 or smartwatches in any year group will be confiscated, taken to the school office for safekeeping, and parents will be contacted.

You will also have received our latest online safety newsletter, which includes useful information about AI and social media—particularly TikTok. This is especially timely given recent news that the House of Lords has backed a proposal to ban under-16s in the UK from social media platforms.

Sport Update: We are very proud of the children who took part in a variety of sporting events this week, including an athletics tournament and a football match. Please see the attached separate report from Mr Gutwin.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a lovely weekend.



Mr D Ware
Headteacher



Key Dates

New dates in yellow

Next Week– Lunches Week 2

KS2 hot dog Fridays – the first Friday in school of every month

Tue 3 February – Papaya Online Parent Talk about Tech Use (see details on our website under Parents/Letters)

W/B 9 February – Y1-6 Book Looks

Thu 12 February – Year 3 Fishbourne

Thu 12 February – FOWPS Disco

W/B 23 February – Parent Consultations

Thu 26 February – Papaya Online Parent Talk about Tech Use (see details on our website under Parents/Letters)

Fri 27 February – Second Hand Uniform Sale 3.30pm Small Hall

Thu 5 March – World Book Day

Fri 17 April – Year 1 Jungle Jonathan visiting

Thu 14 May – Year 5 theatre visit

Thu 21 May – FOWPS Disco

Friday 22 May – Inset day

Wed 10 June – Sports Day

Thu 11 June – Year 6 Natural History Museum

Mon 15-Wed 17 June – Year 4 Ufton Court

Thu 18 June – Class and group photos

Tue 23 June – Year 6 Winchester Cathedral

Tue 30 June – Year 5 Taster Day at Testbourne

Wed 1 July – Reserve Sports Day

Mon 13 July – Year 6 Testbourne Transition Day

[School holiday dates | Education and learning | Hampshire County Council](#)

Please remember to email replies@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk with your choice of book look times (letter on our website and emailed to you).

Parent consultation appointments (week beginning 23 February) will be ready to book some time next week. More details to be emailed.

Celebration

Year R Stars of the Week

Pelicans

Friday – Jacob
Monday – Emilia
Tuesday – Arwen
Wednesday – Harrison
Thursday – Mason

Puffins

Friday – JJ
Monday – Zara
Tuesday – Tommy
Wednesday – Grace
Thursday – Cillian

Lead Learners

Seahorses – Felix
Turtles – Evie
Dolphins – Orion
Seals – George
Jaguars – Cody
Leopards – Theo
Pumas – Theo
Tigers – Stepan
Doves – Amelie D
Kingfishers – Skylar-Mae
Falcons – Heather
Kestrels – Calum

Roll of Honour

Leopards - Olive
Doves - Kylo
Kingfishers – Esme H
Falcons - Isla

Focus – Year I

The Year I children have really enjoyed being back at Forest School this half term. The weather has certainly been a challenge after having Forest School in the Summer Term last year! Despite the rainfall, the children have had an amazing time exploring and playing in the forest area. They have challenged themselves on the swings, rope ladder and slack line - working on their core strength. They have also enjoyed role playing in the mud kitchen and making fishing rods with sticks, string and circles of wood cut with the saw.



Dear God,

Thank You for those who care for us at home and at school. We are grateful for their guidance and love. Help us to listen, to learn, and to show respect through our words and actions. May we bring joy to those who look after us every day. Amen.

House Points



House Point winners this week are Endeavour, well done children!

Athletics

Twelve enthusiastic Year 6 pupils travelled to the Basingstoke Indoor Athletics Competition on Tuesday, where they faced nine other schools across a wide range of events including sprints, long jump, triple jump, javelin, chest push and speed bounce. Whitchurch shone particularly brightly on the track, placing among the top three schools in the running events and showing real determination and teamwork throughout. Despite coming up against some fierce competition, the children gave their all in every discipline and ultimately secured a respectable 7th-place finish. Most importantly, they approached the day with brilliant attitudes, supported one another, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience from start to finish. Well done to Rowan, Imogen, Christie, Holly, Flo, Imogen, Alex S, Alex K, Danny, Caelan, Jack, Caelan and Robbie.

Football

Whitchurch played the next round of the Year 5 and 6 Andover Football League against Pilgrims' Cross, and the match turned into a thrilling, end-to-end contest packed with goals. Pilgrims' Cross made a rapid start, finding the net within the opening minutes, but Whitchurch responded brilliantly, regaining their composure and striking twice in quick succession to showcase real character and resilience. The game remained evenly balanced for long spells, with both teams creating chances and working hard across the pitch. In the end, Pilgrims' Cross proved more clinical in front of goal and edged the win, but the Whitchurch players should feel incredibly proud of their performance and teamwork. A big well done to Kylo, Reuben, Evan, Barney, Michael, Ryan, Louie and Edward for representing the school so brilliantly.

Online Safety Parent/Carer Presentation

Below is the link to a recording and presentation of the Parent/Carer session that took place this week:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QowoWygNbNrPm8Rc1ai1O-xfgDPGJ_YB?usp=sharing

There is also a copy of the video on their website for those who would prefer to watch it via a browser or share this link:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-parent-carer-session-january-2026/>



Whitchurch CofE Primary School recognises that the welfare of the child is paramount and takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children and young people in its care. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr David Ware and the Deputy DSLs are Mrs Michelle Dunwell, Mr David May and Mrs Emma Cooke. The Designated Safeguarding Leads can be contacted through the school office on 01256 892755 or email to adminoffice@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk marked for the attention of one of the safeguarding leads.



School Fundraising with FOWPS

FOWPS Spring School Disco – buy your tickets and request a tune!

Tickets for the next FOWPS School Disco on Thursday 12 February are on sale for just £3 per child at

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-hampshire/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=111092>

You have the option to confirm where you are happy for your child to purchase face painting when you buy a disco ticket.

NEW THIS TERM when you buy a ticket, you can also request a song to be added to the disco playlist. We'll do our best to play as many of those tunes as we can, although the DJ may not have capacity for them all.

If you are able to spare an hour or two to help us with running the disco, that link is also the place to sign up to help make the disco magic happen! Your support will help create a great event for the children.

Don't forget as well that 2025/26 academic year FOWPS tea towels are available to pre-order now for delivery later this term at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/fowps-hampshire/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=110484> There are two versions available, one with all KS1 classes and one with all KS2 classes.

More Info

If you can regularly donate or match fund, please see more details on our **HOW TO DONATE PAGE**. Find out more at our website www.fowpswhitchurch.co.uk or follow FOWPS on Facebook or sign up for updates on the FOWPS channel on WhatsApp. You can also email us at admin@fowpswhitchurch.co.uk

sports Xtra **Feb half term camp!**

Join us for a week of sport, team building games and fun!

16 - 20 FEB 2026 (9-4)

Lifestyle Fitness Basingstoke (Everest)

HAF places are available

Tennis Dance

Football Cricket

Shelter Building

All of our staff/coaches have Enhanced DBS, Emergency First Aid, Safeguarding and Sports Coaching Qualifications and will make sure the children have fun packed days with their friends!



 @sportsxtrabasingstoke on social media 