

Whitchurch C of E Primary School

School Matters

22/05/26

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week in worship we have been exploring Ascension and Pentecost - significant dates celebrated in Christian calendar when Jesus ascended to heaven, and when the holy spirit returned to the disciples. We encouraged the children to think about what gives them strength and courage – what or who supports them when things are tough – just like the Holy Spirit does for Christians.

It has been a busy final week of this half term. With some of the main highlights being our Year 1 Ugly Bug Ball, a group of Key Stage One children representing the school at the Longparish Multi Sports event, and finally the FOWPS discos last night. I am sure your children all came home exhausted.

It is this time of year we begin finalising plans for September. We have a few staff changes to announce at this stage. Mrs Pearson, who has been off on maternity leave for the last year, will not be returning, instead choosing to explore other career path opportunities. Mrs Bhundia, is relocating to teach overseas, a fantastic and exciting opportunity for her and her family. However, we are pleased to announce two new teachers joining the team in September - Miss Badham and Mrs Nash. Mrs Meade will also be taking on a new role as Phase Leader and Phonics lead – following Mrs Bhundia's departure.

With only one-half term to go, we will inform you as soon as possible about classes, and teacher allocations for September. No final decisions have been made yet, and we will begin this discussion after half term, as well as considering whether it is in the best interest of the children to mix up the classes for their year group in September. I would like to clarify a little about the purpose of friendship audits. Our friendship audits provide an opportunity for the children talk to us about their friendships in class / across the year group. We carry out friendship audits once a term to help us to support wellbeing and give us a better understanding of children's friendships. This is not about children selecting who they want to be in a class with next year. When organising classes, there are a number of factors that are taken into account to ensure the correct balance. Our aim is to create classes where all children feel happy, secure and ready to learn, with a good mix of personalities, abilities and supportive peer relationships.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely half term holiday.



Mr D Ware
Headteacher



Key Dates

New dates in yellow

After half term – Lunches Week 3

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

Wed 3 June – Bags of Hope viewings – 3.30-4.00pm

Thu 4 June – Year 3 walk into town (a.m.)

Fri 5 June – Year R art exhibition for parents – 2pm

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

Thu 18 June – Year 1-6 Book Looks 3.45-7.00pm

Tue 23 June – Year 6 Winchester Cathedral

Wed 24 June – Whole School All Hallows visit – Helpers needed

Thu 25 June – Concert for music lesson children – 6pm

Fri 26 June – Year R Wellington Country Park trip

Tue 30 June – Year 5 Taster Day at Testbourne

Wed 1 July – Reserve Sports Day

Mon 6 July – Meet the teacher (3.45-4.45 – 2 sessions)

Sat 11 July – Parish Fete at the school

Mon 13 July – Year 6 Testbourne Transition Day

Mon 13-Wed 15 July – Year 5 swimming

Wed 15 July - Year 6 production (2pm)

Thu 16 July - Year 6 production (6pm)

Mon 20 July – Year 6 Leavers service (All Hallows) – a.m.

Tue 1 September – INSET Day

Wed 2 September – INSET Day

Fri 2 October – INSET Day

Fri 12 February 27 – INSET Day

Fri 28 May 27 – INSET Day

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

Phase Leader and SEN Contacts

EYFS Lead - Mrs Wersby - YearR@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk

KS1 Lead – Mrs Bhundia - Year1and2@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk

LKS2 Lead – Mrs Glynn - Year3and4@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk

UKS2 Lead – Mr Rutledge - Year5and6@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk

AHT Inclusion Lead – Mr May - Senco@whitchurch.hants.sch.uk

Celebration

Year R Stars of the Week

Pelicans

Friday – Mason
Monday – Jaydon
Tuesday – George
Wednesday – Ophelia
Thursday – Marcey

Puffins

Friday – Fleur
Monday – Reuben
Tuesday – Arietta
Wednesday – Lyra
Thursday – Aria

Lead Learners

Seahorses – Isobel
Turtles – Ronnie
Dolphins – Lulu
Seals – Eliza
Jaguars – Phoebe
Leopards – Clemmy
Pumas – Dorothy
Tigers – Lila
Doves – Evan
Kingfishers – Esme H
Falcons – Toby
Kestrels – Christa

Roll of Honour

Seahorses – Thea
Seals – Cora and Lily
Jaguars – Freddie
Tigers – Stepan
Kingfishers – Rowan

House Points

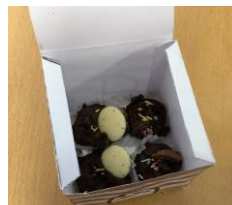


House Point winners this week are Endurance, well done children!

Focus – Year 6

Last week in Year 6, we completed our DT project by making delicious chocolate truffles. At the start of the unit, the children researched the history of chocolate and learned about the importance of Fairtrade Foundation and ethical trading. They also enjoyed tasting different types of chocolate, comparing the characteristics and flavours of each one.

To finish the project, the children followed and adapted a recipe to create their own unique chocolate truffles. They showed great creativity and enthusiasm throughout the process, and it is safe to say that all of the truffles looked absolutely delicious!



KSI Sports Festival

This week, Mrs Bhundia took twelve Year 2 children to take part in a multi sports event held at Longparish CE Primary school. During this pirate themed event, children took part in target throwing, mini golf, indo boarding, axe throwing and relay races. The children had a fabulous time and represented our school brilliantly. We thank the hosts for putting on this event and well done to all the children who tried their best!



School Fundraising with FOWPS

Thank you from FOWPS

What an action-packed few days it has been for FOWPS!

Last Friday we ran our termly second hand uniform sale, and it was more popular than ever. As a result, the team would welcome donations of dresses (winter and summer) as well as more cardigans and jumpers. Thank you!

On Sunday, the new Whitchurch 5K saw the streets of the town resonating to very quick footsteps with dozens of adults completing the full race around the local countryside and children of all ages entering the fun run on the school field. Congratulations to Mr Rutledge as the overall winner and we were especially delighted to see Mr Ware, Mr May and Miss Anna take part as well. We'd love to see even more parents, teachers and those from the school community and beyond taking part next year!

Finally, at the time of writing the rave at the school disco is in full swing! The FOWPS team would like to thank all those who bought tickets and of course all of the children for giving it large on the dancefloor.

These events couldn't have come together without the help of a small army of volunteers, and huge thanks to all of you who took part in the run or gave up your time to help it go smoothly, and for all the help at the school disco. Don't forget, you can always go to the FOWPS website <https://fowpswhitchurch.co.uk> to see what's happening and how you can get involved, and we have a WhatsApp channel for volunteers [HERE](#). Even an hour or two would be great please!

Have a great half term, from the FOWPS team – your PTA.



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.

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of Pentecost and for the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with courage, joy, and peace. Help us to share your love in our school, our homes, and our community. Guide us to be kind, generous, and faithful in all that we do, and let your light shine through us each day. Amen.


Whitchurch Open Air Theatre 2026 returns with a fantastic 3 day programme of high quality family rural touring theatre: Friday 24th to Sunday 26th July.

Tickets are a steal at £4 each, thanks to hard won grant funding 😊

The venue is the riverside Fulling Mill watermeadow in Whitchurch. Programme below and trailers on each page. The 2026 programme includes:

- Astro Norma and the Cosmic Piano by Fladam Theatre — a fun-filled space adventure for children packed with awesome aliens, rib-tickling robots, and interplanetary puppets aged 3–10 (55 minutes) Book tickets here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/whitchurchconservationgroup/2107331>
- Books! by Tit for Tat Circus — a high energy performance featuring acrobatics, fire-juggling, eccentric absurdity, terrible puns and, of course, books for ages 6–11 (35 minutes) Book tickets here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/whitchurchconservationgroup/2107374>
- The Wizard and The Mechanic by Adventure Arts Theatre — an epic tale of magic, mayhem, and unlikely friendship for children aged 5–11 (60 minutes) Book tickets here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/whitchurchconservationgroup/2107389>

Fairytale Crafts
at Whitchurch Library
Wednesday 27th May at 2pm



£2 per child
Tickets at shop.hants.gov.uk

Sport In Mind



Sport & Games - for Youth Mental Wellbeing

FREE!

Time Wednesdays at 4-5pm (Ages 10-14)
Term-time session

Venue Sports Hall, Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

Description Fun, free and interactive session to enjoy different games & activities and help improve the mental wellbeing of young people. A great way to help build confidence and self-esteem and meet new people!

This group is provided **FREE** by mental health charity Sport In Mind for the benefit of local young people. Any questions email youth@sportinmind.org

www.sportinmind.org | info@sportinmind.org | www.sportinmind.org | 03300231400

Working in partnership with **NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare** NHS Foundation Trust

supported by **Basingstoke and Deane**

Paper Pots & Paper Flowers:
Half-term making fun

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

Thursday 28 May
10.30 - 12.30

Display your creation at the Mill during the Flower Festival!



BOOKINGS: whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk
info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk
Charity no: 900621

Screentime and Tech!
2 different webinars for parents from Basingstoke and Deane Schools

Worried about your child's screen use?
Not sure how much screen time is healthy?
Want practical ideas to help manage screens at home?

Basingstoke schools are once again working with PapayaTalks to fund two free online sessions for parents, focusing on children's screen use

These interactive talks are:

- Free to attend
- Suitable for KS1 and KS2 parents – you can choose to attend both!
- Full of practical, realistic advice you can use at home

The talks will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams. Register below!

<p>Year R & KS1 Tuesday June 9th - 8-9pm With Dr Susie Davies <i>How to Get the Balance Right with Screens from the Start.</i> Register on Eventbrite here!</p> <p>The webinar will: Explore the role of play in children's development and well-being. Examine how children's screen time is affecting play and childhood experiences. Offer practical ideas and realistic solutions to help families find a healthy balance with screens.</p>	<p>KS2 Tuesday June 16th - 8-9pm With Kate Meager <i>Let's Talk About Our Kids and their Tech</i> Register on Eventbrite here!</p> <p>The webinar will: The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online Strategies for delaying the smartphone Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology Question and discussion time</p>
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Freddie

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