



Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Spring Term 2 Newsletter



Head teacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the spring term, it has been lovely to take a moment to look back and celebrate all the fantastic things happening across our school. There has been such a buzz of learning, and I have really enjoyed chatting with the children about what they have been upto. Their knowledge, curiosity and love of learning never fail to impress me!

This half term, we have been thinking about the value of **Joy**—and what a joyful few weeks it has been! The children have explored what joy means to them and how they can spread it to others. They have come up with some wonderful ideas and have really embraced the challenge of bringing smiles to those around them.

It has also been great to see **Penguin Power** in action across the school—whether in classrooms, in the hall or outside during PE or even in the forest. The children are showing just how much our vision and approach to learning is helping them grow in confidence and resilience.

A special shout-out to our Year 2 children, who went on their first residential trip. They returned full of stories, smiles and pride in what they would achieved—such a big step in their journey towards independence. Year 1 also wowed us with their fantastic Easter play—so much energy, talent and effort went into it, and it really paid off. And of course, our EYFS children sang their hearts out in the Easter sing-along, bringing smiles all round and reminding us just how joyful this time of year can be.

Looking ahead, we will be reopening on **Monday, 28th April** for both staff and children. We are excited for the summer term—it is always full of opportunities and special moments, and we cannot wait to get started.

Finally, thank you—as always—for your continued support. Working together makes such a difference, and it is a real privilege to be part of this school community. I hope the Easter break brings you some well-deserved rest, time with loved ones, and maybe even a bit of sunshine!

Mrs Noon

Pre-School

This term, our preschoolers have been having a blast learning all about growing and caring for plants, as well as how to keep ourselves healthy! We've recently planted turnips, strawberries, and potatoes in our brand-new vegetable patch, and the children are excited to watch them grow.

Along with our gardening adventures, we've been moving our bodies in lots of different ways to explore forces, and we've been enjoying the sunshine while learning about shapes and patterns through fun outdoor play. To top it off, we celebrated with a delicious Eid feast, where everyone shared in the joy and tasty treats.

It's been a term full of learning, sunshine, and laughter!



Reception

This term in EYFS has been filled with excitement, discovery, and hands-on learning! Our young explorers have been fully immersed in our fascinating dinosaur topic, where they have uncovered the mysteries of the prehistoric world. Through engaging stories and interactive play, the children have enjoyed learning about different dinosaur species, their habitats, and even what they might have eaten. Fossil hunting, dinosaur role-play, and exciting activities have brought this topic to life in an unforgettable way!

Adding to the excitement, we have also had some very special visitors in our classroom – chicks! The children were thrilled to witness the incredible process of eggs hatching right before their eyes. Observing the tiny chicks take their first steps and learning how to care for them has been a truly magical experience. This hands-on learning opportunity has sparked wonderful discussions about life cycles, growth, and responsibility.



Year 1

Year 1 delighted us all with their fantastic Easter production, *A Day at the Farm*. The children brought the stage to life with confident speaking, expressive acting, and a selection of joyful songs that had everyone smiling along with them.



It was a real treat to see just how much their confidence has grown since our last performance. From clear voices to cheerful faces, their enthusiasm shone through every moment. The catchy farmyard songs, sung with great energy and big smiles, truly captured the spirit of Easter on the farm.

A huge well done to all of Year 1—we're so proud of you!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a busy and exciting few weeks! In English, the children have been retelling the story of *Tad*, linking to our current topic "If you go down to the woods today. They used rich vocabulary and storytelling skills to bring the tale to life. In Art, the children have had lots of fun exploring clay, creating their own imaginative models inspired by the work of Rachel Whiteread. We also enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to Beau Manor, where the children made lifelong memories. It was wonderful to see them so happy, enthusiastic, and independent—the experience has clearly boosted their confidence.



Year 3

This term has been a busy one, we have learnt about where our food comes from, fair trade and how to reduce our carbon footprints in our topic From Field to Fork. We then started our new topic on the Romans, learning about the expansion of the Roman Empire to Britain, life as a Celt and the lasting impact of the Romans on Leicester. We have become designers in art, carried out several investigations in Science, learnt how to play Badminton and have even started to learn our songs for Vocal Ease! Our latest adventure in Year three has been the Easter Experience at St John the Baptist Church. The children visited six stations of the Easter story, starting with Palm Sunday all the way through to the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. They had interactive sessions at each of the stations led by different members of the church. Pupils showed not only their understanding of the Easter story but also their ability to think deeply about this special time of year for Christians. We have been using this knowledge to create mini-plays for our Easter activity. Well done for another brilliant term.... We cannot wait to continue our year three journey next term!



Year 4

This half-term, Year 4 completed Topic 4, *Explosive Planet Earth*, which they really enjoyed. They have now moved on to a new geography topic, *Oceans, Seas and Rivers*, using their geographical skills to explore water systems around the world. A highlight of the term was the collaborative event at the leisure centre, where Year 4 children learned valuable life skills alongside their peers from other local schools. They explored important topics such as CPR, bandaging, asthma awareness, making 999 calls, the recovery position, choking response and water safety. It was a wonderful hands-on learning experience and we were so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children were. Well done Year 4!



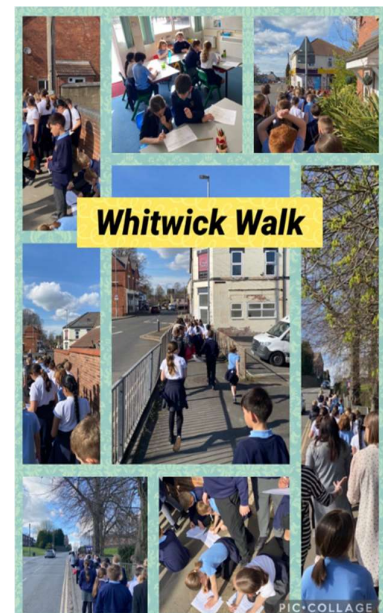
Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning!

Busy Whitwick – To kick off our new topic, we went on a **Whitwick Walk**, where we carried out a **traffic survey** and explored how to use **six-figure grid references** to read maps. The children did a great job applying their geography skills to the real world!

Storytelling in English – We have been working on the story of **Fowler's Yard**, and the children have amazed us with their creative storytelling. Through drama and writing, they have brought the story to life with fantastic descriptions and engaging narratives.

PE – Badminton Skills – In PE, we have been focusing on **serving in badminton**, learning how to gain an **advantage** in a game. The children's accuracy and technique have been improving every session!
1940s Dance – Our **1940s dance** is coming together brilliantly! The children have been working hard on rhythm and teamwork, and we can't wait to see the final performance.



Year 6

The children have been working extremely hard this term, developing their understanding of the lives of children during the Victorian era to produce informative and detailed reports. They have a great understanding of how hard life was for many children at the time and how different was compared to lives of most children today.

They were also fantastic during Mock SATs week, where they settled well to a different routine and demonstrated that they were ready for their next steps! During the term, we also had Djembe performances to each other, a chilled morning in a wonderful book café on World Book Day and enjoyed more time out in Forest Schools!



Sporting News

Whitwick Badminton Club
At Whitwick & Coalville Leisure Centre

ABOUT US
After school badminton sessions have been running for over 30 years with our highly experienced Badminton England qualified coaches.
Learn new skills & Techniques.
We welcome all levels & abilities.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

4pm - 5pm / 8 - 11 yrs.
Primary school children

5pm - 6pm / 12 - 14 yrs.

6pm - 7pm / 14 yrs +

COST
£2.50 per session

Whitwick & Coalville LC
01530 812235

North West Leicestershire District Badminton Association

Badminton rackets are available to hire at recreation

For more information, please email: info@whitwickbadmintonclub.co.uk

everyone ACTIVE

Tony Moore Girls' Football Final – Wednesday 9th April at Coalville Town FC

Our girls' football team put in a fantastic effort at the **Tony Moore Girls' Football Final** held at **Coalville Town FC**. After a brilliant run in the competition—topping their group and winning both their quarterfinal and semi-final matches—the team earned their place in the final, where they faced a strong Willesley side.

Willesley got off to a fast start, scoring early and setting the pace for the first half. Despite our team's determination, the opponents found the net twice more before the break. The second half saw our girls settle in and hold their ground much more confidently, showing real resilience and teamwork. The final whistle confirmed a 3–0 victory for Willesley, but our team can be incredibly proud of how far they have come.



Year 5-6 Girls' Tony Moore Football Semi-final Match v Broom Leys

On Monday 24th March, our Year 5-6 girls' football team won their Tony Moore semi-final match! The team played at home against Broom Leys after their fantastic quarter-final victory earlier in the term. It was an exciting match, with our opponents controlling much of the first half. At half-time, the score remained 0-0, but after the break, Whitwick gained more possession and created several goal-scoring chances. With just eight minutes to go, Whitwick scored from a well-taken corner and held on to secure the win! 🏆 We now look forward to the final at Coalville Town FC, and we could not be prouder of our team's effort and determination.



Football v Hill Top Year 4-5 Rose Bowl Pool Match

On Tuesday 26th March, our Year 4-5 Rose Bowl football team secured their first victory in the pool stage against Hill Top! In their first away match, they played exceptionally well, showing resilience and effort throughout. They came away with an impressive 5-0 win, and we look forward to their next home match against Sir John Moore next week! Well done, team!

Jackie Williamson Annual Tennis Event

Well done to our Year 5-6 tennis team! They competed in the annual Jackie Williamson Shield tennis event today against Holy Cross School. The event featured doubles matches, with overall points added up to determine the winners. The matches were closely contested, with some fantastic rallies! A huge thank you to Holy Cross for their attendance. At the event, Whitwick St John scored 245 against Holy Cross's 203! Awards were also presented to a member of each team who displayed great sportsmanship. Well done, team!



Year 3-4 Girls McDermott Shield Football Match v Broom Leys

On Friday 28th March, our Year 3-4 girls' McDermott football team played their first match against Broom Leys Primary School. The team showed great enthusiasm, enjoyed testing their skills, and came away with a fantastic 4-0 win! We are incredibly proud of their teamwork and effort—well done, girls!



Premier League Stars Competition

On Monday 10th March, our Year 5-6 girls' football team proudly represented Leicester City at the Premier League Stars event in Derby. After progressing through two previous events, the team performed exceptionally well at this prestigious competition. During the pool matches, they secured one win and drew three games, conceding no goals. Although they missed out on reaching the semi-finals by just one point, their excellent play and outstanding sportsmanship were evident throughout the tournament. In addition to the exciting matches, the team had the unique opportunity to see and learn about the Premier League trophy up close. They also enjoyed an engaging session with the England Lionesses' analyst coach, gaining valuable insights into the game, which further inspired the players. We are extremely proud of the girls for their hard work, determination, and team spirit.



Year 4-5 Rose Bowl Pool Football Match v New Swannington

On Thursday 6th March, our Year 4-5 Rose Bowl team played their first pool match at home against New Swannington Primary School. It was a competitive game against a strong team, and our players showed fantastic determination and effort throughout. Despite their hard work and some great teamwork, the match ended in a narrow 2-1 loss. We are incredibly proud of their resilience and sportsmanship.

NWLSSP Excel and Development Event – Year 3-4 Quick Sticks Hockey

On Thursday 13th March, our four Year 3-4 hockey teams participated in the NWLSSP competition at Castle Rock School. The children's attitude and effort were fantastic, especially in the cold conditions. Their outstanding sportsmanship towards the other schools was recognised with two Spirit of the Games Awards. This was particularly special as most of the children were representing the school for the first time.



Year 4-5 Rose Bowl Pool Football Match v Sir John Moore

On Friday 4th April, our Year 4-5 Rose Bowl football team played their third and final pool match at home against Sir John Moore.

Knowing that a win could see them finish as runners-up and possibly progress to the next stage of the tournament, the team showed great effort and determination throughout the game.

We are delighted to share that they secured a well-earned win – well done, team! Fingers crossed as we now wait to hear whether they have made it through to the knock-out stages!



NWLSSP Y5/6 Quick Sticks hockey tournament

Our Year 5 and 6 teams were very lucky with the weather, in our second tournament in as many weeks this time for our Year 5 and 6 children. There was a buzz in the air and a determined smiles on the faces of all the players, as the pool competitions took place. Looking out for each other, both teams encouraged the other when they were on a break, showing true Whitwick SJ spirit. With some great games against strong competition, both teams qualified for the quarter-finals with one team progressing to go through to the final. Due to some delays in the day, the final was booked to play on a different day. The final this year consisted of a 3-way round robin, with Whitwick vs Woodstone playing first. We then played the winners of the Ashby tournament and came out triumphant!

This result means our winning team is now representing NW Leicestershire in the area championship that is being held 1 June. Go team Whitwick!



Kirby Shield Mixed Final – Wednesday 9th April at Coalville Town FC

After a strong semi-final performance, our mixed team advanced to the **Kirby Shield Final**, where they faced Willesley at **Coalville Town FC**.

Whitwick got off to a flying start, dominating early possession and territory. The team played with great intensity, testing the Willesley goalkeeper on multiple occasions with a series of high-tempo attacks. Their pressure was finally rewarded when they converted a well-placed free kick from outside the box, giving Whitwick a deserved lead. The team maintained their dominance throughout the first half, creating several more chances and keeping Willesley on the back foot right up to the break.

The second half saw more of the same, with Whitwick continuing to control possession and create chances. It looked as though the game was all but won—until a dramatic final few minutes turned the match on its head. With just three minutes to go, Willesley broke away and scored an equaliser. As Whitwick pushed forward in search of the winner they truly deserved, Willesley struck again with just a minute left on the clock. The final whistle confirmed a **2–1 defeat**, but the team's effort, attitude, and quality throughout the tournament have been outstanding.





Uniform

As we move into the warmer months, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school uniform expectations. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that all our pupils come to school dressed appropriately and ready to learn.

Our current school uniform is as follows:

- **Navy cardigan or jumper** with the **school logo**
- **Black or grey trousers** (not tracksuit bottoms) or a **skirt/ / pinafore dress**
- **White or blue polo shirt** (no logo required)
- **Black shoes or trainers** with **minimal logos**

As the weather improves, pupils are welcome to wear **blue and white chequered summer dresses or jumpsuits**, in keeping with our school colours.

Please ensure that **all uniform items are clearly named**, so that any lost items can be quickly returned.

Wearing the correct uniform helps promote a **sense of belonging** and ensures that all our pupils feel part of the school community. Thank you for helping us maintain these high standards.

Safeguarding

Protection Children is everyone's business!!

At Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School, we understand the utmost importance of having robust systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare. All our staff and volunteers are vigilant and alert to any potential concerns about our pupils. We have a comprehensive safeguarding and child protection policy, which is available upon request from the school office.

If you have any concerns, please speak to the head teacher. We will treat your concern seriously and with the utmost care.

Parking

Please remember to park only in legal parking spots and to respect and adhere to all posted no-parking zones. Your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment around our school is greatly appreciated. Let us work together to ensure the safety of all our students and families.



We would kindly like to remind everyone to drive and park safely and considerately when dropping off or picking up children from school. Unfortunately, we have seen and heard reports of some dangerous and inconsiderate parking and manoeuvres.

The safety of our children is always our top priority, so please ensure you are parking appropriately and driving with care around the school.

How Can You Help?

- Park further away and walk to school
- Keep your speed down
- Park in a safe place following the Highway Code.
- Do not park on pavements
- Turn your engine off as soon as you have parked
- Keep the school gates clear at all times - stopping here, even to drop off your child for a short period of time, is dangerous
- Do not enter the school car park unless authorised to do so
- Do not block local residents' drives
- Leave the middle of the road free, with enough room for other road users to easily pass through
- Leave enough room for emergency vehicles to easily pass through
- Make sure your child leaves and enters your vehicle safely to and from the pavement
- Check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a car door
- Take care when reversing
- Remember - it only takes one vehicle to be parked inconsiderately for there to be an impact on accessibility to emergency services or others. Do not be that one.

Further to the notice sent on WEDUC on 23/01/25. Please note that parking violations can be reported through the following link. <https://www.leics.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/driving-vehicles-traffic/report-illegal-parking/> Thank you to those drivers who put the safety of our pupils first

Free School Meals

If you think, you may be entitled to free school meals, please claim these by contacting the following number: 0116 3055417 or visit <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/free-school-meals> .



It is particularly important for parents of children in EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2 to register, even if your child is already receiving a free hot meal. Registering will enable the school to access funding for your child every year while they remain in primary school. They are not obliged to have a hot meal every day. This funding will help provide valuable support for your child.

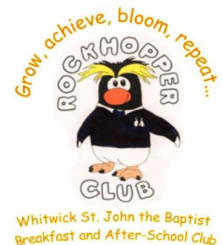
Nut and Egg-Free School

Please can we remind you that we are a nut and egg-free school due to children with allergies? Children **should not** be bringing anything into school that may contain any type of nut or egg. Anything that is brought in will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. This includes Nutella products. Your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for all students is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your understanding and support.



‘Rockhopper’ Breakfast and After School Club

If you require a space in our breakfast or after-school club, we kindly remind you to book via ParentPay. For any inquiries, please contact Miss Steadman on Weduc or phone 07704 144227 or the school office 01530 832116.





Term Dates

Spring Term

Schools Open	Tuesday 7 th January 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st February 2025
Schools Close	Friday 11 th April 2025

Summer Term

Schools Open	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day	Monday 5 th May 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 26 th May - Friday 30 th May 2025
Schools Close	Wednesday 9 th July 2025

2025-2026

Autumn Term

Bank Holiday	Monday 25 th August 2025
Schools Open	Tuesday 26 th August 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 20 th - Friday 24 th October 2025
Schools Close	Friday 19 th December 2025

Spring Term

Schools Open	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 16 th - Friday 20 rd February 2026
Schools Close	Friday 27 nd March 2026

Summer Term

Schools Open	Monday 13 th April 2026
May Day	Monday 4 th May 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May 2026
Schools Close	Wednesday 8 th July 2026