



Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Summer 1 2026

Newsletter

Head teacher



As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, it is lovely to reflect on all that the children have achieved over the past few weeks. There has been lots of exciting learning taking place across the school, with children continuing to show enthusiasm, curiosity and pride in their work. From residential to family assemblies to

Our collective worship values this half term have been **Tolerance** and, more recently, **Wisdom**. The children are developing a really strong understanding of these values, which is clear in the thoughtful answers and reflections they share during worship and in class discussions.

A special mention must go to Year 6, who approached SATs week with great determination and resilience. We are incredibly proud of them. In fact, all of our pupils continue to be a pleasure to teach and are fantastic ambassadors for our school. Their **Penguin Power** has been evident throughout the half term as they have tried new things, supported one another and celebrated their successes.

We are also very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff team, who take the time to build strong relationships with the children and help create such a positive atmosphere around school.

We wish all our families a happy and restful half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 1st June**.

Mrs Noon

Preschool

This term in Preschool we have been immersing ourselves in the wonderful world of animals! From creatures great and small, the children have explored habitats, textures, movement and imaginative patterns through a range of exciting hands-on experiences and creative activities.

Our learning journey has been brought to life through art, as the children used their imaginations to create unique patterns and designs during a special visit from a talented local artist.

Together, the artist and children created a beautiful collaborative masterpiece, celebrating the children's creativity and imagination. We were also thrilled to welcome a parent and their pet chickens into Preschool, giving the children a fantastic opportunity to learn up close about caring for animals and life on the farm.

Alongside our animal adventures, we've been busy keeping active thanks to funding from NWL Let's Get Moving. The children have loved taking part in energetic street dance sessions with Lil Beatz and movement classes with Kimbles, helping us build confidence, coordination and lots of smiles along the way!



EYFS

What a fantastic start we had to our new topic this term! We explored stories through the wonderful book *The Smeds and The Smoos*, and the children fully immersed themselves in their learning adventures.



In our outdoor area, the children travelled to space, creating colourful planets through junk modelling and building impressive spaceships using the large construction equipment. Their imaginations truly soared!



Inside the classroom, the children focused hard on their sentence writing and worked enthusiastically during maths sessions, where they learned all about rotating shapes.

We also had an incredible day during our farm visit! The children had an amazing time exploring and learning in the great outdoors.

We started the trip with lots of fun in the soft play area, where the children climbed, slid and burned off lots of energy. Afterwards, we all sat together to enjoy our lunch, which was such a lovely social time.



In the afternoon, we met lots of friendly animals. The children gently petted and fed the goats and sheep and were very excited to see the horse and cow up close.

One of the highlights of the day was visiting the chicks. The children sang to them so sweetly and were even lucky enough to bring an egg back home!

Year 1



On Wednesday 6th May Year 1 went on a trip to the Yew Tree Trail. Once we arrived we met up with our friends from the local collaborative schools and got into groups for a day of outdoor activities.

The morning consisted of two activities before a lunch break and a play on the field with our friends. One more activity followed before a coach ride back to school. We got the opportunity to take part in lots of interesting activities like minibeast hunting, nature crafts, outdoor games and nature walks. We had such a good time, the sun shone and we learnt lots of new things. Some of us even saw some trees that had been struck by lightning.

Year 2

Year 2 Residential Magic at Beaumanor Hall.

What an amazing couple of days we had. Beaumanor was just brilliant — the perfect place for our Year 2s to show some true Penguin Power. The children were absolute stars. So much resilience, so much kindness, and so much looking out for each other. They were the epitome of growing, achieving, blooming... and repeating all trip long.



Our sincere thanks go to our wonderful staff team for giving up their own time with their families to make this experience possible: Mrs Halom, Mr Smedley, Mrs Prime, Miss Steadman, Mrs Cockeram, Miss Rouse and Mr Radcliffe. Thank you so much.

And to our parents, thank you for trusting us with your little people and allowing them to take this big first step. We know for some children it was their first experience away from home and they were just wonderful.

It's been an absolute pleasure to be part of their first residential. So many memories made... Year 1, you are in for such a treat next year!

Year 3

This term, Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed diving into our exciting topic: *The Romans*. The children have shown great enthusiasm for learning about the powerful Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. They were particularly fascinated by the invasions led by Julius Caesar and Emperor Claudius, exploring how and why the Romans came to our shores.



We also learned about the courageous Boudicca, who bravely stood up to the Roman forces. The children were inspired by her story and enjoyed discussing the different perspectives of this period in history.

Taking our learning closer to home, we explored how the Romans changed life in Leicester and the wider area. The children investigated how we can use artefacts to uncover clues about the past, developing their skills as young historians by asking thoughtful questions and making careful observations.

Alongside our history work, Year 3 have been working incredibly hard preparing for *Vocal Ease*. They have shown fantastic dedication in learning their songs and have approached every rehearsal with enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see them collaborating with other schools, building confidence and teamwork along the way. Their final performance was truly outstanding. The children sang with energy and joy, and their hard work really paid off. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment were clear for all to see—well done, Year 3!

Year 4

Year 4 Assembly Celebrates Whitemoor Lakes Adventure

Our Year 4 children recently delighted parents, staff and pupils with a fantastic assembly all about their exciting residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes.

The children confidently shared highlights from their memorable adventure, reflecting on the many challenges they embraced and the valuable life skills they developed during their stay. Through songs, speaking parts and enthusiastic storytelling, the pupils explained how they worked hard to earn stamps in their *Penguin Passport* by demonstrating important school values throughout the trip.

Year 4 proudly spoke about showing **courage** as they stepped outside of their comfort zones and tried new activities. They reflected on moments that required **resilience**, especially when facing tricky challenges and persevering even when things felt difficult. The children also highlighted the importance of **respect**, showing kindness and consideration towards one another, staff and the environment around them. Through exciting team challenges, they demonstrated **determination**, never giving up and always striving to do their best. Most importantly, the assembly celebrated the power of **teamwork**, with pupils supporting and encouraging one another every step of the way.

It was wonderful to see the children speak so proudly about their achievements and personal growth. The assembly was a lovely celebration of not only an unforgettable residential experience, but also the confidence, friendships and character development gained along the way. Well done, Year 4!



Year 5

This term, we finished our exciting Topic 5, Busy Whitwick. The children worked incredibly hard throughout the topic and impressed us all with their fantastic ideas about how to make Whitwick a safer place. During our immersive Whitwick walk, the children carried out a traffic survey and used the knowledge they gathered to think carefully about road safety and improvements for our local area. We were so impressed with their thoughtful discussions and creative suggestions!

We have also had a brilliant start to our brand new topic, The Vikings. To immerse ourselves in Viking life, we welcomed a special visitor who brought along Viking weapons, tools and many other fascinating artefacts. The children loved learning about Viking life, taking part in Viking games and listening to an exciting story about the Viking gods at the end of the day.

In English, the children have made a fantastic start to learning our new story, The Punishment of Loki. They have been enthusiastically mapping and stepping out the story and have shown brilliant teamwork, expression and confidence whilst learning it.

Finally, Maypole practice has been going wonderfully well. During May Week, the children have also been learning about the history behind the May Fayre and why our community comes together each year to celebrate this special tradition. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and effort the children have shown across all areas of learning this term!



Year 6

This half term has been an incredibly busy and rewarding one for Year 6. Over the past six weeks, the children have shown such fantastic dedication, resilience and enthusiasm in everything they have taken on. It has been a real pleasure to see the way they have supported one another, taken challenges in their stride and approached each day with positivity and determination.

SATs week was, of course, an important milestone and the children rose to the occasion brilliantly. They approached each day with calmness and maturity, showing great focus and perseverance throughout. Our SATs breakfast club was a lovely way to start each morning, giving the children time to settle their nerves and fuel up for the day ahead — and it turns out that toast and jam may well have been the brain boost so many of them needed! They have all worked incredibly hard and should feel so very proud of themselves.

Following such a big week, the children thoroughly enjoyed a well-deserved Fun Day. It was fantastic to see them relaxing, laughing and spending time together, celebrating everything they have achieved. A real highlight of the day was when they received their Leavers Hoodies — there was such excitement as they put them on — and they wore them with huge smiles and a real sense of pride. A heartfelt thank you to all parents for your generous donations, which made this special day possible.

Year 6 also played their part in the May Fayre and enjoyed being involved in such a wonderful community event. It was lovely to see so many families there, supporting the school, and sampling our homemade bakes.

As we look ahead, it is hard to believe there is now just one half term left of Year 6. We are so excited for everything still to come and feel incredibly lucky to be sharing these final weeks with such a special group of children — it is sure to be a brilliant and memorable end to their primary school journey.



Sporting News

Badminton

Year 6

On Thursday 26th March our Year 6 Badminton team took part in the LSBA Year 6 badminton tournament at Babington School in Leicester. Our team competed in the doubles competition and every pair showed great determination and skill, finishing an impressive 1st, 2nd and 4th overall. These fantastic results secured the overall championship for the fourth year in a row — a superb achievement and a real credit to all involved.



Year 2

On Thursday 16th April, some of our Year 2 children took part in the Badminton Racket Pack event at Ibstock Community College. They enjoyed learning new skills and taking part in round-robin activities. Well done to all the children who participated for their enthusiasm and effort.

Football

Year 3–4 girls' McDermott Shield

The Year 3–4 girls' McDermott Shield football team played their third and final pool match on Tuesday 14th April against Griffydham. The game was closely contested throughout, but our team showed excellent determination, teamwork and sportsmanship to secure a well-deserved victory. We now look forward to their upcoming knockout match.



Kirby Shield Winners!

Well done to our Year 5/6 Mixed football team, who were 1–0 winners in the final at Coalville Town FC on Wednesday 15th April against Willesley. After the disappointment of finishing runners-up last year, the team bounced back superbly, going the entire season unbeaten to lift the trophy. An outstanding achievement—congratulations to all involved!



Year 4-5 Mixed Rose Bowl

Our Year 4–5 Rose Bowl mixed football team played their third and final pool match against Holy Cross School on Friday 17th April. The team played well and showed great effort and teamwork but were up against a strong opponent and lost the match. Well done to all players for their commitment and positive attitudes throughout the season.



Year 5-6 Tony Moore Girls' Football

The Year 5–6 Tony Moore girls' football team played their semi-final on Tuesday 28th April against Woodstone, producing an excellent performance to win the match and progress to the final.

The final took place at Coalville Town Football Club on Thursday 30th April against Hugglescote Primary School. It was a very close, competitive game and marked the third consecutive year our girls have reached the final, having lifted the trophy two years ago. Unfortunately, on this occasion the opposition edged the match with a narrow 1–0 victory. Well done to all the girls for a fantastic season.



Cricket

To help raise the profile of women's cricket in the lead-up to this year's Women's T20 World Cup, Broomley's Cricket Club invited a Year 5–6 girls' team to compete in an event on Thursday 23rd April. Our girls played against two other schools and won the competition, setting themselves up perfectly for the NW Leicestershire School Sports Partnership competition later in the summer.



Cricket

On Monday 18th May, Whitwick St John's entered three girls' teams in the Dynamos Cricket event at Ibstock Cricket Club, making up a third of all teams attending.

The girls played against other local schools, showing great teamwork, enthusiasm and determination throughout the day. They enjoyed learning new skills and gaining valuable match experience.

A special congratulations goes to Team A, who achieved a fantastic third place overall.



Tennis

Year 5–6 Excel and Inspire Event

On Wednesday 29th April, two teams from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Excel and Inspire Tennis event at Ashby Lawn Tennis Club. The children enjoyed learning new skills and competing in games against other schools. They showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout, representing the school fantastically.

Tennis

Year 3–4 Inspire Event

On Wednesday 20th May, four of our Year 4 children took part in a Tennis Inspire event at Ashby Lawn Tennis Club. They enjoyed learning new tennis skills, taking part in fun activities and representing the school with enthusiasm.

Tag Rugby

Some of our Year 4 children took the opportunity to visit Coalville Rugby Club on Thursday 23rd April to take part in a skills-based event. The session focused on tag rugby and tag rugby skills and the children participated with great enthusiasm, developing their confidence and teamwork throughout. Well done to all who took part.





Uniform

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/shorts**
- **White or blue polo shirt** (no logo required)
- **Black shoes or trainers** with **minimal logos**

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, your child 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 Free School



Please can we remind you that we are a nut school due to children with allergies? Children **should not** be bringing anything into school that may contain any type of nut or 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 **07745549658** or the school office 01530 832116.



Term Date 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

Term Dates 2026-2027

Autumn Term

Schools Open	Wednesday 26 th August 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 31 st August 2026
Mid-Term Break	Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd October 2026
Schools Close	Friday 18 th December 2026

Spring Term

Schools Open	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Mid-Term Break	Monday 15 th – Friday 19 th February 2027
Schools Close	Friday 19 th March 2027

Summer Term

Schools Open	Monday 5 th April 2027
May Day	Monday 3 rd May 2027
Mid-Term Break	Monday 31 st May – Friday 4 th June 2027
Schools Close	Friday 9 th July 2027