WHITSTONE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter Autumn Term - Issue 5

MESSAGE FROM MRS MOULD

What a productive and fun-filled first week back we've had at Whitstone! It has been lovely to see the children return with such enthusiasm. We finished the week with our wonderful Festival of Light Day, celebrating Diwali through clay creations, colourful Rangoli patterns, firework artwork and cooking delicious curry and flatbreads!



If you're enjoying fireworks this weekend, please stay safe and have a lovely time together.

Best wishes, Mrs Mould.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2

Monday 2nd November - Friday 17th December

INSET Day - Monday 4th January

Spring 1 Term

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

AUTUMN TERM DIARY DATES

November

Friday 6th November - Festival of Light Day

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day

Thursday 12th November - Bodmin Jail Trip (Y5&6)

Friday 13th November - Children in Need

Wednesday 18th November - Odd Sock Day

Monday 23rd November - School Photos

Thursday 26th November - Open Morning 9:30 - 11:30

Friday 27th November - PTFA Winter Wonderland

December

Wednesday 2nd November - Nursery Library Trip

Thursday 3rd December - Parents Evening

Friday 4th December - Parents Evening

Wednesday 9th December - Nativity

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Service 2pm

Friday 18th December - Christmas Party Day

ATTENDANCE

Explorers	96%
Voyagers	98%
Adventurers	93%
Trailblazers	92%



HOUSE POINTS

Atlantic	604
Sahara	545
Amazon	603
Krakatoa	572

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to....

Reuben C

Arthur

Ridley

Sophie

Kelby

Darcie

Mrs Mould

Mrs Clark

CERTIFICATES



REMINDERS

As the weather continues to be chilly, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm and waterproof coat, including optional extras like hats, scarves, and gloves.



REMINDERS

PE Days:



Explorers: Thursday

Voyagers: Tuesday

Adventurers: Wednesday and Thursday

Trailblazers: Monday and Friday

REMINDERS

Any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well. If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours to the school premises. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

We would like to remind all parents that holidays taken during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances and will result in unauthorised absence. If your child is absent without authorisation, it may lead to penalties under the Education Act 1996. Unauthorised absences could result in a penalty fine issued as £80 per liable parent, per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 per liable parent, per child if paid after this but within 28 days.

Please read the statutory statement regarding unauthorised absence during term time.



If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.
If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.
Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.
Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.
Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

AUTUMN TERM CLUBS

We are excited to offer a variety of clubs this Autumn Term which will be free of charge and provide children with enrichment and social opportunities.

- Monday: Games Club
- Tuesday: Yoga Club
- Wednesday: Construction Club
- Thursday: Computing Club
- Friday: Scooter Club







Free Breakfast Club!

Come and join us each morning at 8am for free breakfast club. Book on Arbor - first come, first served.

NURSERY PLACES

We are pleased to announce that we have spaces available in our Nursery for children aged 2 to 4 years, with funded places for up to 30 hours.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01288 341241 or email school@whitstone.cornwall.sch.uk.





SAFE PARKING

For the safety of our children and the surrounding community, we kindly ask that parents do not park on the zigzag lines outside the school or block neighbours' driveways. We have received complaints from neighbours in recent months, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment during drop-off and pick-up times.

Respecting our neighbours and ensuring safe access to the school is crucial for the well-being of our children. We encourage families to walk or cycle to school where possible. Thank you for your understanding and support in fostering a positive community spirit!

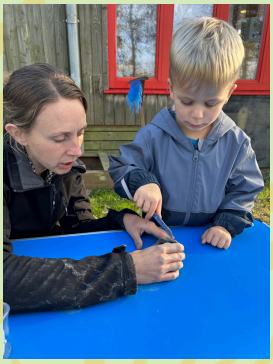
THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

Festival of Light Day - Celebrating Diwali!

We enjoyed a wonderful Festival of Light Day, learning about and celebrating Diwali! The children took part in a fantastic range of creative and hands-on activities, including making clay pinch pots, designing beautiful Rangoli patterns, creating colourful firework artwork, and even cooking and tasting delicious curry and flatbreads. It was a lovely day filled with creativity, new experiences and opportunities to learn about different cultures and traditions!



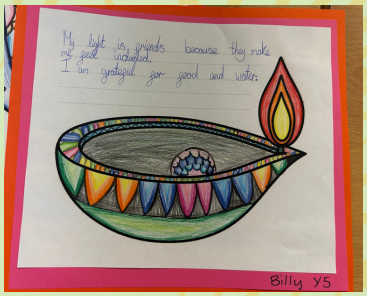




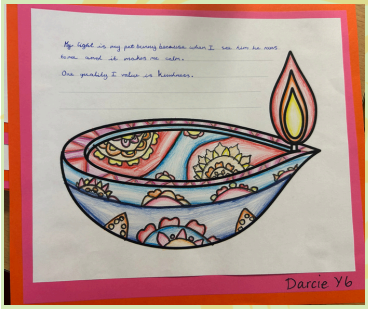






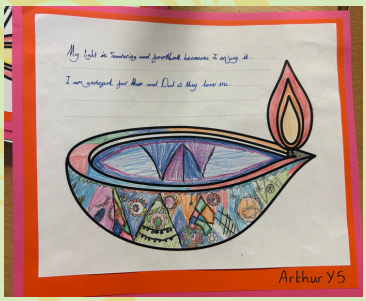






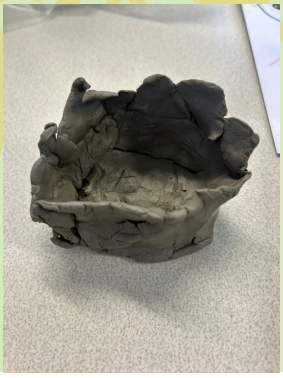














FESTIVAL OF LIGHT DAY - DIWALI





























Remembrance Day



EVENTS


Pudsey
Make and Bake
Sale
WHITSTONE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Raising money for
Children In Need
Bring cakes, buns or biscuits to sell or home-made crafts to sell at playtime!
Next Friday
13th November 2026
Don't forget to bring money to spend!
Children can come dressed in spotty, yellow or brightly coloured clothes for the day for a £1 contribution.

PTFA


WHITSTONE PTFA
INVITE YOU TO OUR
WINTER
WONDERLAND
27TH NOVEMBER
WHITSTONE SCHOOL
3.15-5.30PM(CASH
ONLY)
STALLS,FOOD,GAMES,
MULLED WINE,GOODIES,
CHILDREN SINGING,
HANDMADE CRAFTS
SANTA'S GROTTO.
CHRISTMAS CHEER.

FUNDRAISING



Some of the school staff are doing a walk in Bude in aid of children in need. If you would like to donate, please click the link below. Thank you for your support.

https://challenge.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/fundraising/wcps-ramblers

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

AUTOPLAY

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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