# Whaley Bridge Primary School Newsletter 02/10/26

## NEWS

We love to take our learning outside at WBPS, and this week's warmer weather has encouraged to do so even more than usual. Seahorses took their science investigation outside, whilst nursery enjoyed some bubbly fun in the meadow.

I met with local heads on Wednesday as part of our Peak Edge Group of Schools (PEGS) cluster. As well as half termly headteacher meetings, groups of colleagues from across the cluster get together to share ideas and collaborate on projects. Working collaboratively in this way is a really supportive model and I'm really proud to be part of this group. Alongside this, we have begun working more closely with True Learning Partnership, (TLP) who are the Academy trust we intend to join, likely around April 2027. I met with Professor Baker, the CEO of the trust on Thursday to catch up about the conversion process. Over the next few months we'll be working on the legal process of conversion (something similar to a house purchase) with legal works to transfer responsibilities etc from Derbyshire to TLP. I'll pop updates on the newsletter when relevant, but it's unlikely to be an exciting process so if you want to know about the process in more detail, or if you are a newer parent and have questions about the decision to academise please get in touch directly.

**Safety on school site**

One of our core values at WBPS is safety, and this extends beyond the school day to all times that parents and children are on our site. To help us with this, please ensure that you walk only on the pedestrian areas of the school, and not on the driveway. We wheely like children arriving at school on bikes or scooters; it's a healthy and eco friendly way to travel, and is much safer is we push whilst on the playground, and avoid wheeling about whilst waiting for the gates to open, especially at busy drop off times.

**INSET days for the remainder of the year.**

As you may have noticed we had left 2 unallocated INSET days this year. I can now confirm that these will be on the 22nd and 23rd July 2027, meaning that the children will finish for the Summer holiday next year on Weds 21st July.

**PTA**

The AGM of the PTA will be held online via Teams at 7.30 Tuesday 13th October – everyone is welcome and if you would like an invite please email whaleybridgepta@gmail.com. One of the agenda items is to update a new constitution for the PTA, which will be circulated next week for your feedback.

The PTA have also taken the decision, along with our friends at Taxal PTA to postpone the sponsored walk – further details of a rearranged date to follow.

**Halloween costumes** Please drop any preloved costumes at the school office for a used costume sale

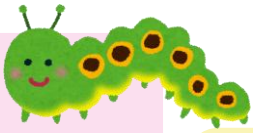
headteacher@whaleybridge.derbyshire.sch.uk

## PTA

~~Sponsored walk – 10th October – details on page 4 &5~~

Remember to pay for contribute to Toast Fridays via this link

Toast Fridays! | Whaley Bridge Primary PTA



## ACHIEVEMENTS

Red Squirrel: Eliza
Puffin: Owen
Otter: Harrison
Bat: Rowan
Seahorse: Parker
TTRS: Bats

## STARS

Red Squirrel: Billy
Puffin: Rosa
Otter: Thea
Bat Peggy
Seahorse: Anya
⭐ Writer : Francis

## DIARY DATES

~~10/10/26 – PTA sponsored walk~~ Postponed
15/10/26 – Meet the teacher eve
21/10/26 – Lea Green parents meet (seahorses)
22/10/26 PTA Halloween event
(23/10/26 – Break for half term
2/11/26 – Return to school
4-6th /11/26 Year 5/6 Residential
3/12/26 –PTA Christmas event (TBC)
18/12/26 End of term

*info in blue is new

Our school calendar can also be found on the website here

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



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.04.2026

HIGH PEAK WOODLAND WELLBEING

# Spooky Woodland Event

Saturday 24th October 10 am - 12 pm at Whaley Bridge Primary School's woodland area.

Spooky games, craft and fun woodland activities, plus a delicious campfire treat. All for only £10 per child (adults go free.)

For more information and booking please contact Sam Emsley 07759 320850 or email sam@highpeakwoodlandwellbeing.co.uk

NEW VENUE!

# ENERGIZE Gymnastics

## HOLIDAY COURSES

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

AT New Mills Leisure Centre SK22 4PU

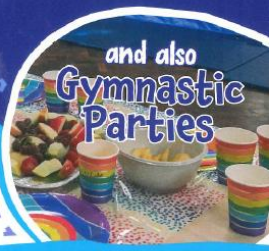
Check our website for available dates

Full Day 09:00-15:30 £25.00

Half Day 09-12:00 / 12-15:30 £14.00

Any 4 Full Days £91.00

- Ages 4-14 years
- Structured gymnastics
- Competitions
- Games
- Routines
- Free Play



and also Gymnastic Parties

Book Online at:

energizesportscoaching.co.uk

email: info@energizesportscoaching.co.uk/holiday-courses

New Mills Leisure Centre, Hyde Bank Rd, High Peak SK22 4PU

IGA

ROCK STEADY

# FINISH SCHOOL LIKE A ROCKSTAR

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START!

Award-winning rock and pop band lessons and concerts

- Inclusive weekly band lessons and termly concerts.
- No experience necessary and instruments provided.
- Proven to boost confidence, build belonging and support social skills.

Years 5 & 6

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE

0330 113 0330

(Mon-Weds 8am-8pm, Thurs-Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

ROCK STEADY

EYFS – Year 4

# A BAND FOR EVERYONE

ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS IN YOUR SCHOOL

- Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band.
- Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved.
- Instruments provided and no experience necessary.
- Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification.
- Follow their musical journey in your Backstage account.

0330 113 0330

(Mon-Weds 8am-8pm, Thurs-Fri 8am-6pm local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

BOOK TO START LESSONS THIS TERM!