Whaley Bridge Primary School Newsletter 18/09/26

NEWS

There has been a really focussed vibe in school this week, and all the classes are well into the swing of the Autumn term curriculum. Nursery have harvested their enormous pumpkin, Bat class have been working hard in maths, and our new Bumblebees have been exploring lots of new activities. The long term plans and topic over view for each class can be found on the class pages of our website here.

Artificial Intelligence

With lots in the press recently about AI, it seems like a timely moment to share how we've been responding to concerns around AI systems "scraping" images from school websites. All photos displayed on the website itself will avoid including faces. Images contained within PDFs, such as this newsletter, will be low resolution, with meta data removed before publication. Online safety, including teaching pupils about how to navigate the online world safely and providing families with helpful advice about this ever-changing topic, is a high priority for us. Our computing curriculum can be found here, and links to useful sources of support are here. Alongside each newsletter, we provide a quick guide for parents around online safety, and you are always welcome to chat to us if you need more advice.

Individual photos day – Weds 30th Sept.

Our school photographer will be in school taking individual and sibling group photos on Wednesday 30th September. Please wear school uniform on this date even if its normally a PE day for your child. Nursery children who are *not* normally in school on this day, or younger siblings who are not school age can come in from 8am for either an individual photo or a photo with their school aged sibling -no appointment needed.

Free school meals

Eligibility criteria for free school meals has changed this year. There are now two routes to eligibility. The first, like previously is for families on lower incomes. These pupils receive a free school meal and the school received a sum of money called the pupil premium grant, which is pooled and spent across school according to plans which we publish here. Families who are in receipt of Universal Credit are now also eligible for free school meals, but school does not receive the pupil premium grant for these pupils. Families need to apply for eligibility themselves, and we encourage all families to check their status here. Its well worth checking even if you do not think you will be eligible, just in case you do meet the criteria or in case your circumstances change in future.

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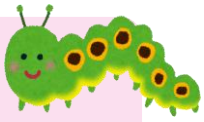
PTA



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

DIARY DATES

30/9/26 – School Photos
10/10/26 – PTA sponsored walk
15/10/26 – Meet the teacher eve (TBC)
22/10/26 PTA Halloween event (TBC)
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

ACHIEVEMENTS

Bumblebee: Leo
Red Squirrel: Flynn
Puffin: Herbie
Otter: Jim
Bat: Rueben HP
Seahorse: Alice

STARS

Bumblebee: Ophelia
Red Squirrel: Maya
Puffin: Erin
Otter: Flo
Bat: Oliver B
Seahorse: Destiny

WE'VE CHANGED THE ANGLE NOT THE STORY
Side on
Hands on content
Back of heads
At WBPS, safeguarding is our top priority, so we've been adapting how we share images in response to evolving AI safeguarding concerns

FREE
INCLUSIVE
MULTI-SPORTS
EST 2016
PEAK POWER SPORTS
SPORTS & FITNESS
FORZA
Little Cherubs
5-6PM
MONDAY
CHAPEL LEISURE CENTRE

World Rivers Day
World Rivers Day
27th September 2026
10am Sing for the River
Meet on the riverbank
for a river-themed sing with
Thula Mama High Peak
Suitable for all ages, dress for the weather
Meet at Goyside Meadows under the Midland Railway Viaduct
What3words://soups.tunnel.sunshine
3pm: What lives in The Sett?
Join New Mills River School
on the riverbank at the start of The Torrs
for dipping and investigating.
Ages 6+ Dress for the weather
Children must be accompanied by an adult
Meet at the dipping platform below the leisure centre carpark
What3words://wheat.attic.grapevine
ROCK MILL CENTRE
NEW MILLS RIVER SCHOOL
thulamama

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 GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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SPONSORED WALK

WALKING TOGETHER - WHALEY BRIDGE AND TAXAL & FERNILEE C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In collaboration with Taxal and Fernilee Primary School, let's walk together to raise some money. Money raised by children will go to respectives school's PTAs
Choose your distance (1, 3 and 8 miles) and collect sponsorship along the way.

Everyone can take part!

10 OCT 2026

10:30am

START POINT: TAXAL & FERNILEE SCHOOL

Register here

Collect sponsorship here

Together we can make a difference.

Dear Parents and Carers of Whaley Bridge Primary School

Please join us with your children on **Saturday 10th October** for a sponsored walk to raise money for the PTA.
We are pleased to work with Taxal and Fernilee School PTFA. Children and parents will also be joining us on the walk to raise money for their school.

Please arrive at Taxal & Fernilee School between **10 and 10.20am** for registration and drinks in the hall. There will also be a cake stall so you can stock up on sweet treats before you set off! We will leave from the school back gate at 10.30am.

Every child needs a responsible adult to accompany them.

We need your help to make the event go smoothly - if you can marshal or be listed as a trained first aider for the walk please email whaleybridgepta@gmail.com

Where is the walk: You can **choose a route** length to suit you and your family. There will be a short option of about **1 mile**, medium of between **3-4 miles** and a long one of about **8 miles**. All of the walks will take us in the direction of Fernilee. Maps will be provided and marshals will be on the route to help show you the way.

Equipment and info: You need to bring clothing and shoes appropriate for the weather (it's October so we could have sunshine/rain/hail and almost certainly mud!) Be tick aware and we suggest long t-shirts and trousers.
Please bring enough food and drinks to fuel you for the distance you choose to complete, as well as any medication your child needs.
Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome, but they can't come in the school grounds before the walk.

How to register and donate: Please fill in the online form if you would like to take part. Each adult walking is asked to make a donation of £2. Any family and friends are welcome to walk too.

Plus you can share the QR code below with family and friends to donate online.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Whaley Bridge Primary School PTA
whaleybridgepta@gmail.com

QR code for sponsorship (link here)
QR code for registration form (link here)