



Washingwell Primary School

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Newsletter Number: 21

Date: Friday 14 February 2025

Attendance

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	91%	100%	95.7%	97.4%	100%	96.9%	95%	96%
Whole School attendance %	97.4%							

News

Congratulations!



As you are all aware, Mrs Erskine has been our 'Acting' Deputy Head since September. On Tuesday, we carried out interviews for the permanent position and Mrs Erskine was successful in securing this position. So with immediate effect, she will become our permanent Deputy Head Teacher, providing continuity to the children and school, taking on a strategic leadership position, supporting myself, staff and Governors in our continuous drive to move the school forward and providing the best possible outcomes for all children. I am sure you will all be thrilled with the choice and congratulate her on her official new role.

Sporting Success

Braving the cold and rain, on Wednesday our Year 6 pupils put on an impressive display of skill and teamwork at the hockey tournament at Whickham Comp. After a series of hard-fought matches, one of our teams has made it through to the final on **21st March!**

Well done to everyone who took part—you played brilliantly! Best of luck to our finalists as they go for victory.



Bikeability

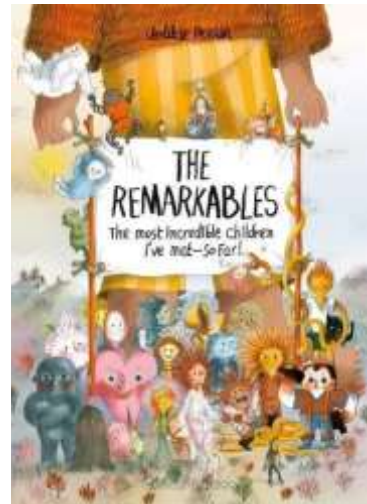
The children in Year 3 and Year 4 have been lucky enough to take part in Bikeability Level 1 this week. They have practised and improved their cycling handling, pedalling smoothly without feeling out of control and how important it is to be aware of their surroundings. This preparation level will set them in good stead to tackle Levels 2 and 3 as they progress through Key Stage 2, with the aim of them being able to ride safely on the roads in the local area.



World Book Day; Thursday 6 March 2025

World Book Day is fast approaching and we can't wait to celebrate! This year we are basing our day around the book **'The Remarkables: The Most Incredible Children I've Met'**. Just like *The Remarkables*, every child has the power to be extraordinary and they all have their own superpower!

So, instead of dressing up this year we will be designing our own unique t-shirts. We are requesting that children bring in a plain white t-shirt at the start of the week (Tuesday 4 March) which they will decorate in class, creating their individual design which celebrates and showcases all the things that are remarkable about them. The children will be reading *The Remarkables* in class all week to help them with ideas. We are hoping that our Year 4 children will take their t-shirts to Newby Wiske and wear them on Thursday, joining the celebration from afar!



Parking around school

Despite having reminders on every newsletter, I am still receiving complaints from the local community about the parking around school. Whilst it is not illegal to park on Bucks Hill View, it is not safe for our children due to the narrowness of the road and pavement, hence why we ask parents to park on Broom Lane. I do recognise that the majority of parents are very mindful of this and do park away from school. However, there are still parents who insist on parking outside of people's garages, which is particularly the case when dropping off and picking up from Whizz Kids. One of our school values is **'Respectful'** so can I ask that you model this behaviour alongside us and **DO NOT** park in front of the garages, on the yellow zig-zag markings or double yellow lines at any time of the day. Thank you for your support in this matter.

This week's achievers are....

Achievement for All

School value: Ambitious

Theme: Using effective vocabulary

Mars: Oscar Robson

Earth: Parker Evans

Jupiter: Sinead Pearson

Neptune: Maddie Lazarus

Venus: Sophia Donnison

Saturn: La Stanley

Mercury: Seth Wright

SEND Information



Reminders

Packed lunches: Please remember that our school is a nut-free school. We have noticed that some children have been having food in their packed lunches which do contain nuts ie Nutella sandwiches, Bueuno bars and pesto sauces. All these foods contain 'hidden' nuts and therefore should not be brought into school.

School Uniform policy: Our policy on hair and jewellery is as follows.

- Hair should always be tied back once it approaches shoulder length. *This is applicable for both boys and girls.*
- Pupils should use discrete, plain bobbles and hairbands with school uniform colours. *This means that hairbands with ears, head scarves etc. should not be worn.*
- For reasons of health and safety, the wearing of jewellery of any form is not allowed. *Watches can be worn, but these must be simple digital or analogue watches – no SMART watches that have phone or camera accessibility*

Thank you for your continued support in these areas - I hope this clarifies our school expectations.

Can you help?

We are re-stocking our dressing-up boxes for outdoor play and lunch times. We have plenty of outfits for Key Stage 1 but have a very limited selection for Key Stage 2. If you have any larger dressing up outfits, age 7 upwards, wigs, hats, scarves etc. that you no longer have a use for then, we would really appreciate if you could donate them to school. Thank you.

Parking around school ...

Please be considerate when parking so as to ensure it is safe for both pedestrians and vehicles. Thank you for your co-operation and support in keeping our streets a safe place for all.

'Be cool, park SAFELY away from school'

Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

Planned Staff Training and Arranged Class Cover for the week ahead.			
Staff Member	Class	Date	Cover
Mrs Erskine	Saturn	Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 February am/pm	Mrs Bridger
Mr Nicholson	Venus	Wednesday 19 February am/pm	Mrs Ellison

All dates can be found on our school website Calendar tab: <https://www.washingwell.org.uk/>

Monday 17 February 2025

Year 6 to Whickham School to watch Footloose – 1.00pm

Wednesday 19 February 2025

Gateshead Schools' Swimming Gala – 12.00pm – invited children only

Thursday 20 February 2025

Earth Showcase – 9.15am

Thursday 20 February 2025

Year 1 Cricket Festival at Gateshead Stadium– 9.30am – more information to follow

Friday 21 February 2025

School closes for half-term holidays – 3.20pm

Monday 3 March 2025

Staff training day – school closed to all pupils

Tuesday 4 March 2025

School re-opens to all pupils 8.40am

Year 3 Quicksticks Hockey at Whickham school– 12.30pm – more information to follow

Year 6 Transition at Whickham – Science pm

Wednesday 5 March 2025

Music Workshops – am

Wednesday 5 – Friday 7 March 2025

Year 4 residential visit to Newby Wiske Hall

Thursday 6 March 2025

World Book Day – more information to follow

Monday 10 March 2025

Parent consultations – 3.30pm – 6.00pm all year groups

Tuesday 11 March 2025

Neptune Showcase – 9.15am

Parent consultations – 3.30pm – 6.00pm Year 1 – 6

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Parent consultations – 3.30pm – 6.00pm Nursery & Reception

Tuesday 18 March 2025

Class photographs

Wednesday 19 March 2025

Mercury Showcase – 9.15am

Thursday 20 March 2025

Mars Stay & Play – 9.15am

Friday 21 March 2025 NEW

Comic Relief – more information to follow

World Down Syndrome Day

Tuesday 25 March 2025 NEW

SEND Review meetings – individual appointments to be sent to relevant parents

Wednesday 26 March 2025

Spring Assembly 9.15am – more information to follow

Monday 31 March 2025

Venus Showcase – 9.15am

Tuesday 1 April 2025

Y6 Transion at Whickham – Art pm

Wednesday 2 April 2025

Saturn Showcase – 9.15am

Thursday 3 April 2025

Key Stage 1 Girls Football at Gateshead Stadium -9.30am – more information to follow

Monday 7 – Friday 11 April 2025 NEW

Autism Awareness week as part World Autism Acceptance Month

Friday 11 April 2025

School closes for Easter holidays 3.20pm - No Whizz Kids after school session

Monday 28 April – Wednesday 30 April 2025 NEW

Year 6 Bikeability – more information to follow

Monday 12 May – Thursday 15 May 2025 NEW

Year 6 SATs week – all children in at 8.15am for class breakfast

Year 5 Bikeability – more information to follow

*A reminder that we are a Safeguarding School and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to
Children's Services*