

Hill West Weekly Bulletin

Kindness, Compassion, and Connection at the heart of 'Our School'

Week commencing: Monday 27th January



ACE; Ambitious, Curious and Ever-respectful

FOR YOUR INFORMATION; at a glance

Tuesday 28th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.00am-10.00am Wrens Chinese New Year Assembly in the KS1 Hall, parents invited.
Wednesday 29th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Year 4 children depart for Whitemoor Lakes residential Swimming for children in Years 4, 5 and 6 9.00am -10.00am Robins Chinese New Year Assembly the KS1 Hall, parents invited.
Thursday 30th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.00am – 11.00am Kingfishers Open Morning for Parents; My Happy Mind in the KS1 Hall followed by a school tour.
Friday 31st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.00am – 11.00am Owls Open Morning for Parents; My Happy Mind in the KS1 Hall followed by a school tour. Year 4 return form Whitemoor Lakes

CHILDRENS MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

1 in 5 children and young people now have a probable mental health condition.

This year, Children's Mental Health Week is taking place from 3rd - 9th February 2025. The focus is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**, with the aim to encourage children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. We will be talking to children in assemblies this week about the mental as well as their physical health and reminding them of strategies they can use to take care of themselves.



THANK YOU

We have been overwhelmed with your generosity this year and want to thank you sincerely for donations you have made. #CalmCorners #BigBirdWatch #Daffodils #SchoolFund #JunkModelling #DesignAndTechnologyDays



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YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK JUNE 2025

Do you have a child in year 4 at primary school?

If so, your child will be participating in the multiplication tables check (MTC) in June. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will also help your child's school to identify if your child may need additional support.

What is the multiplication tables check?

It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. They will then have 6 seconds to answer each question. On average, the check should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

No, you do not need to do anything additional to prepare your child for the check. As part of usual practice, teachers may ask you to practise times tables with your child. Schools will have unlimited access to a 'try it out' area from April. They can use this to make sure pupils have the necessary support to access the check. This includes opportunities for pupils to familiarise themselves with the check application and try out any access arrangements that may be required.

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results, to allow them to identify pupils who need additional support.

Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

Yes. Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you. There is no pass mark for the check.



PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We are pleased to inform you that, in response to feedback received through the recent parent survey and Parent Council meetings, we have added an additional **virtual parents' consultation** on **Wednesday, 26th February**, as well as the previously scheduled date of **Wednesday, 5th March**. The first session will run from **3.30pm – 5.00pm** and the second session will run from **3:45 PM to 7:15 PM**, with appointment slots extended to **10 minutes** to allow for more in-depth discussions. Please note that parents only need to book **one appointment** on either of the dates, not both.

Appointments will be available to book from Wednesday 5th February at 8.00am.



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READING

The National Literacy Trust tells us, 'there can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort

and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns. Yet fewer than half of 0–2-year-olds are read to every day or nearly every day by their parents'.

"By starting the journey of building a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, parents are giving their child the opportunity to be the best they can be: children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing".



ATTENDANCE

We all know that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Our

whole school attendance is currently 96.1% which is pleasing, although our ambitious target for the year is 97%. Currently our leading year group is Year 5 with an attendance percentage of 97.2%, closely followed by Year 3 with 96.6%. Of all our absence 3.2% has been authorised by school with the most frequent reason illness. The NHS advises that it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. Additional information can be found in the NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?'



[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

YEAR 4 WHITEMOOR LAKES RESIDENTIAL

We hope all of our Year 4 children going to Whitemoor Lakes on Wednesday 29th January to Friday 31st January have a wonderful time, and we look forward to hearing about your adventures on your return. Parents, please look out for the Whitemoor Lakes Hill West Herald each evening.



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SAFEGUARDING: CHILDHOOD HEAD INJURIES

Children are incredibly active, and they have little sense of danger, so it is not surprising that they are prone to head injuries. In addition, their heads are large in proportion to their bodies and therefore more vulnerable to damage than adult heads. Head injuries may involve the scalp, the skull, the brain, or its protective membranes. Most head injuries are not serious, but you should get medical help if your child has any symptoms after a head injury.

Falls are the most common cause of accidental injury to children.

- Every day, 45 children under five are admitted to hospital following a serious fall. Stumbles are to be expected, but more serious falls which lead to head injuries can have a lifelong impact.
- Falls are also a serious risk for older children. Each year, around 27,000 children aged 5-14 are admitted to hospital after a fall.

Go to A&E if you or your child have had a head injury and have:

- been knocked out but have now woken up
- vomited since the injury
- a headache that does not go away with painkillers
- a change in behaviour, like being more irritable or losing interest in things around you (especially in children under 5)
- been crying more than usual (especially in babies and young children)
- problems with memory
- a blood clotting disorder (like haemophilia) or you take medicine to thin your blood
- had brain surgery in the past



NEW BUILD UPDATE

The DfE have been working hard to establish a relationship with a new contractor and I am pleased to say that one has been initiated. They are very interested in the new build project and are currently very busy working on pricing the works. The DfE are doing everything possible to expedite the works and as soon as we have confirmation of re-commencement we will let you know.



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