



Whitley Lodge First School

Sports Week Special – June 2026



Courage Honesty Kindness Resilience Respect

The children have fully embraced Sports Week (22nd – 28th June) and participated in a variety of sporting activities demonstrating all our school values. We are very proud of each and everyone of them. We are looking forward to seeing your 'Active Selfies' and sharing them in class.

Sports Day – Tuesday 11th June

Well done to everyone who took part in Sports Day and thank you to all the family and friends who came to support. Congratulations to our winning team, Lobsters 4, and to our Year 4 children for their kindness and support of younger pupils. We are very proud of everyone's effort and enthusiasm.



Junior Parkrun – 14th June

Whitley Lodge children proudly represented the school at the Whitley Bay Junior Parkrun, showing great determination and team spirit. It was fantastic to see so many children, parents and ex-pupils taking part.



Around the World in Sporty Ways – 25th June

We were thrilled to welcome Ben Holden @WannaTeachPE back for another fantastic day, where the children had the opportunity to explore and enjoy a range of new and exciting sports from other countries.

Haka (Reception & Year 1)

The children learned to perform the **Haka**, a traditional dance from the Māori culture that expresses pride and unity. It is famously used in New Zealand and around the world to challenge opponents before sports matches. We had great fun pulling all the fierce and funny faces!



Handball (Year 1 & 2)

Handball is a team sport where two teams of seven players pass the ball using their hands, aiming to score by throwing it into the opposing team's goal. We learned about ball control and practised passing and teamwork.



American Football (Year 3)

The children developed their reaction times and teamwork skills while learning **American Football**, a popular sport in the United States that combines Elements of rugby and European football (soccer). Cries of "Blue 42, blue 42, hut, hut!" echoed across the field as they embraced the spirit of the game.

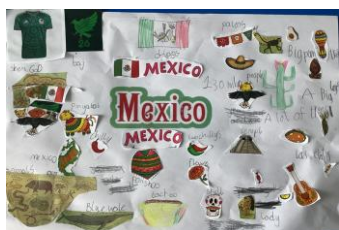


Gaelic Football (Year 4)

Gaelic football is a traditional Irish team sport that combines elements of soccer and rugby, with players using both their hands and feet to move the ball and score points. The children enjoyed learning new passing techniques, including the hand pass, fist pass and drop kick.

FIFA World Cup 2026

To celebrate the FIFA World Cup taking place this year, each class was given a country and their national football team to research. They found out about their star players, geography, traditions and culture. A special mention to Sarah from Red Class, who enriched our learning by sharing her knowledge of her culture with her class.



Pupil Voice

We asked the children what they enjoyed most from all the exciting activities and experiences they took part in.

"Gaelic football was so much fun. Ben told us to pretend we were a waiter holding food and had a candle then we popped the ball up like popcorn to pass it."

"I liked it when the girls had a competition with the boys in the Haka. We had the best scary face."

"I loved American Football. It was very different from other sports. I loved it when we were quarterbacks and passed the ball up between our legs. Ben said all the words with an American accent and we had to try too. It was funny."

"The glow in the dark was so good, amazing. I want to do it again."

"Handball was great. Ben taught us new sports and I like that we get to try new skills every year."

That's not all we having been getting up to celebrate Sports Week....

Glow in the Dark Games – 26th June

Children from Reception to Year 4 enjoyed a fun-filled Glow in the Dark Experience Day led by Ben, who returned to Whitley Lodge to deliver this exciting event. The hall was transformed with glowing lights and equipment, creating a unique and energetic atmosphere that the children loved. Through a range of active games and challenges, they developed their physical skills, teamwork and confidence while staying active. The children were so engaged in the glowing fun that they hardly realised how much exercise they were doing.



BEN HOLDEN: "A particular shout out to the children in Reception who were the best Reception that I have ever worked with."



BEN HOLDEN: "Whitley Lodge is always the highlight of my summer calendar. It's great to come in and deliver active, creative and inclusive activities."

