



Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 11 – Spring 2026



Curriculum News

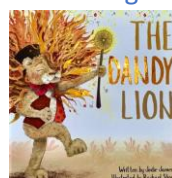
Supporting the National Year of Reading at Whitley Lodge

Reading is an essential part of our core curriculum and we are excited to celebrate this national initiative with a bespoke calendar of events for the coming year.

Each month there will be an optional Seesaw fun reading challenge for everyone. Children who take part in at least one the monthly challenges will receive a special certificate in December 2026. Year 4 will receive their certificates in July. Each monthly challenge is accompanied by a staff reading recommendation for a children's book from the age range 3-9 years old.



This year, Whitley Lodge are celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 26 February** so we can mark the day with an amazing visit from local author, Jodie James. Her wonderful book, *The Dandy Lion*, about friendship and being



proud of who we are, creates the theme for our workshops.

As the national date for World Book Day is within our STEAM fortnight, when children will be busy with all the exciting science experiments and discoveries, we invite them to **dress up as their favourite animal, book character** or wear non uniform on our local author day instead.

To round up the academic year, we invite families to a special 'Booknic' on **Friday 3 July from 2:30pm**. Classes will gather on the field with blankets and books.

Parents/carers are invited to come along, bring a blanket and share books with the children. Older siblings will join their younger sibling's area to share a book too.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Safer
Internet
Day 2026

Next week, the theme for **Safer Internet Day** is: **Smart tech, safe choices**

– **Exploring the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence.**

We will explore this theme age-appropriately with EYFS and KS1 focusing on the use of Voice Assistant devices and KS2 focusing on the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence and using Artificial Intelligence Chatbots.

Thank you to everyone for their positivity regarding the new one-way entrance and exit guidelines.

Parents/carers have commented that they are no longer feel pushed out onto the grass or mud in order to avoid the bottleneck on the path.

Also, staff have also noticed a difference in the prompt start to the school day.



STEAM Showcase

Thursday 12 March from 3:00pm

You are invited to a showcase of the children's work following our fantastic STEAM fortnight of scientific discovery.

Parent Evenings

Monday 30 March & Tuesday 31 March

These meetings will be held in school. The online booking system will go live two weeks prior to the meetings. Available times will be clear when booking online for each class. We will send a booking link via email when the system goes live on our website.

PTA Events

We are so grateful for the great work that Whitley Lodge First School Friends PTA do to support our school. We are lucky to have a thriving group of volunteers whose efforts and ideas provide essential funds for school. Please add the next two events to your diaries:

Spring Disco—Thursday 19 March

Summer Fair—Friday 10 July

More details and timings for both these fundraising events will follow soon.

Diary Dates 2026

Y4 12.2.26 Y4 Robinwood Parent Information Meeting @ 9am

13.2.26 Number Day

13.2.26 Orange Class Assembly @9am

16.2.26-20.2.26 Half Term

26.2.26 Non Uniform Day

12.3.26 STEAM Showcase

19.3.26 Spring Disco

27.3.26 Green Class Assembly @9am

30.3.26 Parent Evening (1)

31.3.26 Parent Evening (2)

3.4.26-17.4.26 Easter Break

4.5.26 May Day Bank Holiday

8.5.26 Purple Class Assembly @9am

25.5.26-29.5.26 Half Term

18.6.26 Yellow Class Assembly @9am

19.06.26 Training Day

3.7.26 Booknic @ 2:30pm

10.7.26 Reception Joint class assembly @9am

10.7.26 Summer Fair

16.7.26 Y4 Leaver's Assembly @9am

17.7.26 Last day of term

New Academic Year @ WLFS

September 2026

1.9.26 Training Day

26.10.26-30.10.26 Half Term

18.12.26 Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

The next newsletter is out on Friday 27 February 2026