



Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 9 – Spring 2026



Curriculum News

Happy New Year to all our families. The children have really impressed us this week. Even with the excitement of starting the term with deep snow on the yard, they have returned keen and ready to learn. Here are details of the exciting learning opportunities taking place across school over the coming weeks.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery: Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's our **Superheroes** in nursery!

This half-term, our Nursery children will be transforming into their crime-fighting alter-egos whilst cleaning up the mean streets of Whitley Lodge! They will assemble their own gravity defying capes, sail through some super subitising in maths and take a closer look at the real superheroes working in the emergency services and how they help to keep us all safe.

Reception: Once Upon a Crime... In this exciting new topic, we will become detectives investigating a series of misdemeanours in the traditional tales we all know and love. We will talk about the difference between right and wrong and help the characters to clean up their acts! We will learn about the emergency services and how they help us; we might even meet a real police officer! In our deconstructed role play areas we will fight crime by using our imagination to create the scenarios we would like to act out. In PE we will complete a series of assault courses as well as learning about fingerprints when we use them in our art work. Watch out for the Reception Police Force in training!



Key Stage One We are heading off on an African adventure. In our English and Geography lessons, we will learn about the animals and landscapes of Africa, as well as its location in the world. In Geography, we will be naming the world's continents and oceans and comparing the climate in the UK with the climate in Nairobi. We will also immerse ourselves in the culture, landmarks and food of Africa. In Science, we will be investigating how some everyday materials can change shape by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. In RE, we will be looking closely at how Christians recognise the importance of Jesus as a healer, teacher and miracle worker. In Art, we will be exploring African patterns and using them to create camouflage prints, drawings and collages. Pack your bags, Key Stage One – you are in for a wild ride!



Key Stage Two We will travel back in time thousands of years to prehistoric times. Focusing on how life of early man changed and developed from the Stone Age, through the Bronze Age and ending in the Iron Age. Alongside this, our science topic is rocks and soils. We will investigate the different kinds of rocks, fossils, soils and how they are formed, always a firm favourite. Together with researching and finding out about Mary Anning, through the book Fossil Hunter. We will also explore historical narrative through our exciting book *The Stone Age Boy*. In Maths, we will continue to focus on multiplication and division but now with a focus on formal methods of calculation. It's going to be a very exciting half term. Look out for the woolly mammoths too.



Diary Dates 2026

30.1.26 Blue Class Assembly @9am

2.2.26 Nursery 2026 deadline for offers

12.2.26 Y4 Robinwood Parent Information Meeting @ 9am

13.2.26 Orange Class Assembly @9am

16.2.26-20.2.26 Half Term

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

10.7.26 Reception Joint class assembly @9am

16.7.26 Y4 Leaver's Assembly @9am

17.7.26 Last day of term

Green Class Assembly

Please note that this is now **Friday 27 March @ 9am**. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Nursery places at Whitley Lodge for September 2026

Only a few morning/30 hour places remaining!

Contact us now if you would like secure your choice of place for our wonderful Nursery in September. We will be confirming the final Nursery places on **Monday 2 February** and the deadline for accepting is 23 February 2026.

The next newsletter is out on Friday 23 January 2026