



Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 5 – Autumn 2025



Curriculum News

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school after the half term break. This new term is already packed with new and exciting learning opportunities and fun experiences for all.

Nursery – Let's Celebrate: From Bonfire Night to Remembrance Day to Christmas; there's lots to celebrate in Nursery this half term! We will be getting our hands dirty spinning our own firework masterpieces, making festive decorations to take home and cherish and exploring ice! We are also looking forward to our festive stay and play where we will be sharing the seasonal songs we've learnt.



Reception – Winter Wonderland: The temperature is starting to drop outside, so it must be time for Reception to transform into a winter wonderland! We will be taking part in lots of STEM challenges this half term including helping penguins escape from blocks of ice, making snowmen disappear, building ice towers and making our own ice lollies! We will be taking a trip to The Rising Sun Country Park for a magical sensory grotto experience. We are also very excited to learn the Christmas Story and to perform our very first nativity for all our special people.



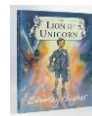
Key Stage One

This half term we are stepping back in time to learn all about The Great Fire of London in our history lessons. We will be learning about the events of the fire and how the construction of the houses contributed to how fast the fire spread. In our English lessons we will be reading *Toby and The Great Fire of London*, which will allow us learn about the event from Toby's viewpoint and meet Samuel Pepys too! In science we will be exploring everyday materials and naming their properties. In DT we will be exploring moving pictures; investigating sliders and pivots. Whilst our computing lessons will see us explore digital sound and in maths we will be moving on to learning about the properties of shape. Another busy half term in Key Stage One!



Key Stage Two

Our topic this term, exploring the impact of World War Two on children of the North East is always a firm favourite. We will first travel back in time to be evacuated to Beamish for the day. During this trip we will explore, hands on what it was like during the war years for children on the home front. Our key text is *The Lion and the Unicorn* by Shirley Hughes, which again explores a child's evacuation using detailed descriptions and imagery. In our Science lessons, we will learn about the importance of electricity, making circuits and ultimately designing and making our very own lighthouse. As we approach the end of the half term, we're really looking forward to our Key Stage Two Christmas performance in St Mary's Church too.



Odd Socks Day – Monday 10 November

Forming part of Anti-bullying Week which supports our school values of respect and kindness, this is an opportunity for children to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness. No money donations are required, all the children have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school.



Go spotty for Children in Need!

On Friday 14 November we will be fundraising for Children in Need 2025. For a voluntary donation of £1, children can come in non-uniform. Cash or ParentPay accepted. Spots, stripes or anything brightly coloured and fun will be great to see.



Diary Dates

2025

10.11.25 Odd Socks Day

14.11.25 Children in Need

21.11.25 Red Class Assembly @9am

5.12.25 Christmas Fair @ 3:30pm

8.12.25 KS1 Christmas Performance 1 @ 2pm

9.12.25 KS1 Christmas Performance 2 @ 9am

10.12.25 Reception Christmas Show @9am

11.12.25 KS2 Christmas Performance 1:30pm

12.12.25 Nursery
AM Stay & Play @10:30am
PM Stay & Play @2:30pm

19.12.25 Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

Diary Dates 2026

5.1.26 Training Day

30.1.26 Blue Class Assembly @9am

13.2.26 Orange Class Assembly @9am

16.2.26-20.2.26 Half Term

20.3.26 Green Class Assembly @9am

3.4.26-17.4.26 Easter Break

8.5.26 Purple Class Assembly @9am

25.5.26-29.5.26 Half Term

19.06.26 Training Day

26.6.26 Yellow Class Assembly @9am

10.7.26 Reception Assembly @9am

16.7.26 Y4 Leaver's Assembly @9am

17.7.26 Last day of term

The next newsletter is out on Friday 21 November 2025