



Curriculum News

It has been wonderful to welcome the children to school and to see them looking so happy and well. Thank you to parents/carers for following the school uniform guidelines, the children look very smart and ready to learn.

We are committed to continuously improving and developing our curriculum offer. As stated in the recent IQM Report. *"Whitley Lodge want nothing more than for the children to love being at school. They want to see them develop into resilient young people with the confidence to showcase talents acquired through exposure to subject areas and enrichment opportunities beyond the core curriculum."*

From our very youngest to the oldest children, teaching reading and writing skills continue to be a key priority. We also continue to highly regard the importance of developing *Oracy* which is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.

We have an ambitious curriculum based around three key strands: **Active, Creative** and **Inclusive**. By focusing on active learning and learning outdoors in our amazing local area, we will continue to explore opportunities that enhance child development, support mental health and wellbeing, deepen our connection with nature and promote inclusive and engaging learning. This half term's topic information is below. A more detailed topic web of the intended learning for each year group has been sent to parents and carers this week. Please contact class teachers if you have any further queries regarding our curriculum offer. Thank you.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery: Rhyme Time! This term we will be taking an exciting dive into the world of nursery rhymes past and present. Incy Wincy spider will be leaping out of the story book and becoming our nursery pet and we will be splatting Humpty Dumpty in order to create a whole-class masterpiece! Fun learning times ahead as we dig deeper into some much loved traditional nursery rhymes.



Reception: This is Me! We are all unique and special in our own way and this half term we will take a closer look at how we explore the world using our five senses. We will learn the importance of space and moving around safely; our gymnastics work in PE will help with this too. We will talk about our families and look at family trees. We will become artists as we create self-portraits using different media and increasing detail. Our first steps in reading will occur with the introduction of the Read, Write, Inc phonics programme too. A busy and exciting term ahead!

Key Stage 1

In our topic called, **'Into the Forest'**, we will delve into the enchanting story *'Into the Woods'* by Anthony Browne, using it to build our creative thinking skills. We will also be working hard to develop our handwriting, spelling and sentence structure. In science, we will discover how plants grow and what they need to stay healthy. In geography, we will explore our local area using maps and aerial photos. In our art we will experiment with line, texture and colour to express ideas and emotions. In RE, we will learn about the various roles of a church and why it is a special place for Christian worship and celebration.

Key Stage 2

During our first term of this academic year, our topic is **'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind'**. We will learn about the importance of healthy eating in Science, as well as exploring the different functions of our teeth. Then we will research, design and ultimately make our own delicious smoothies in D.T. In Geography, we will explore where our food comes from and introduce the concept of fair trade. In English, we will explore characters, write poetry and instructional recipes all through the amazing story of George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl.

Diary Dates

2025

24.09.25 Reception Parent Workshop @ 5pm

7.10.25 Parent Evening 1

9.10.25 Parent Evening 2

27.10.25-31.10.25 Half term

21.11.25 Red Class Assembly @9am

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 @9am PM Stay & Play @1pm

19.12.25 Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

Diary Dates 2026

5.1.26 Training Day

16.2.26-20.2.26 Half Term

3.4.26-17.4.26 Easter Break

25.5.26-29.5.26 Half Term

19.06.26 Training Day

17.7.26 Last day of term

The next newsletter is out on Friday 19 September 2025