

# Primary News



William Hulme's Grammar School  
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[www.whgs-academy.org](http://www.whgs-academy.org)

February 2024

## Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back!

I hope that you have enjoyed spending time with your children during the half term holiday. It is now the second half of the Spring Term and it feels like the year is going by very quickly. We have lots of events to look forward to this half term so please look carefully at the timetable on the right.

We will no longer be sending communications through texts unless it is for safeguarding reasons. Please see details on page 10 of the newsletter for more information.

Please be reminded that it is Year 2 class assemblies during this half term:

2W-13 March 2024

2YR-20 March 2024

It is also Parents' Evening on the 4 and 6 March, communication will be emailed to you and sent through the Arbor App.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have anything I can help with.

**Miss Leigh Dalton**

**Head of School (Primary Phase)**

**Attendance** As we aim for at least 96%, some of the attendance percentages last half term were very concerning to the attendance team.

Reception	92%
Year 1	89.5%
Year 2	91%
Year 3	92.6%
Year 4	93%
Year 5	92.9%
Year 6	93.6%

## Coming up...

Monday 26 February	Y6 Bikeability Starts
Thursday 29 February	Learn with Me Y1&2
Monday 4 March	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 5 March	UL Student Leadership Presentation
Wednesday 6 March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 7 March	Learn with Me Y3&4
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day
Friday 8 March	Y4 Forest School (Delamere Forest)
Monday 11 March	Book Fair
Monday 11 March	Living Eggs arrive Reception
Wednesday 13 March	Year 2W Class Assembly
Thursday 14 March	Learn with Me Y5&6
Thursday 14 March	School street event
Friday 15 March	Y5 Forest School (The Hive)
Friday 15 March	School street event
Monday 18 March	Y6 Bikeability
Wednesday 20 March	Year 2YR Class Assembly
Thursday 21 March	Learn with me EYFS
Thursday 21 March	Wow Day (Culture Day)
Monday 25 March	Careers Day
Tuesday 26 March	EYFS Easter Show
Wednesday 27 March	Spring Term Attendance Assembly
Wednesday 27 March	School Closes at 2.00pm

## Nursery

We hope you have had a nice half term break. We are very excited about this half term which will be a busy one.

Our topic is 'On the farm' and, as usual, we will be looking at the change in seasons and hopefully feel and see signs of spring. We will learn the names of farm animals and their babies and also where our food comes from. We will plant our own seeds and learn to look after them in our Nursery garden. We will begin our term by celebrating Chinese New Year and learning some simple dances and how to paint dragons. Our term will end with our famous Early Year's Easter Show. We also plan to visit our local Hindu temple and celebrate the Hindu festival of Holi. We have two Talk 4 Writing books this half term: 'The Odd Egg' by Emily Gravett and 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen. We are still working hard on forming some of the letters in our name and in phonics learning to hear initial sounds and blend simple 3 letter words using 'Fred Talk'. In Maths we are learning to accurately count amounts larger than 5. We will be continuing to look at 2 and 3 D shapes and exploring length, weight and capacity.



Miss Fletcher and Miss Murdoch

### Reminders:

#### Early Years Fund

Please contribute to this on parent pay under additional items or watch out for Mrs Fletcher with her tin.

#### Healthy Eating

We recently had a visit from a dentist and she reminded the children about eating healthy snacks and drinks and cleaning their teeth thoroughly at least twice a day.

### Up and coming events:

#### Computing Learn with Me

Thursday 21st March you are welcome to join us for our Computing Learn With Me where we will be exploring how to use IT to support home learning.

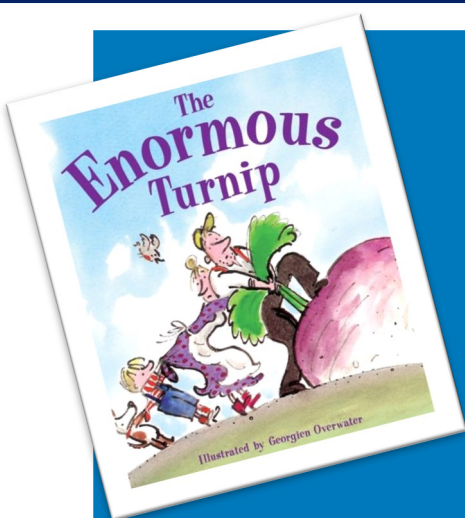
#### Visit

We will be visiting the Hindu temple. More details to follow.

#### Little Lions Parent Club

To commence 1st March. Parents will be approached.





## Reception

Welcome back! This half term we will be reading 'The Enormous Turnip!' This will fit in nicely with the arrival of Spring as we will also be sharing information books and starting to grow plants and vegetables in our outdoor area. We will also learn about the importance of healthy eating and try some fruits and vegetables. The children will also learn about where food comes from. Hopefully we will enjoy better weather outside, where we can investigate life cycles including frogs and butterflies.

In phonics we will be consolidating reading and writing simple words, and continuing to practise writing a simple sentence.

In Maths we will begin learning comparing length, height and time including days of the week and months of the year. We will also be learning the different ways of making 9 and 10 and familiarising ourselves with the properties of 3D shapes.

The Reception children will learn about different celebrations such as Mother's day and Easter time we will be also getting ready for our Spring Show performance.

PE will continue every Monday (Rainbows) and Tuesday (Sunshine) Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit, clearly labelled with their name to change into when they get to school. It is important that children get changed themselves to develop their independence.

Thank you Mrs Arnold and Mrs Halsall

## Reminders

### Early Year's Fund

Please remember to contribute towards our Early Years fund of £1 a week to help us pay for resources, this can be done via Parent Pay

### Parent work shop

Tuesday 19th March Parent workshop on end of year expectations in Reception

### PE Kits

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every Tuesday and a bag of spare clothes.

### Computing Learn with Me

Thursday 21st March

## Home Learning

### Phonics

Ensure your child continues to follow their weekly phonics homework by watching the appropriate videos.

### Reading

Continue to read EVERY day with your child. Don't forget to use Bug club online to read. This is a brilliant resource!





## Year 1

Welcome back, we hope you have had a lovely break. Spring term was overloaded with lots of learning and performances for us all. We are excited to see what Spring 2 has in store for us!

Phonics will be a HUGE priority in the Spring term as Year 1 prepare for their phonics screening test at the beginning of June. Please continue to read daily at home and practise speed sounds with your child. We will be holding a phonics meeting for parents to give more information regarding how to support your child at home.

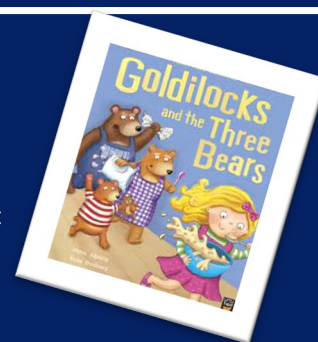
In our Writing lessons, Year 1 will be reading the 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and Dr Tamara Pizzoli's, 'The Ghanaian Goldilocks'. We will be focusing on enhancing their writing skills by using conjunctions in their sentences.

In our Maths lessons, we will be consolidating our understanding of numbers to 50. Please help support your child at home by counting items you have around your home or on your way to and from school. If you would like to challenge your child, please encourage them to write their number as a word. The children will then move on to adding and subtracting numbers between 1-50.

In Science we will be continuing our learning about the four seasons. This half term we will be studying History. Our unit will be, 'How did people travel in the past?' In this unit, Year 1 will learn about the development of transport. In Art, we will be learning about the artist 'Charles McGee'. In this unit, they will be exploring and making sculptures.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher at the end of the day, we are always on hand to help.

Miss Khan and Miss Ridley



## Timetable

English	Goldilocks and the three bears— Story writing and explanations.
Maths	Place value to 50 and addition and subtraction.
Science	Seasonal changes
Geography	How did people travel in the past?
RE	How and Why do we celebrate special and sacred times?
PE	Dance—mini beasts Fundamental movements
Computing	Grouping data
Art	Paper Sculpture
Music	Round and round
PSHE	Safe relationships / respecting ourselves and others

## Reminders...

### Parent's Phonics meeting

Monday 19th February, 3.20pm

### PE

Year 1 have PE every Monday and Wednesday. It is vital that all children have the correct PE kit for these days and the children are independent when getting changed. Please practice this at home.

### Reading Books

Please bring in both your bug club reading book and phonics book in on a Tuesday. Unfortunately, we may not be able to change books if they are brought in later in the week.

## Home Learning

We have lots of fun and exciting platforms to learn at home.

### Phonics

Please ensure your child is accessing the phonics sway and reading their RW Inc reading book daily.



## Year 2

Welcome back! We hope you have had a good rest and you are ready for another exciting half term in Year 2. This half term we are very excited to be learning about the Great Fire of London in History. This is a fantastic topic where the children will look at primary sources to learn about life in England in the 1660s. As part of this unit we will be having a fire engine visit at school where the children will learn more about fire safety and how this links to our topic.

In English, we will be reading the story 'Cendrillon' which is a Caribbean version of Cinderella and the children will be learning how to write an effective character description. In Maths, we will be continuing our work on multiplication and division before moving on to fractions. It is important that the children start practising their 2, 5 and 10 times tables at home and they can use TT Rockstars to support them with this.

In Art, we will be learning how to use colour and tone in our pictures and we will be learning about the artist Pablo Picasso. We will be continuing to learn about Judaism in RE and thinking about how Judaism compares to other religions. Our Science lessons will focus on different habitats and the animals and plants that live in them. We will also be programming robots in our Computing lessons using Bee-bots! We will be learning how to respect different people in PSHE and we will be learning a Reggae song in Music. Finally in PE, we will be practising different target games and we will be improving our dance skills.

We hope you are looking forward to this half term as much as we are!

Mr Witkin and Ms Yardley-Rees

## Timetable

English	Cendrillon - writing a narrative introducing characters
Maths	Multiplication and Division
Science	Living Things and their Habitats
History	The Great Fire of London
RE	Who is a Jewish person and what
PE	Target games and Dance
Computing	Robot Algorithms
Art	Colour and Tone
Music	Zootime!
PSHE	Safe Relationships/ Respecting

## Reminders...

### PE

We have PE every Monday and Friday. Please ensure that your child brings their P.E. kit into school on these days. If your child cannot yet get changed independently, please support us by practising this at home.

### Reading Books

Please bring in both your Bug Club reading book and phonics book in on a Wednesday. Unfortunately, we may not be able to change books if they are brought in later

## Home Learning

We have lots of fun and exciting platforms to learn at home.

### Reading/Maths

Please ensure you are logging into Bug Club and Times Table Rockstars daily.

### Spelling

Your children will also receive a spelling list for the half term. Each week your child will have a spelling test on Thursday.

## Year 3

Welcome back!

We hope you had a lovely break and are looking forward to the exciting learning opportunities we have in store for this half term.

We have already started reading Roald Dahl's 'The Witches' and in English, we will be using what we have learnt about Witches from Roald Dahl to create our own descriptions of a terrifying witch. Could your child write a description of their favourite film, book or game character?

In Maths, we are looking at fractions. This includes comparing and ordering non-unit fractions and equivalent fractions on a number line. It is important that children are confident with their times tables to support them with their work on this. Please ensure they are accessing TT Rockstars daily.

In Art, we will be exploring clay and working in groups to design and make our own clay tiles that together re-tell a fairy tale. In History, we will be exploring Ancient Egypt, including gaining an understanding of the role of the pharaoh and conquest in the Egyptian empire, we will even get the chance to dance like an Egyptian in our PE lessons. As we enter Spring, our science lessons will focus on the biology of plants, examining the features of flowering plants and what they need to survive where we will be able to look back on our trip to RHS Bridgewater and all that we learnt there.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Rabey and Mr Cragg



## Timetable

English	Narrative - character description.
Maths	Fractions, Mass and Capacity.
Science	Biology: plants
History	Ancient Egypt
RE	Christianity, Hinduism and Islam
PE	Dance and Lacrosse
MFL	French
Computing	Branching Databases
Art	Fairy Tale Crimes
Music	Recorders
PSHE	Relationships

## Reminders:

### Books

Each morning we will be reading independently, reading books should be brought everyday (library, weekly reader or own choice)

Weekly readers should be brought back by Wednesday each week so we can change them.

## Home Learning

### Reading

Please ensure that your child is reading at home each day and you are reading together whenever possible. This can be recorded in their reading planner.

### Spellings

Please see the Year Three spellings list for the words all students should be able to spell independently.

### Maths

Please log into Times Table Rockstars as often as possible.



## Year 4

Welcome back to the Spring term. We hope you had a lovely break and are excited about the new learning opportunities ahead. We had a fantastic half term and are extremely proud of the children for their determination and enthusiasm.

This half term, we have lots of exciting new topics to explore, which we know all the children will enjoy.

In English, we will be reviewing our skills when writing speech, thinking about the punctuation needed when writing conversations. Our stories will be based upon 'The King Who Banned the Dark'. Can you write your own story at home about banning something? What would you ban and what effect would it have on the community? We expect everyone to be able to punctuate speech correctly at this point in the year. Can you write some speech sentences using the people in your family as characters?

In Maths, we will be looking at fractions and decimals. It is important that the children have a solid understanding of their times tables as this will help them with their fractions work. TT Rockstars soundcheck should be being played daily as children should now be confident in recalling all times tables up to 12x12.

After getting excited about our history topic in reading, we will be building upon our knowledge of the Early Islamic Civilisation. We will think about how it began and how they had a huge impact on how we live our lives today. Can you find out any facts about this time using books or the internet?

See the timetable below for all of the exciting units we will be learning about this half term. We are going to have a great time on the run up to Easter! As always, please contact us if you have any questions.

**Miss Ashworth, Miss Fisher and Miss Thomas**

## Timetable

<b>English</b>	Narrative including speech
<b>Maths</b>	Fractions and decimals
<b>Science</b>	Sound
<b>History</b>	Early Islamic Civilisation
<b>RE</b>	Christianity and Judaism
<b>PE</b>	Hockey and Roundnet
<b>MFL</b>	Places in the town
<b>Computing</b>	Data logging
<b>Art</b>	Watercolours
<b>Music</b>	Ukulele
<b>PSHE</b>	Safe relationships

## Reminders...

### Reading

Library books need to be brought in for the stamped date inside the front cover.

Reading books should be brought into school every day along with the reading record. Your child may be asked to read at a point in the day.

### Uniform

P.E kit to be worn on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please ensure all children are wearing a tie.

## Home Learning

### Maths

TT Rockstars is so important this half term! Please keep practising on Soundcheck and try to get a consistent score of 25—this will really help in maths lessons.

### Writing

Can you write a dialogue using the correct punctuation?

## Year 5

Welcome back to the spring term. We hope you had a lovely break and are excited about the new learning opportunities ahead.

This half term, in Year 5 we will be developing our ability to build suspense in our writing. Using the novel, 'Crater Lake' (which follows the adventure of a group of children that has gone wrong) the children will be learning how to advance action using dialogue. Perhaps your child could try to write dialogue at home?

In Maths, we will be building on our knowledge from Year 4 for our decimals and percentages unit. We will then progress on to the perimeter and area unit. Lastly, we will be looking at statistics, ensuring that children in year 5 can read and interpret line graphs.

As historians, children in year 5 will be building on our knowledge of the Romans. We will be exploring how Romans gained control of Britain. In our weekly R.E lessons, we will be considering the question "What would Jesus do?" and "Can we live by the values of Jesus in the twenty-first century?" We will be exploring Jesus' parables of love and forgiveness. In science, we will be learning all about human development from being a baby to old age.



Mr Bagshaw and Mrs Alleyne

### Timetable

<b>English</b>	Building suspense and dialogue
<b>Maths</b>	Decimals and percentages Perimeter and Area
<b>Science</b>	Human development
<b>History</b>	Roman empire in Britain
<b>RE</b>	What would Jesus do?
<b>PE</b>	Gymnastics
<b>MFL</b>	Leisure: sports and hobbies
<b>Computing</b>	Vector drawings
<b>Art</b>	Journeys
<b>Music</b>	The fresh prince of Bel-air
<b>PSHE</b>	Respecting our self and others

### Reminders...

#### Swimming

Swim wear must be worn under uniforms every Monday.

#### PE

P.E kits must be worn every Friday.

#### Chromebooks

Chromebooks should be brought fully charged into school every day.

### Home Learning

#### Reading

Your child should be reading daily at home. Make sure your child writes all of the different books they have read in their reading diary and write any comments they have about the book.

#### Maths

TT Rockstars is extremely important! Please keep practising.





## Year 6

How time flies! We are embarking on our final full half-term before your child will be taking their SATs. With this in mind, it is imperative that Year 6 continue to work as hard as they have been all year.

In English, Year 6 will be writing a setting description based on the works of J.K Rowling. In this piece, children will be expected to show a change of mood between two locations and use dialogue to convey character and advance action.

During this half-term's Maths lessons, pupils will be focusing on statistics. This includes: reading and interpreting line graphs; dual bar graphs and pie charts. They will be also be expected to accurately construct their own graphs and pie charts.

During indoor Physical Education lessons on a Thursday, pupils will be developing their ability to play cricket. Throughout this unit, we will be looking for Year 6 to showcase their ability to be resilient, cooperative and show perseverance. An intrinsic motivation to develop skills, knowledge and a positive mindset will be vital.

In History, we will be learning about the Viking age and exploring the key question, "Why do the Vikings have a violent reputation, and do they deserve it?" Later this year, this knowledge will be used to form the basis of a persuasive speech.

Miss Fishwick and Mr Hancock

## Timetable

<b>English</b>	Setting Description and Interview
<b>Maths</b>	Statistics
<b>Science</b>	Further Classification
<b>History</b>	Vikings
<b>RE</b>	Afterlife
<b>PE</b>	Cricket
<b>MFL</b>	Places in towns
<b>Computing</b>	Introduction to spreadsheets
<b>Art</b>	Displacement
<b>Music</b>	You've Got A Friend
<b>PSHE</b>	Managing Peer Pressure

## Reminders...

### P.E. Kits

P.E. kit must be worn on a Wednesday and Thursday.

### Assessment Outcomes

During this half-term, your child will receive their latest results from the recent assessments. This will be discussed further at Parents' Evening.

### Library Books

Library books need to be brought in for the stamped date inside the front cover.

## Home Learning

### Chromebooks

Chromebooks must be brought into school daily full charged.

### Reading

Your child should be reading daily at home. Make sure your child writes all of the different books they have read in their reading journal, and completes a Reading Reflection Task each week.

### Maths

TT Rockstars is extremely important! Please keep practising.

## Moving to Arbor Messages

Over the next few weeks, we will begin the process of moving to the Parent Portal / Arbor App.

WE WILL NO LONGER BE EMAILING OR TEXTING YOU.

As a member of our school community, an account has already been set up for you. To finish creating your account, you just need to set a password. Your username is the email address we have on record for you. If this is incorrect, please let us know as soon as possible so we can amend this for you.

Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> from any computer, tablet or phone and click **Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account. You will need to confirm your child(ren)'s date of birth to register to view their details.

A screenshot of the Arbor login interface. At the top is the Arbor logo (three overlapping circles in orange, green, and blue) followed by the word 'Arbor'. Below this is the heading 'Log in'. There are two input fields: 'Enter your email address' and 'Enter your password', both with pink borders. Below these is a green 'Log in' button. At the bottom left is a checkbox labeled 'Remember me'. At the bottom right is a link that says 'Forgot your password?' in yellow text on a yellow background.

There is also an Arbor App that you can download once you have created an account. We have not enabled all of the features yet but here is a useful guide which includes a video:

[Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App – Arbor Help Centre \(arbor-education.com\)](https://www.arbor-education.com)

## Rights Respecting

We are a Silver Rights Respecting school. This means that children learn about their Rights as set out in the UNCRC.

We will be sharing an article every half term with you to talk about with your children.

This half term's article is:



Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.



## Social Action

Thank you for supporting the Year 6 Student Leadership Team on their mission to end hunger in our community.

We were able to give Manchester South Central Foodbank a fantastic donation thanks to your kindness.



Remember, our WHGS Pantry is located in the Secondary Phase reception and is there for anyone to use. Just speak to a member of staff.

## Contact Us

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Telephone: 0161 226 2054 Email: [ppreception@whgs-academy.org](mailto:ppreception@whgs-academy.org)

