



Whitehouse Primary Autumn 1 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- 03.11.25**
School reopens for AUTUMN 2
- 10.11.25 – 14.11.25**
Anti-Bullying Week
- 11.11.25**
Remembrance Assembly in school
- 12.11.25 & 13.11.25**
Learning Reviews with parents/carers
- 17.11.25**
Assessment Week
- 05.12.25**
PD Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
- 08.12.25**
EYFS Panto/KS1 & KS2 Panto
- 11.12.25**
School Christmas Dinner
- 12.12.25**
Nursery Christmas Performance
10.30am
Reception Christmas Performance
2.30pm
- 15.12.25**
UKS2 Christmas Performance
9.30am and 2.30pm
- 16.12.25**
LKS2 Christmas Performance
9.30am and 2.30pm
- 17.12.25**
KS1 Christmas Performance
9.30am and 2.30pm
- 18.12.25**
School Christmas Parties –
children come in party clothes
- 19.12.25**
Christmas Movie, treats and
comfy clothes; carol service 2.30pm
School Closes 3.15pm for Christmas
Break



Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians,

As the leaves begin to turn and the days grow shorter, we're excited to embrace the new season with fresh energy and enthusiasm.

This half term has been packed with exciting learning opportunities, seasonal activities and chances for your child to grow and thrive. From exploring autumnal changes in nature with our youngest children to diving into new topics, the children have enjoyed settling into routines, building new friendships and relationships with new teachers and fostering a love of learning

Please keep an eye out for key dates, reminders and ways you can support your child's learning at home.

Stay Connected with Our School Community!

We're excited to invite you to join our official Facebook and Instagram pages - your go-to hub for everything happening at school!

By following us, you'll get:

- Updates on upcoming events and activities
- Insights into our curriculum and learning journeys
- Highlights from school celebrations and special moments
- Photos, stories and announcements that keep you in the loop

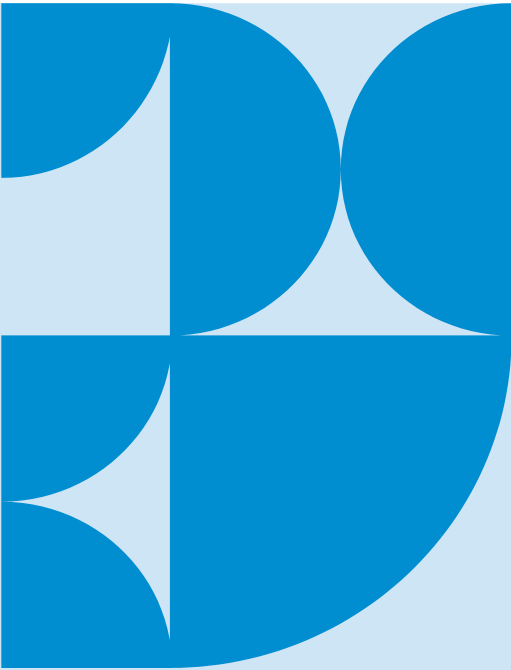
It's a great way to stay informed, celebrate your child's achievements and be part of our vibrant school community.

👉 [Click here to join us on Facebook](#)

👉 [Click here to join us on Instagram](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Warmly,
Jane Eyre



Quick Reminders

- Back to school **Monday 3rd November, 2025**
- Doors open at **8.35am** and close at **8.50am** every morning.
- Wellies, warm clothes and waterproofs for forest schools Thursdays and Fridays



Recent Highlights

- Forest Schools
- Junior Joes
- New playground equipment
- Supporting Ragworth Community Grocery

Meet our Staff Teams

We appreciate there are lots of people and faces to become acquainted with in school, so here's a who is who?



Senior Leadership Team (L-R)

Jane Eyre
Headteacher

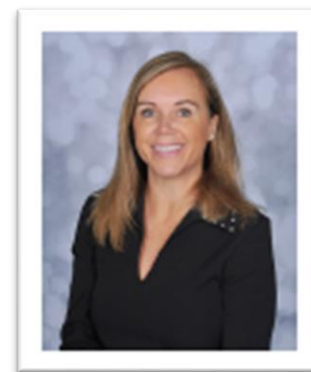
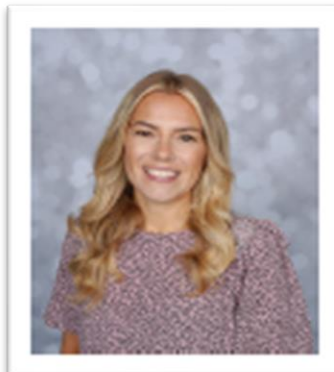
Deborah Cooper
Assistant Headteacher



Business Support and Office Team (L-R)

Lucy Yellow
Senior Admin

Mel Wright
Admin



SEN and Pastoral Team (L-R)

Katie Paterson
SENDCo

Victoria Gibson
Attendance and Wellbeing

Key Stage Two (7-11)

Key Stage two Team Leaders (L-R)
Rachel Eastwood Lauren Holmes



UKS2 Team (L-R)

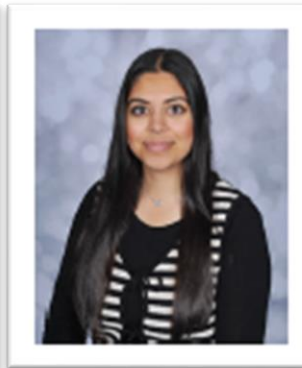
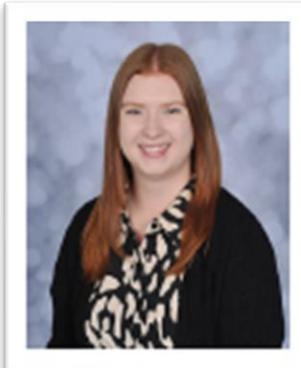
Brad Mullen
Y6

Lauren Shepherd
Y6

Eve Leach
Y5

Zahra Ayub
Y5

Claire Smith
Y5/Y6



LKS2 Team (L-R)

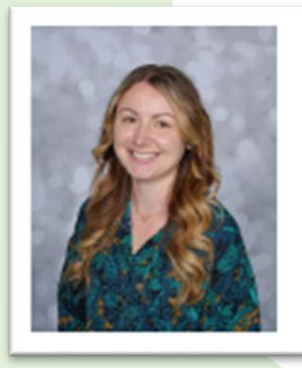
Lauren Holmes
Y3

Carrie-Anne Brown
Y3/4

Rachel Eastwood
Y4

Carla Smith
Y3/4

Catherine Beane
Y3/4



Key Stage One (5 - 7)

Key Stage One Team Leader

Katie Paterson

Y1/2



LKS1 Team (L-R)

John Graham

Y1

Jenny List

Y1/2

Jenny Poole

Y2

Liz Needham

Y1

Vicky Brooks

Y1/2

Erin Yellow

Y1/2



Early Years Foundation Stage (3 - 5)

EYFS Team Leader

Deborah Cooper

Assistant Headteacher



EYFS Team (L-R)

Sam Poulter
Nursery

Sian Lowery
Reception

Emma Murray
Reception

Tracey Coyle
Nursery

Louise Nouri
Reception



EYFS Team (L-R)

Amanda Ransom
Nursery

Anna Binks
Reception



HLTA

Paula Robinson
Whole School



Curriculum Highlights

Harvest

We enjoyed another successful harvest appeal and assembly delivered by Andy Malbon from The Ragworth Community Grocery.

Following this, a group of children visited the grocery to see how it operates.

They loved seeing what happened to our donations and how the grocery worked. We even did some shopping to bring back to school so that we could cook a meal with it.



Thank you so much for
your support and kind
donations!



Making a meal of it!

Following their visit to the Ragworth Community Grocery, the children made a pasta bake and some cupcakes with the ingredients that we purchased for only £5.00. It was enough to feed a hungry family of 4 and was all delicious too.

Ms Eyre said that it was the best pasta bake she had ever tasted!!





LKS2

We have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We designed and created Rangoli patterns and then decorated the entrance to our classroom to welcome visitors.



All aboard the Reception SDR200!

The reception classes have had a fabulous start to the school year. They have been celebrating SDR200 with our very own Locomotion No.1; exploring and learning and having lots of fun outdoors.... as well as working hard on our maths, writing and art skills!





Nursery

The children in Nursery loved their first visit to the library bus. Listening and engaging with a story and then getting to stamp their chosen books out to read in school.



Cross Country UKS2

Four children from year 5 and 6 qualified to represent Stockton in the Cross-Country Finals at Stewart Park, Middlesbrough on Wednesday 8th October. It was a feat of endurance and we are extremely proud of their sporting attitudes and determination. Well done to them all!

Team Treat

Green team enjoyed the first Team treat of the academic year, taking the opportunity to improve their table tennis skills. Well done to Green Team!



School Improvement Priorities 2025 - 2026



Being kind to each other and supporting each other so that everyone feels safe and happy will always be the most important priority.

Every child will have a 'passport for life' to complete.

Teachers who lead Computing, PE and Design Technology will help and support other teachers to be the best that they can be so they are more confident teachers and we have more exciting things to learn in Computing, PE and DT.

Our after-school clubs will enable as many children as possible to access a wide range of interests and activities.

Whitehouse Primary School

2025 - 2026

School Improvement Plan

'Our School Goals'...

The playground will be developed for a wider range of activities.

All adults will support all children to attend school regularly and on time to enable all children to succeed academically, develop relationships with peers and feel good about themselves.

Online safety will now be a feature in every computing lesson and not just stand-alone lessons.

All children in EYFS will have the opportunity to further develop communication and language with a targeted focus by staff on engaging ALL children in conversations daily.

All children will have the opportunity to be a leader in school.

All adults will support children to practise new ideas and skills, take risks, show imagination and solve problems on their own or with others to build resilience.

All adults will engage with children onsite in conversation without the distractions of technology.

All children will have termly access to educational visits/visitors/experiences as well as tri-weekly access to forest school/outdoor adventurous learning.



All children will enjoy writing and will be super confident at using a range of vocabulary, sentence structures and styles.

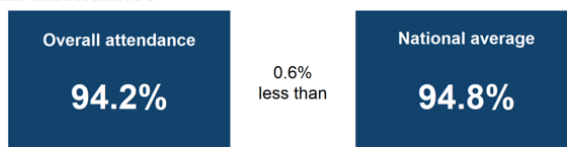
Parents/carers will be partners in our learning via webinars, attending workshops/use of Seesaw so that they will be more aware and knowledgeable about what is being taught in all subjects.

Attendance is our number one priority: we are below national average and our persistent absenteeism is very high compared to schools nationally.

Headline attendance and absence

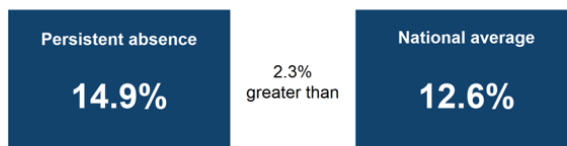
Overall attendance and persistent absence figures for pupils in years 1 to 6 compared to the national average. Results are calculated based on data from the start of the academic year 2024 to 2025, up to Wednesday 13 August 2025.

Overall attendance



Overall attendance is 94.2% which is 0.6% less than the national average.

Persistent Absence



Persistent absence is 14.9% which is 2.3% greater than the national average.

Attendance is a School Improvement Priority

Attending school regularly is extremely important for your child's academic success, personal development and overall well-being. **We have to follow the Statutory attendance**

Framework, details of which can be found on our website.

Currently, our whole school attendance average stands at **94.6%**.

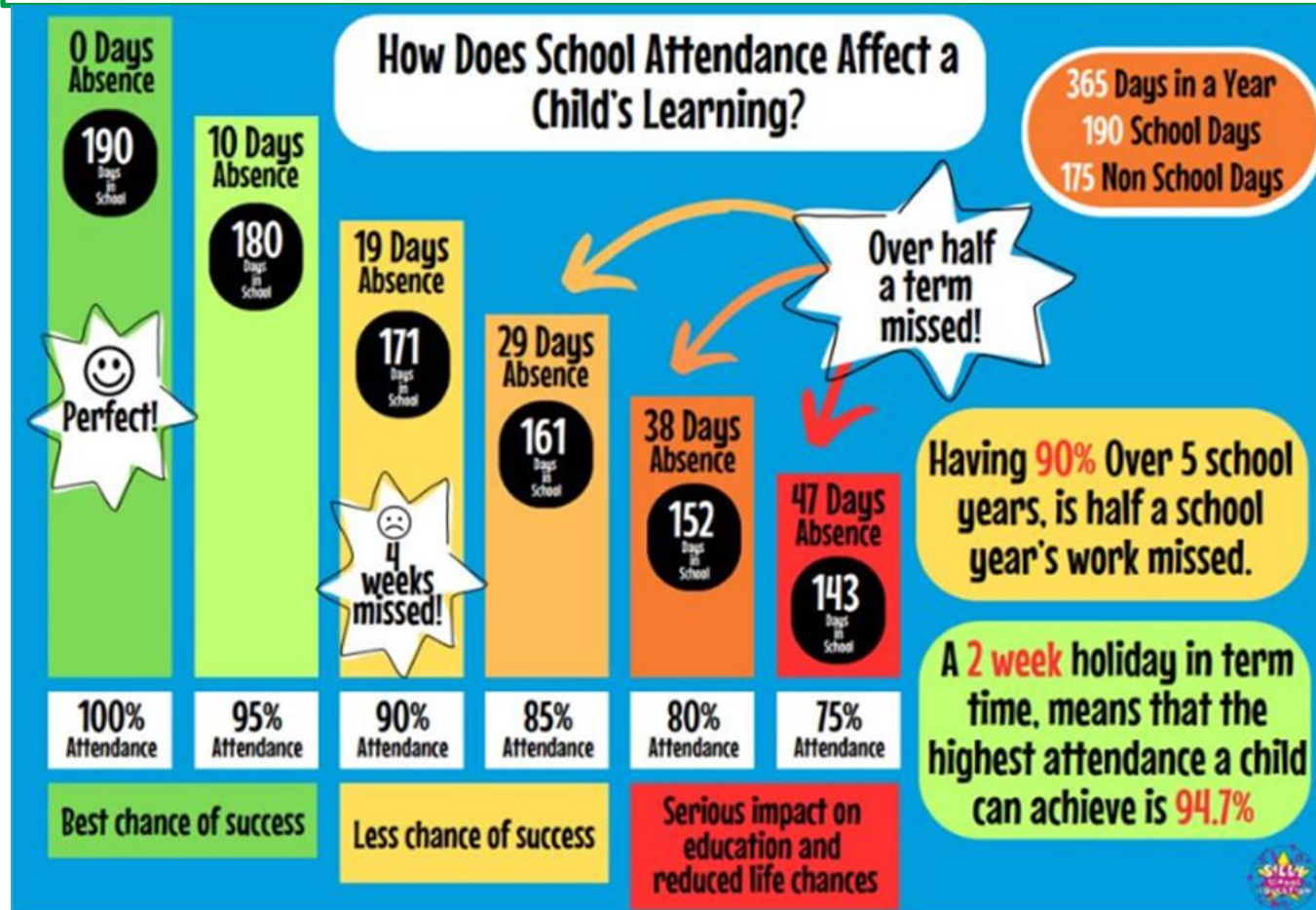
Our *persistent absenteeism* is averaging at **15.8%**

Following a governor meeting in September, it was decided to be completely transparent with parents about the level of leave of absence requests and penalty notices issued.

September to October 2025

LOA requests	28
Penalty Notices	7
Penalty Notices pending	3

Thank you for continuing to support your child's education and minimising school absence unless for health and medical reasons.



Parent Survey Results

Thank you all for taking part in the survey sent out in September. We had 61 responses from across Key stages and the majority of the results were very positive which is wonderful news, so we know we are definitely heading in the right direction.

Key Messages: what we are doing well:

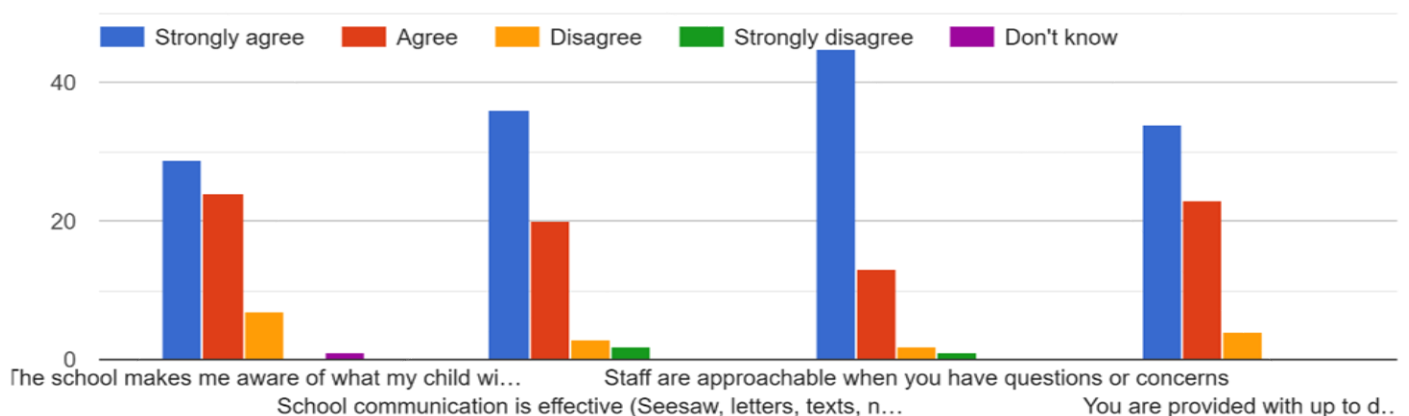
- **Safety and Wellbeing:** The school provides a safe, happy, and nurturing environment where children feel secure and motivated to learn.
- **Quality Teaching:** Teachers are praised for their dedication, inspiration, and ability to support children's learning and confidence.
- **Communication:** Outstanding communication through Seesaw, newsletters, and approachable staff.
- **Personalised Approach:** Children are treated as individuals, with opportunities to thrive and discover strengths.
- **Leadership:** Visible and proactive leadership, with SLT present and approachable.
- **Parental Engagement:** Strong collaboration with parents and early sharing of key dates.
- **Inclusive and Respectful Culture:** Children are respectful and polite; inclusion is a priority.
- **Extra Opportunities:** Forest School, visitors, experiences, and breakfast club enrich learning.
- **Confidence Building:** Parents notice growth in confidence and independence with their children.
- **Support for SEN:** Positive recognition of support for children with additional needs.

Key Messages: what we need to improve:

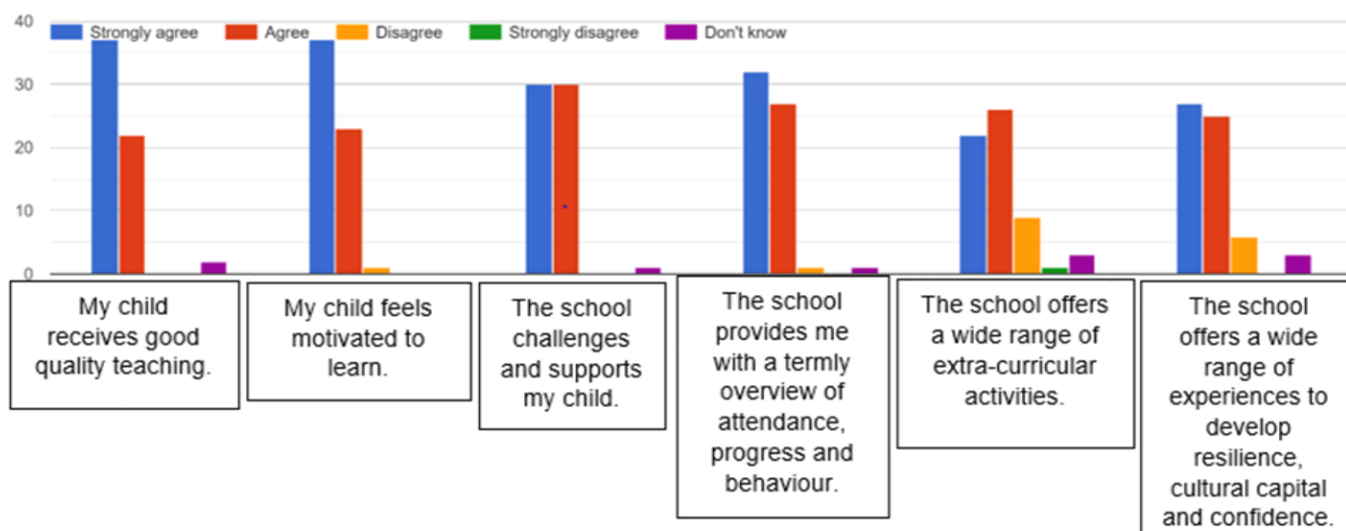
- **Communication:** Streamlining needed; too many platforms causing confusion.
- **Outdoor Space:** Playground upgrades requested; parents willing to help fundraise.
- **After-School Clubs:** Booking frustrations; need for more variety and fairness for all.
- **Learning Support:** More challenge for high-achievers and better SEN engagement.

Main Section results on Communication, Teaching and Learning and Behaviour:

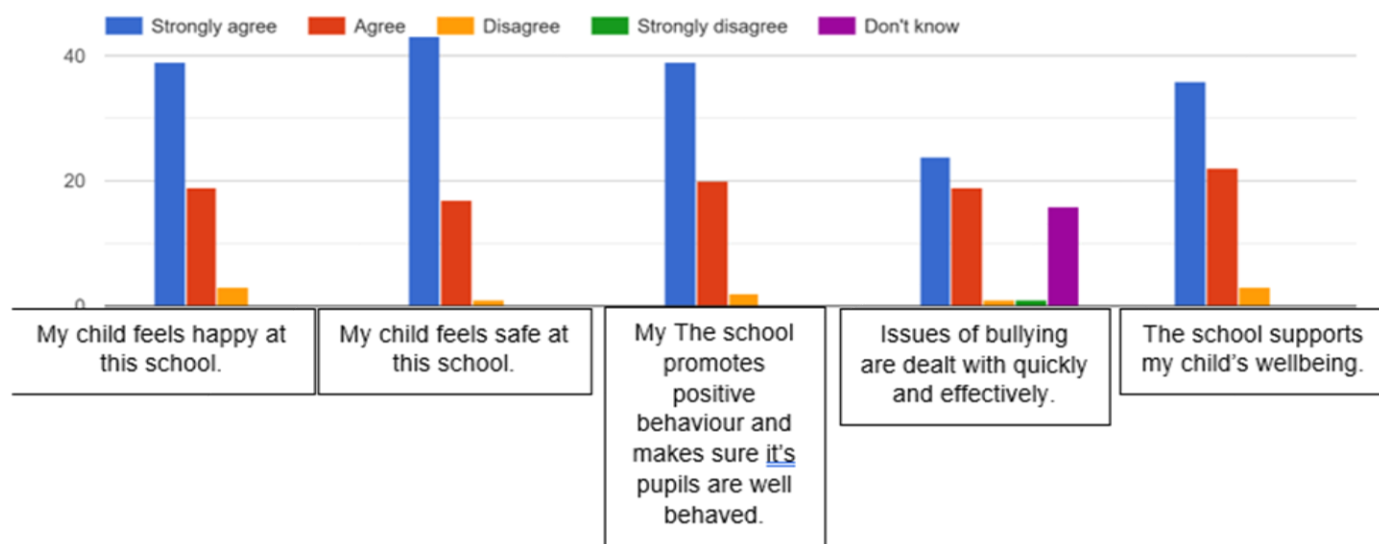
Section 2: Communication How strongly do you agree with each statement (mark only one box per row)



Section 3: Teaching & Learning How strongly do you agree with each statement (mark only one box per row)



Section 5: School Environment and Behaviour How strongly do you agree with each statement (mark only one box per row)



Parent Forum

A new parent forum has now been set up to work alongside us to help make the decisions and improvements we need to move forward. The first meeting focus will be on communication to unpick what is working and what isn't.

If you like to be a part of the forum in the future, then please get in touch with Mel via email to express your interest.





mwright@whitehouseprimaryschool.org.uk

WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL

After School Clubs

Our after-school clubs are all up and running and very popular! The children are enjoying attending and learning lots of new skills with a wide offering of different clubs.

We are trying to offer clubs on a 4-week rota, so that more children have the opportunity to attend a club, (as well as a wider range of clubs) and a new system for booking.

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Arts and Crafts Club – Miss Poole KS2 – 15 children £2 per session 10 th Nov – 1 st Dec (4 weeks) Collection from KS1 Playground 	Football – Stockton Town Club KS1 – 15 children £2 per session 12 th Nov – 3 rd Dec (4 weeks) Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall) 	Baking – Mrs Gibson All years - 8 children £2.00 per session 13 th Nov – 4 th Dec (4 weeks) Collection from UKS2 Playground 	Multi-Sports Club – JT Performance KS2 – 20 children £2.00 per session 14 th Nov – 5 th Dec (4 weeks) Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall)
	Keyboard Music Club – Miss Leach KS2 – 12 children £2 per session 12 th Nov – 3 rd Dec (4 weeks) Collection from UKS2 Playground	Basketball – Tees Valley Mohawks Club KS1 – 20 children £2 per session 13 th Nov – 4 th Dec (4 weeks) Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall)	
	Coding Club – Miss Ayub KS2 – 20 children £2 per session 12 th Nov – 3 rd Dec (4 weeks) Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall)		

Safeguarding and well-being

We always want to make sure that our pupils have the opportunity to share any worries they may be experiencing and also help develop their skills to cope with their thoughts and feelings.

With this in mind, we deliver a range of courses across school to support children's mental health and well-being. Education Mental Health Practitioners visit our school regularly and help promote pupil well-being across school. They can support children with a range of issues as shown below in the attachment.




If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please contact Victoria Gibson- Mental Health Lead on 01642 678212.



EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER



WHAT CAN AN EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER HELP WITH?

<h4>ANXIETY</h4>  <p>Anxiety may include social, separation anxiety as well as phobias, panic and avoidance. We explore thoughts, feelings and behaviours to help you face your fears.</p>	<h4>SLEEP HYGIENE</h4>  <p>If you are having trouble sleeping, we can discuss the thoughts which may be making this more difficult and look to challenge these thoughts.</p>
<h4>LOW MOOD</h4>  <p>Low mood or depression can stop us from doing activities we once enjoyed. Challenging unhelpful thoughts and focusing on things you value can help to increase your mood.</p>	<h4>SCHOOL TRANSITION</h4>  <p>Moving to secondary school or college may feel uncertain. We can help normalise any anxiety this brings and help you develop coping strategies for dealing with change.</p>
<h4>WORRY</h4>  <p>Worrying can look like lots of "what if" thoughts about the future and often thinking something bad may happen. We can provide strategies to manage these worries.</p>	<h4>RESILIENCE</h4>  <p>We can help you develop skills to deal with everyday pressures and challenging situations. Problem solving techniques will be explored to help manage any difficulties you may face.</p>
<h4>EXAM STRESS</h4>  <p>The lead up to exams can be overwhelming. We can help you use strategies to enhance your wellbeing and manage anxiety to help you feel more able to cope.</p>	<h4>COPING STRATEGIES</h4>  <p>Coping strategies such as mindfulness techniques, emotional regulation and thought challenging will be explored and can be used to manage wellbeing.</p>

General Reminder

Access to school car park

Keeping our children safe

Please could we remind all parents that unless you have an authorised permit, the school car park is for staff and visitors only. This is for the safety of our children.

There are designated areas for parking at Sainsbury car park, Elm tree shops and Elm tree pub car park.



TEAM Whitehouse

Together Everyone Achieves More



We wish you all a safe and happy half term break
and thank you for all of your continued support.