



Upcoming Events

05/01/26

School re-opens for everyone

08/01/26

Winning Team Treat

15/01/26

School Dinner Census

22/01/26

5ZA Class Assembly

29/01/26

2JP Class Assembly

03/02/26

Photographer in school - families

04/02/26

4RE Class Assembly

09/02/26

Online Safety Week

12/02/26

Wellbeing Coffee morning – all parents
Invited 9am

12/02/26

1JG Class Assembly

16/02/26

Music Week

19/02/26

5EL Class Assembly

21/02/26

Break up for half term



Whitehouse Primary Autumn 2 Newsletter



We hope you have a very merry Christmas!

Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians,

As we come to the end of the autumn term, we want to take a moment to celebrate all the fantastic learning, achievements and memories that have been shared together. It has been a truly special term filled with curiosity, creativity and community spirit.

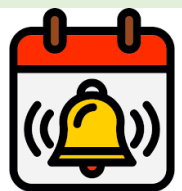
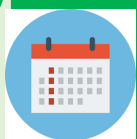
From community events such as the Stockton Lantern Festival and Stockton Sings to the Elf Run charity event, all of the wonderful Christmas performances, parties and pantomimes to the everyday moments of growth and discovery, your children have worked incredibly hard and shown resilience and enthusiasm throughout. We are so proud of everything they have accomplished.

This term has also been full of festive cheer - thank you for your support in making events like the Autumn and Christmas Fairs so successful. These experiences remind us of the importance of working together as a school family.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited for the opportunities and learning that await. Until then, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday break and a happy, healthy New Year!

Warmly, Jane Eyre

See you all again when school opens on **January 5th, 2026**



Quick Reminders

- **School reopens** on 5th January 2026
- Please ensure your child's uniform is **clearly labelled**.
- Packed lunches should be **nut-free** due to allergies.
- If your child is absent, please notify the office by **8.50AM**.
- **Weather Preparedness:** As winter weather sets in, ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat, gloves, and a hat.



Recent Highlights

- Christmas Performances - always a Joy and pleasure to watch!
Photos will be shared on See saw 😊
- Elf Run
- Stockton Sings and The Lantern Festival



Curriculum Highlights



NURSERY

Christmas is a busy time in Nursery but as you can see by the children's faces, they love it!



Nursery children enjoyed the Christmas Pantomime, even being confident enough to participate on stage!



The build up to Christmas is such a magical time in Nursery, with a lot of opportunities for role play!



We investigated melting and explored a real life ice castle!



We got wrapped up and played in the snow- it was fun trying to catch it on our tongues!

Parachute fun
means strong
muscles!



Nursery love to be outside and
the children practised their
threading skills by decorating the
outdoor area!



Nursery have been
developing their social
skills while
constructing some
impressive models!





Nursery enjoyed
raising money for
Children in Need!
Taking part in
craft and food
themed activities.



The fire service
came to talk to
Nursery
about being safe
on Bonfire Night.
We were lucky
enough to use
their hose and
climb inside the
engine!



Mental Elf Fun Run for MIND Charity

The children had a wonderful morning completing the Elf run with the help of Buddy the Elf and some snow!

At the last count, the children had raised a magnificent **£6,387.95** for MIND charity.

Fantastic effort everyone!



Design Technology

Lower key stage two children have enjoyed their Design and Technology project this half term. The children researched and designed their pouch first and then learnt how to do a **running stitch**, **over stitch** and a **cross stitch** to arm them with the methods needed to complete a bag. Using these skills, the children have successfully produced a functional pouch.





Just look at the concentration on their faces!



RECEPTION

Reception have had a busy time learning all about marvellous machines this term.

They built circuits and created robots.

In PE they practiced moving fluently to music in a colourful way!



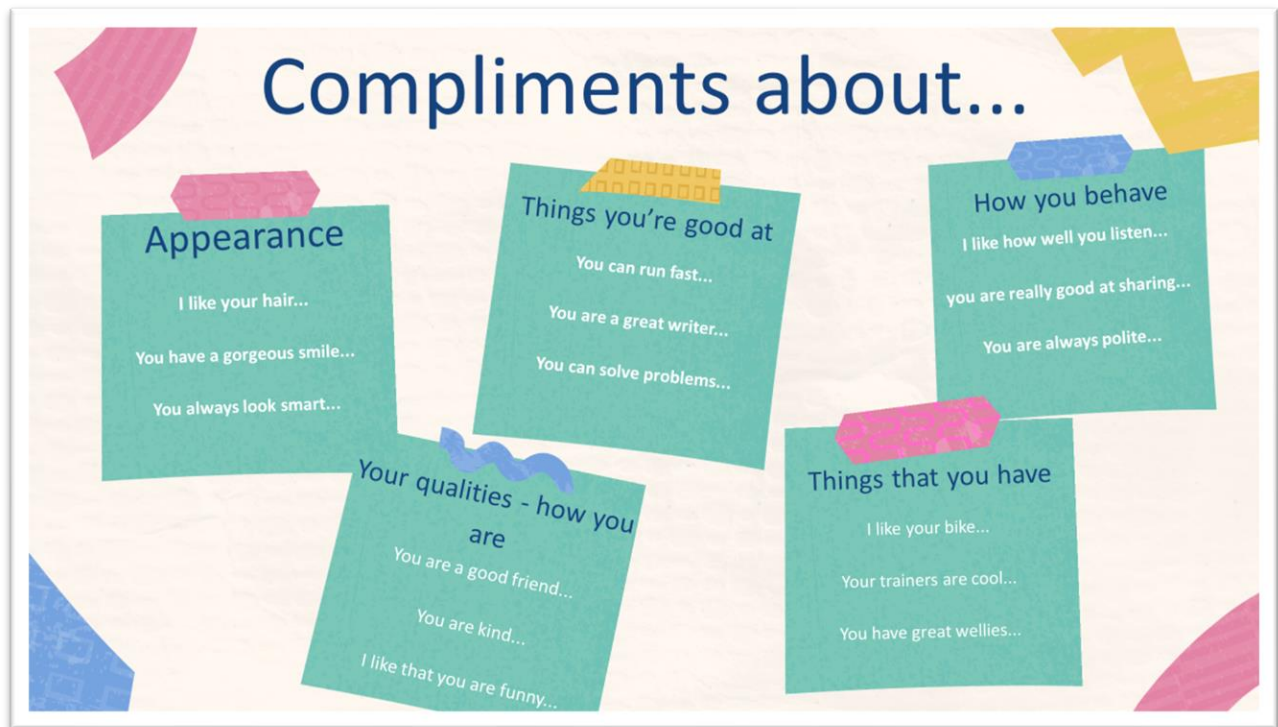
PIC•COLLAGE



'Whitehouse Weekly Wonders'!

Every week, each class teacher nominates a child in their class to be a **'Whitehouse Wonder of the Week'**. The chosen child is the focus of compliments from their peers and those compliments are shared with the weekly wonder child on a Friday. This is a lovely way to build self-esteem and appreciation from peers.

Has your child been a Whitehouse Weekly Wonder this term?



Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about human, animal and plant reproduction in Science. The children dissected a lily to identify the different parts. We discussed the function of each part and its importance in the plant's reproduction.



Key Stage 1

Key Stage 1 have thoroughly enjoyed their **new Design Technology Textiles project** this half term, '**Buzzing Bookmarks**'! The children have learnt how to do running stitches and cross stitches, in preparation to create their own designs which they will sew onto bookmarks before the end of term. Their incredible focus, resilience and teamwork has helped them to quickly pick up a very tricky skill!





★ Community Events ★

It's been truly magical for some of the children this year at Whitehouse Primary School, who have taken part in Stockton community events, such as the **Stockton Sparkles Lantern Parade** on Sunday 7th December where Years 5 and 6 were part of the Apollo Arts Street band and the **Stockton Sings** event on Wednesday 10th December.

As with all events out of school, the children's impeccable behaviour was noticed by other members of the public - they really do make us all very proud!







Christmas at Whitehouse

It's been truly magical for the children this year at Whitehouse, with Pantomimes, Christmas craft making, performances, hot chocolate, Christmas dinner, carol service and parties. A selection of photos from the festivities.



Christmas Pantomimes





Christmas Lunch





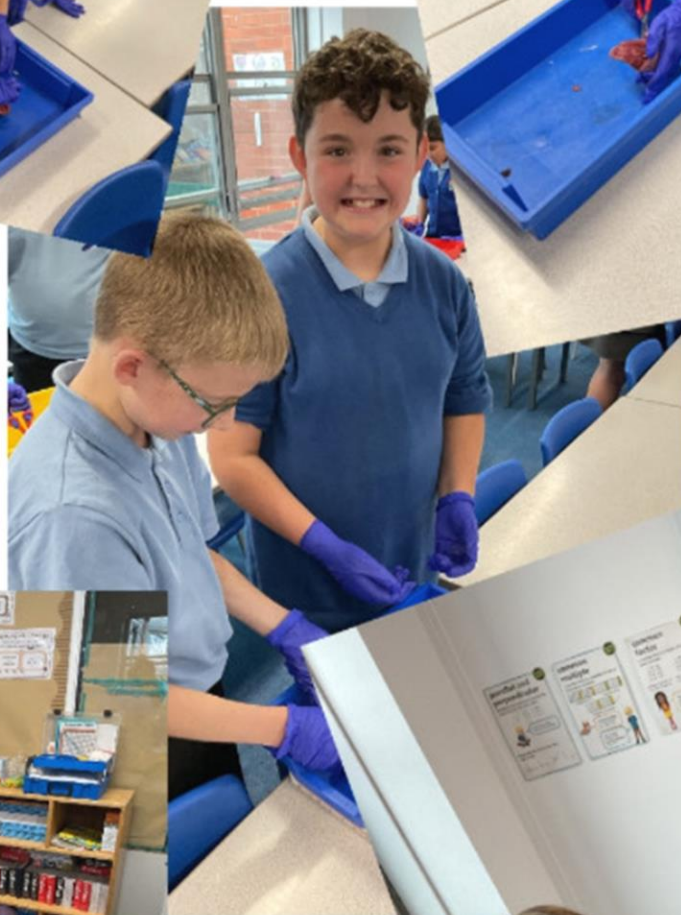
Christmas Performances



Year 6

Year 6 have had a very busy term learning all about the heart in science; the Ancient Mayans in history and how you can live a healthy lifestyle in science and PSHE.





Ancient Maya

EARLY MAYA

to establish
settlement
2000 BCE
AD 1500 CE

in Mesoamerican
Civilization - they built
from village to city and finally
larger cities like Teotihuacan
they showed pottery that could
show the date in some places

POTTERY/ARTIFACTS

Remains of pottery were found in Chiapas, El Salvador, Mexico, along with another 2000 untraced vessels and was thought to have been part of an offering to the gods.

THEY MADE SCULPTURES

Set of Maya's most significant sculptures were of fully figured gods they got as well as gods that got their own place in a sanctuary. They had their own gods like Kukulcan, Itzamna, and others. They also had their own writing system.

THEY WROTE

They wrote in a script called Mayan script. This is the way the language of Mayans was written by the Mayans.

THEY USED

They used a system of numbers called Mayan numbers. They used a base 20 system.

MAYA GODS

Mayans have many gods:
CHAK: God of rain and lightning
IX CHEL: Maya goddess of fertility
YUMIL K'AHOL: one of the gods of the underworld
K'INICH AHOL: god of the sun
ITZ'AMNA: god of war and knowledge
EXCEL: goddess of commerce and war

NUMBERS FROM THE WRITING SYSTEM

PULLY

Fun fact: IXCHEL'S NAME



Ancient Maya

WERE THEY LIVED

Between 2000 BCE and 2000 CE, the people of Mesoamerica were living and together but they started to become people. They also lived in the dense jungle making it difficult for others to go there.

WHAT THEY EAT

Some of the world's most famous foods were discovered and developed by the Mayans. They ate things like chocolate, corn, and beans. But they also ate things like dogs and birds.

WHAT THEY PLAYED

For over a game the Mayans played a lot called "Pach". You can only be the ball with your hip, knee, elbow and foot. You have to keep the ball in the air. If you lose the ball, you have to be sacrificed to the gods.

HOW THEY FARMED

When the Mayans started they used a system to grow food. They used a system called "chil" which means to grow. They used a system called "chil" which means to grow. They used a system called "chil" which means to grow.

Ancient Maya

Comments about topics

- I have never heard of the Ancient Mayans.
- I don't know too much about this topic but I'm looking forward to this topic.

Comments about topics

- I have enjoyed learning about the Mayans.

Indigo - a hard, green stone used to make jewellery.

The Maya were a civilisation that grew between 2000 BCE and AD 1500 CE.

This piece of pottery was found at Chichen Itza along with another 2000 untraced vessels and was thought to have been part of an offering to the gods.

Mayan cities

Some of the world's most famous foods were discovered and developed by the Mayans.

The Mayans created their own writing and number systems.

Mayans lived in dense jungles.



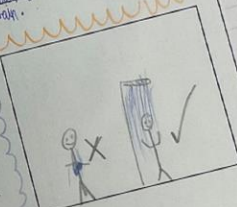
Wednesday 19th November

How can I live a healthy lifestyle?

How can you lead a healthy lifestyle?



To live a healthy lifestyle you could have a balanced diet, get out to walk at least once a day, exercise and if you sit and play video games every day it hurts your brain.



You should shower daily because you could get spots, get rid of bacteria at work, your sweat can build up all over your body and you need to keep your skin 2 times a day.



You should be drinking a lot of water because you'll be able to lose lots of weight, headaches and when you're sick it helps your body work and to drink about 2 litres a day.

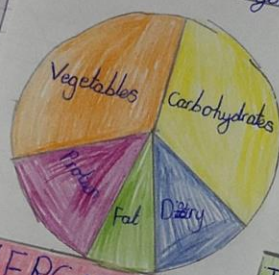
Wednesday 19th November

How can I live a healthy lifestyle?

How can you live a healthy life?

Children should get 60 minutes of exercise every day.

To have a healthy life remember to eat a balanced diet.



EXERCISE

Exercise will make your muscles stronger.
It can improve illnesses like asthma.
It helps you sleep better.
Exercise can help lose weight if you are overweight.

If you feel ill you might have pale skin, be tired, runny nose, high temperature, rash, spots, headache.

HYGIENE

- Make sure you brush your teeth 2 times each day.
- have a shower or bath every day.
- wash your face daily.



Wednesday 19th November

How can I live a healthy lifestyle?

How can you live a healthy lifestyle?

Healthy Lifestyle good plate



Carbohydrates



Fact: Exercising will help your heart and make it stronger.

Hygiene
Remember to brush your teeth twice a day.



Q-tips actually push earwax further into your ear canal so try not to use them.



Make sure to shower daily or often.



Remember to wash your hands regularly.



Exercise

Exercise helps your muscles become stronger, lose weight, feel healthier and much more.



Children should exercise for at least 60 minutes a day.



How can exercise or an active lifestyle help your mind?

Years 1: Stay and Read

The children in Year 1 enjoyed a Stay and Read morning with their parents/carers/guardians.

Who knew learning to read could be so much fun!







RIGHTS RESPECTING SILVER AWARD

Whitehouse Primary are working towards achieving the 'Silver Aware' award.

We have a brilliant team of children who are our steering group. They support the school in making sure rights are embedded around school and think of ways to ensure rights are being respected throughout school.



Alongside our steering group, we have Octi! He is our Rights Respecting mascot. He is travelling around classes joining in with any learning linked to rights!

Below are some Q & A's to help you understand what being a Rights Respecting School means.

What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)?

The RRSA is an initiative run by UNICEF UK that helps schools embed children's rights in their daily school life. RRSA helps give children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

Why is our school working towards this award?

By working towards the RRSA, our school is committed to placing children's rights at the heart of everything we do. This helps improve wellbeing, supports every child to reach their potential, and encourages a culture of mutual respect.

How can parents and carers get involved?

We encourage you to talk with your child about what they are learning. You can find more about the Convention on the Rights of the Child at <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention> and our school's RRSA journey at <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa>.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the UNICEF UK RRSA website: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa>.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Online Safety

As the festive season approaches, many children will be spending extra time online, whether enjoying new devices, playing games, or connecting with friends. We encourage parents to take a few simple steps to help keep this experience safe and positive:

- **Set boundaries:** Agree on clear rules for screen time and online activities during the holidays.
- **Stay involved:** Take an interest in what your child is playing or watching, and explore together when possible.
- **Privacy matters:** Remind children never to share personal details such as their full name, address, or school online.
- **Check settings:** Review parental controls and privacy settings on apps, games, and devices.
- **Talk openly:** Encourage children to come to you if they see or experience anything that makes them uncomfortable.

By working together, we can ensure that Christmas is not only happy but also safe in the digital world.



Emotional well-being at Whitehouse Primary

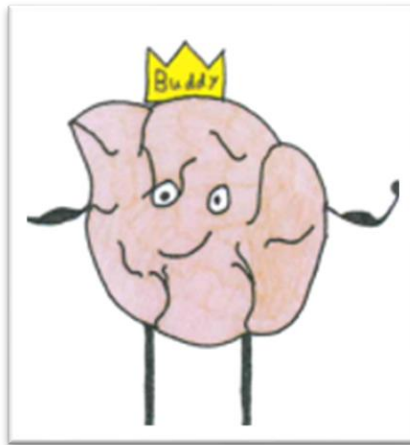
We believe promoting pupil mental health and well-being is essential for children to become aware of how to manage their own worries and understand their feeling and emotions.

Our Well-being council have been working hard as always and are currently putting together a presentation to share in assembly in the New Year, their input and ideas have been vital in order to develop ways of strengthening pupil well-being.

We have covered several safeguarding topics such as online safety and keeping safe in the Community.

We have had lots of children accessing well-being programmes all year and Alliance are regularly in school.

Our Well-being mascot is visible around school supporting children with what they can do if they have a worry.



Date for the Diary - Monday 12th January- 9:00 – 10:00 am

Alliance will be in school to deliver a special **session for parents and carers on well-being**. The workshop will **focus on practical ways** to look after both your own well-being and your child's, with plenty of tips and strategies to take away.

Please book your space via Arbor in January 2026.

Attendance

Understanding Attendance and Its Impact.

Why does attendance matter?

Every school day builds on the last. Missing lessons, even a few, can create gaps in learning that can affect progress in maths, reading and writing. It can also **impact friendships and wellbeing**. Here's what your child's attendance means:

Below 90% Attendance

Persistent Absentee

Your child has missed **15 or more days** this year. This creates **serious gaps in core subjects** and can **affect learning, friendships and wellbeing**.

What happens next?

We'll contact you for an attendance meeting to set targets for improvement. Please work with us to boost attendance as every day counts!

90% – 91.9% Attendance

Cause for Concern

Missing up to 10 days means your child has likely missed **two maths units and two weeks of reading and writing**, creating clear learning gaps.

What happens next?

We'll monitor attendance weekly and hope to see improvement next term. If you need support, please contact **Mrs Gibson**. Together, we can keep your child on track!

92% – 95.9% Attendance

Needs Improvement

Even a few missed days can lead to significant gaps, sometimes an entire unit in maths, reading and writing.

Why it matters:

Learning builds day by day, so every absence makes it harder to keep up. Let's work together to improve attendance next term so your child stays on track and thrives!

96% – 99.9% Attendance

Good Attendance

Well done! Your child's attendance is good. We hope this continues!

100% Attendance

Perfect Attendance

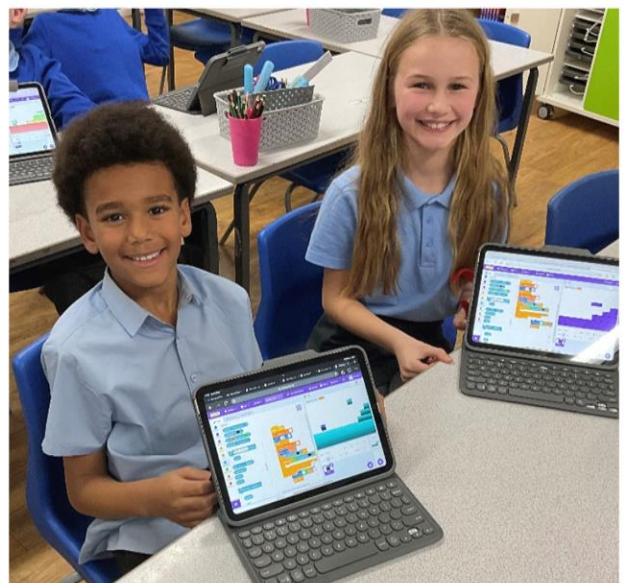
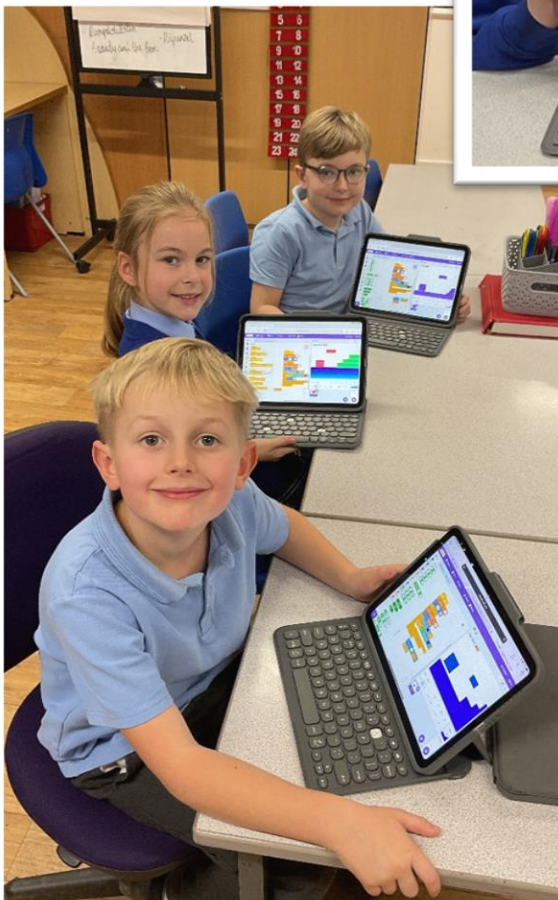
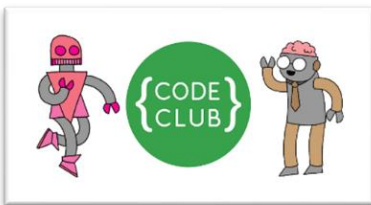
Fantastic! Your child's attendance is perfect. Keep up the hard work!



After School Clubs

Coding Club

KS2 are enjoying taking part in Coding club. They are working on a project on Scratch to create a platformer game.



Baking Club

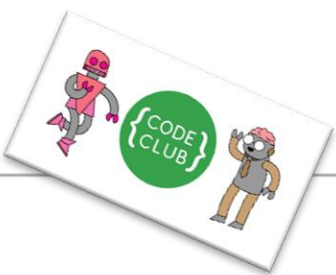


We have been making some tasty treats in baking club this term!





We are excited to be running a variety of new
afterschool clubs for Spring Term 2026.

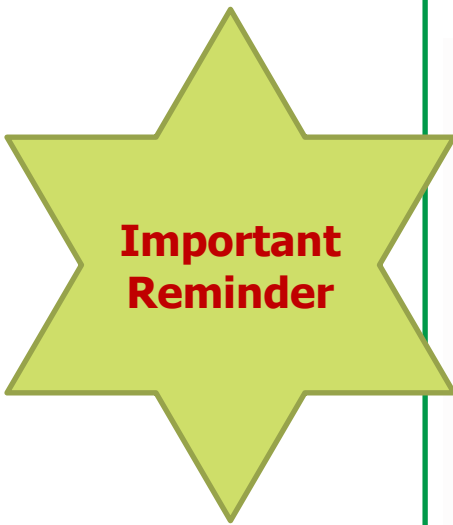


Monday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Year 6 SATS Booster – Maths</p> <p>Separate letter will be sent to children invited to the session</p>	<p>Year 6 SATS Booster – English</p> <p>Separate letter will be sent to children invited to the session</p>	<p>Baking – Mrs Gibson</p> <p>All years - 8 children</p> <p>£2.00 per session</p> <p>22nd Jan – 19th Feb (5 weeks)</p> <p>Collection from UKS2 Playground</p>
	<p>Keyboard Music Club – Miss Leach</p> <p>KS2 – 12 children</p> <p>£2 per session</p> <p>21st Jan – 18th Feb (5 weeks)</p> <p>Collection from UKS2 Playground</p>	<p>Multi-Sports Club – JT Performance</p> <p>KS2 – 20 children</p> <p>£2.00 per session</p> <p>22nd Jan – 19th Feb (5 weeks)</p> <p>Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall)</p>
	<p>Coding Club – Miss Ayub</p> <p>KS2 – 20 children</p> <p>£2 per session</p> <p>21st Jan – 18th Feb (5 weeks)</p> <p>Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall)</p>	<p>Sewing Club – Mrs Robinson</p> <p>KS2 – 8 children</p> <p>£2.00 per session</p> <p>22nd Jan – 19th Feb (5 weeks)</p> <p>Collection from UKS2 Playground</p>
	<p>Tennis Club – Miss Paterson</p> <p>KS1 – 12 children</p> <p>£2 per session</p> <p>21st Jan – 18th Feb (5 weeks)</p> <p>Collection from LKS2 Playground (near main hall)</p>	

We will also be starting some **lunchtime clubs** too in Spring Term 2026, including a board games club and guitar club.

Children will get the opportunity to sign up for these clubs themselves next term.





PARKING

Pick-up and drop-off times are busy outside schools. This can cause an increased **safety risk to both children and parents.**

Please adhere to the parking restrictions outside school which are there to keep you and your children safe. Parking inconsiderately can put people in danger and you also risk being fined. It's important that motorists follow the [Highway Code](#).

For further information please click on the link:
<https://www.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/rs/road-safety/parking-outside-schools/>



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note it is illegal to park on zig-zag lines outside school between the hours of 8am and 5pm. Fines have and will be issued for this, so please **Keep Clear** as directed by traffic laws.



The logo features the words "HOLIDAYS ARE FUN" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The word "FUN" is significantly larger and more stylized than "HOLIDAYS ARE". The text is set against a bright orange background with a subtle sunburst pattern radiating from behind the letters.

LINK to HAF here

**[Holidays Are Fun \(HAF\) programme -
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#)**

Activities are now filling up for the Christmas Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme! There are a wide range of activities on offer across Stockton including:

- Multi sports
- Gymnastics
- Horse riding
- Youth clubs
- SEND specific sessions
- Football
- Bushcraft
- Mixed martial arts
- Family activities
- Performing arts

The main eligibility criteria for the HAF programme is that families are in receipt of benefit related free school meals (FSM), however we can also offer **discretionary places to families working with support services**. If you are working with a family who are not in receipt of benefit related FSM but would benefit from a HAF place you can direct them to book online. They would need to state that they have been referred by a support worker when booking so that the HAF team approve the request.



TEAM Whitehouse

Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore



Wishing you and your families a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2026!