



# Whitehouse Primary

## Spring 2 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

**20/04/26**  
Children return after Easter holidays

**29/04/26**  
Year 4 Parent Meeting for  
Carlton Residential

**04/05/26**  
May Bank Holiday – school closed

**11/05/26 – 14/05/26**  
KS2 SAT's Assessment Week

**18/05/26 – 22/05/26**  
10-in-10 Challenge Week –  
details to follow

**20/05/26**  
KS1 Sports – am  
KS2 Sports – pm

**20/05/26**  
EYFS Visit to Tynemouth Aquarium

**21/05/26**  
Reception Sports - pm

**21/05/26**  
School Census Day

**22/05/26**  
Non-uniform Day  
Break up for half term

**01/06/26**  
Return to school

**02/06/26**  
EYFS Open Evening Event



## Happy Easter!

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

Welcome to our Spring 2 Newsletter. It has been a short, but extremely busy and exciting half-term filled with meaningful learning and wonderful community events.

We're delighted to share that our school has been awarded a **School-Based Nursery Capital Grant**, enabling us to extend our nursery provision to children aged **0–3 years** from **September 2027**.

This term, pupils enjoyed a range of enriching experiences, including our joyful **Eid afternoon**, the creative **Moonbase Challenge**, **World Book Day**, **Red Nose Day**, our thoughtful **MND Awareness Walk** and the fabulous **SPARK Sings event** at The Globe Theatre. Our music learning has also continued to flourish across school from last term.

We were pleased to welcome so many families to our reflective **Learning Reviews**, where we hope you can see the progress, confidence, pride and enthusiasm your children bring to their learning every day.

We ended the term on a high with our hugely successful **Easter Family Quiz Event**, bringing families together for fun and celebration. This was a wonderful event enjoyed by all - we hope to see you, your friends and family alongside our wider community at the **Summer Fair on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**.

And finally, we celebrate the return of our very own **school Mallard duck, Jemima**, who for the past five years has returned to Whitehouse to nest and lay her eggs in the tranquility of one of our internal quads. We look forward to returning after the Easter holidays to the sound of little quacks and the adorable chaos that comes with a trail of fluffy ducklings toddling after Jemima.

We hope you enjoy reading more about these highlights and the wonderful learning taking place across school. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

**Return after  
Easter:**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

Warmest Wishes,  
Jane Eyre



# Curriculum Highlights

## Right's Respecting Award

Our school has been on an exciting journey toward achieving the **Silver Rights Respecting School accreditation**.

This process has involved pupils, staff and the wider school community working together to embed children's rights into **everyday school life**. Staff have ensured the children are aware of the rights set out by the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC)** through explicit teaching as well as weaving it through the curriculum and daily life.

During the recent accreditation visit, the assessor spent time talking with children and staff to explore how we promote respect, fairness, inclusion and pupil voice across the school.

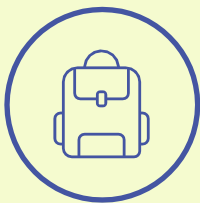
It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the progress we've made and to reflect on the positive impact this work is having on our school community.

We look forward to sharing the outcome and report from the visit in due course!



## Quick Reminders

- Doors open at **8.35am** and close at **8.50am** every morning.
- **Easter Holidays:**  
**Break up - 02/04/26**  
**Return – 20/04/26**



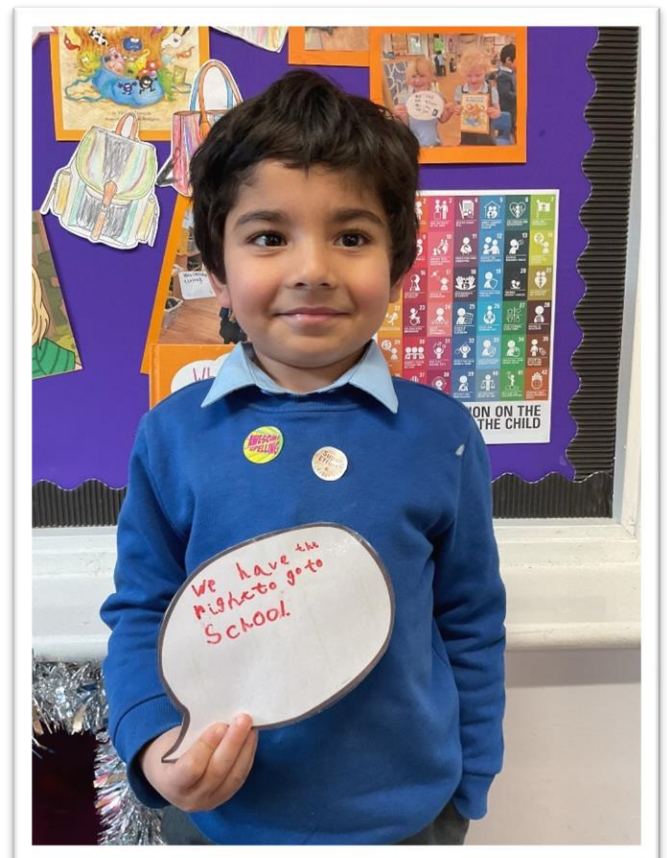
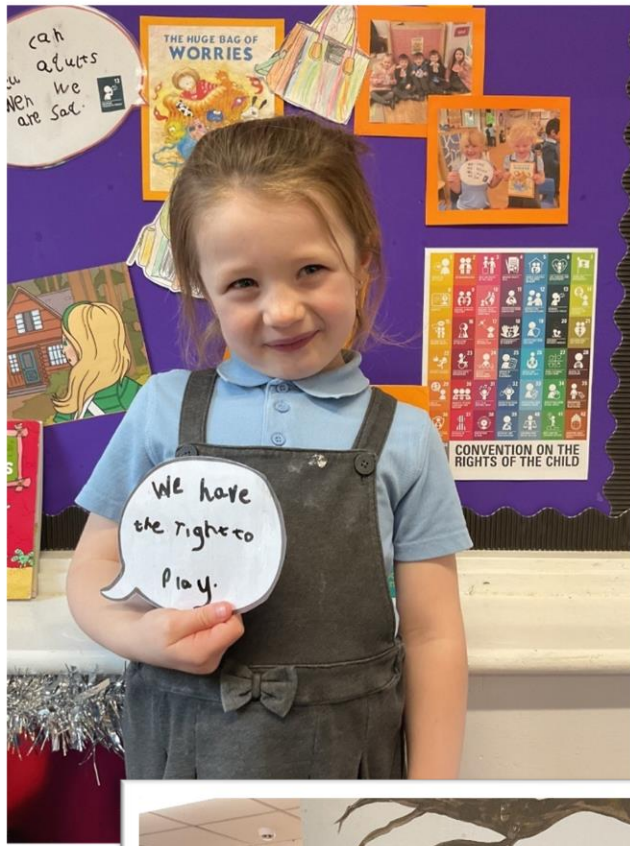
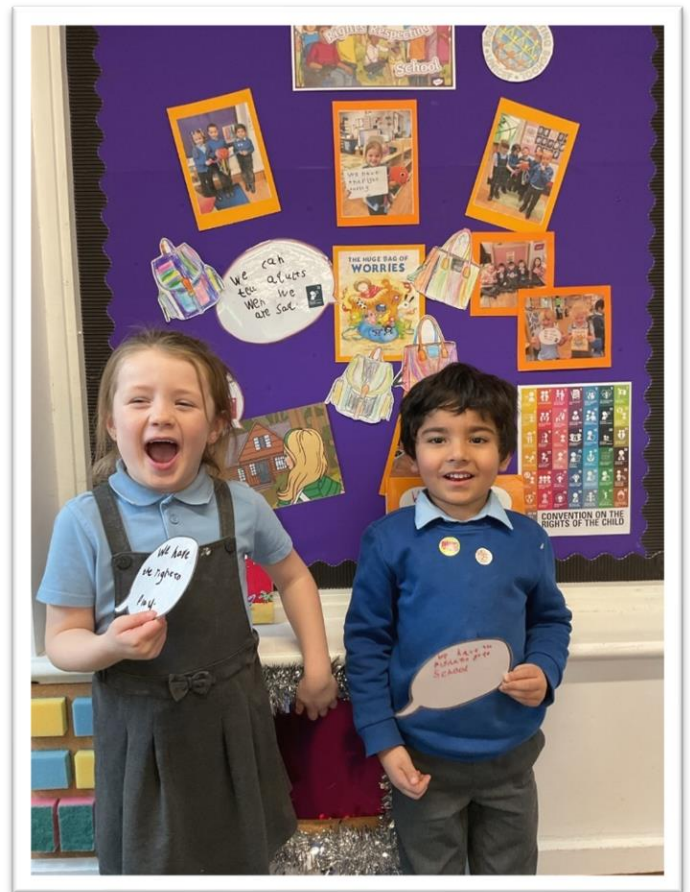
## Recent Highlights

- SPARK Sing!
- Easter Fair and Quiz
- Moonbase Challenge
- Eid afternoon
- Jemima returns!



## Reception

The reception children have been working hard to understand and learn all about the Unicef Rights of the Child, and were proud to support the school towards our Rights Respecting Silver Award.



## Team Treats

Well done to **Green Team** and **Blue Team** for winning the team treats this term! **Green Team** enjoyed a snack and playing traditional board games, with **Blue Team** going to enjoy a movie and a popcorn treat!



## Science Week

The Reception children had a fabulous afternoon celebrating British Science Week. A real scientist, Mr Beevers, visited and they were able to join in lots of brilliant experiments!



## 4RE

4RE testing out their straw rockets that they had made to explore forces and gravity.



## Nursery

During our Moon Base activities, we talked about how different life would be without electricity on the moon.

The children loved exploring the plasma ball and were fascinated to follow the light!

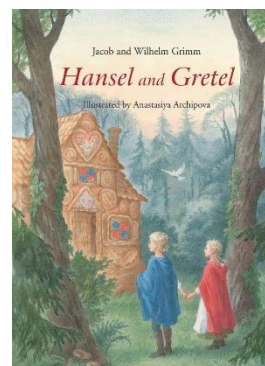


## Nursery maths

Nursery have been learning about **shape and pattern**, exploring 2d shapes to make dinosaurs and talking all about the shapes and their properties! Then we explored patterns, linking it to Easter.

## Reception

Reception celebrated the story of Hansel and Gretel for world book day, with lots of activities and by decorating our door with real sweets! They were super yummy.



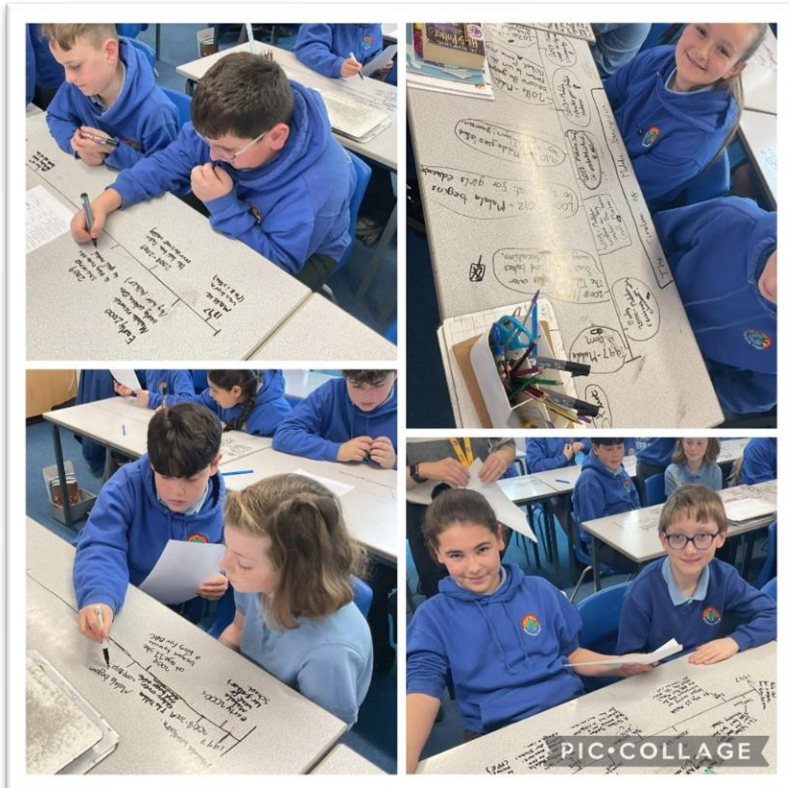
## Nursery

Spring has sprung in Nursery and we have been doing lots of spring crafts outside! We collected flowers and made beautiful sun catchers. Then used different art media to decorate Easter eggs!



## Year 6

In English, Year 6 are currently planning an autobiography from the viewpoint of Malala Yousafzai. Lessons, so far, have involved in-depth discussions about children's rights (in particular, equality for girls around the world), hot seating Malala's friend and researching, organising and sequencing key events as a team.



## Eid Afternoon

The children across school thoroughly enjoyed our Eid afternoon, discovering and building upon their knowledge of Islam. The children were fully immersed and took part in all the different activities, including: dressing up, food tasting, reading books and making decorations.

We feel very lucky to have such kind parents in our school who gave up their time to share their food and culture with us!



## Reception

The reception classes have been exploring, describing and even tasting fruits and vegetables as part of our **Ready Steady Grow** topic!



## Forest School

Year 5 enjoyed cooking in forest school - they chopped and prepared all the ingredients and cooked them on the stove by following the method to make a lentil dahl.

4RE made crumble in Forest school for dessert.



PIC • COLLAGE



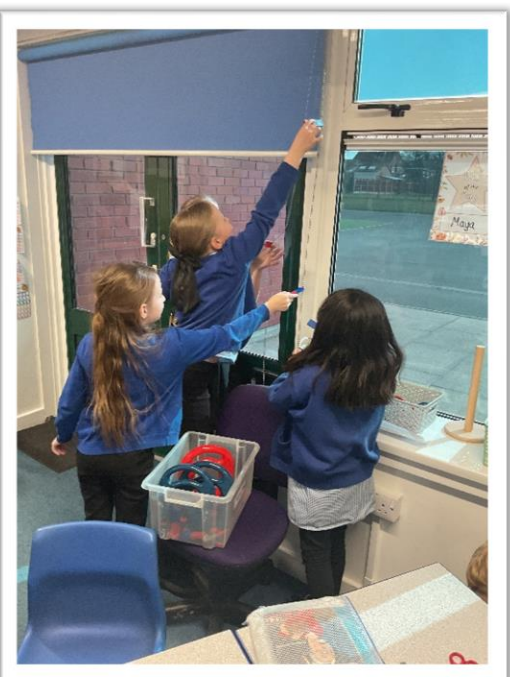
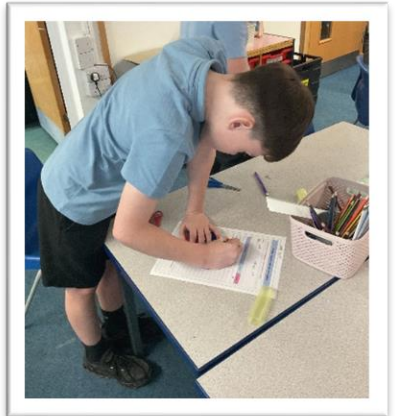
## LKS2

3/4CAB opened an Italian pizza parlour using our new oven! As part of our geography topic 'Region of Campania', we've made our own pizzas to transport ourselves to Italy. We have been learning lots about Italy; how it's made up of physical and human features and comparing them to where we live as well as finding out about Italian culture! Yum Yum!



## LKS2

In Science, 3LH explored what it means for an object to be magnetic. The pupils investigated a variety of items around the classroom, discovering which objects were attracted to a magnet. They also found that not all metals are magnetic—aluminium, for example, did not behave as some had predicted—challenging their initial ideas and encouraging further discussion.



## MND Awareness Walk

Pupils from Year 5 took part in a Stockton-wide primary school walk to raise awareness for MND.

They left school on Friday morning and walked to St Patrick's then onto Fairfield, finally arriving at Holy Trinity where they enjoyed some much-needed refreshments.

They left their fingerprints as a reminder of the schools that had taken part and then swapped knitted hearts before finally tying ribbons to the fence of Holy Trinity School.





## Moonbase Challenge

In response to the recent news coverage of The Artemis Missions to the moon, the children at Whitehouse, from EYFS to Year 6, have taken on the challenge set by their teachers to research how humans could live on the moon, design a habitable moonbase and build this from recycled materials.

We were very impressed with the creative and inventive approaches that our children have taken and you can see the process of their learning in our display as you come into school.





At Whitehouse Primary School we care very much about the well-being of our pupils therefore, we would like to remind you of the support we have available.

Victoria Gibson – Senior Mental Health lead, is on hand to discuss any concerns that you may have and can deliver a range of programmes that can support and develop pupil’s mental health and well-being.

As a school we work closely with the Mental Health Support Team at Alliance who can also work with parents and/or directly with your child.

Victoria meets regularly with the Mental Health Support Team to establish the appropriate programme for each child. Programmes can be delivered in school by trained staff and/or Alliance practitioners. The programmes will be delivered on a 1-2-1 basis or alternatively within a small group.

Please see the attached information below regarding the Mental Health Support Team and the programmes/support on offer at our school.

If you feel your child may benefit from well-being support, please contact **Victoria Gibson- Senior Mental Health Lead on 01642 678212.**

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

*Supporting children, parents, carers and education settings*

## What are the Trailblazer Mental Health Support Teams?

As part of the national trailblazer to improve access to children’s mental health services, we are supporting educational settings to develop their whole school/college approach to mental health and well-being, delivering evidence-based psychological therapies and supporting the development of pathways to external services including our specialist CAMHS Services.

The Mental Health Support Team will be working in partnership with Tees, Esk & Wear Valley (TEWV) NHS CAMHS and Local Authority / Early Help services.

The service will be available to children and young people who attend selected trailblazer education settings covering ages 5-18 in Hartlepool and Stockton.

Roles within the Mental Health Support Team include:

- Education Mental Health Practitioners
- Child Psychological Well-being Practitioners
- Therapeutic Parenting Intervention Practitioners

## What can we help with?

Our Mental Health Support Team can help with mild to moderate mental health problems such as:

- Anxiety and worry
- Low mood/depression
- Challenging behaviour
- Sleep hygiene
- Exam stress
- School transitions

## INTERVENTIONS

- COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY (CBT)
- BEHAVIOURAL ACTIVATION
- PARENT-LED CBT
- THERAPEUTIC PARENTING PRACTITIONER SUPPORT
- SMALL GROUP WORK AND WHOLE CLASS MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

## CONTACT US AT:

Alliance Psychological Services Limited  
24 Yarm Road,  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 3NA  
Telephone: 0800 038 5756  
cypfamilies@alliancepsychology.com  
www.alliancepsychology.com

# Education Mental Health Practitioner

## WHAT CAN AN EDUCATION MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER HELP WITH?

<h3>ANXIETY</h3> <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>	<h3>SLEEP HYGIENE</h3> <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>
<h3>LOW MOOD</h3> <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>	<h3>SCHOOL TRANSITION</h3> <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>
<h3>WORRY</h3> <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>	<h3>RESILIENCE</h3> <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>
<h3>EXAM STRESS</h3> <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>	<h3>COPING STRATEGIES</h3> <p>Coping strategies such as mindfulness techniques, emotional regulation and thought challenging will be explored and can be used to manage wellbeing.</p>

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

## Every Day Counts!



## Important Attendance Reminder for Parents

School attendance matters! Remember, schools are required by law to follow the attendance framework. This means **taking holidays during term time can lead to penalties**. Here's what you need to know:

### ✓ Term-Time Holidays

- Holidays during school term cannot be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

### ✓ Penalty Notice Threshold

- 10 unauthorised sessions (that's 5 school days) within 10 weeks = Penalty Notice.
- Includes term-time holidays, unauthorised absences and lateness after the register closes.

### ✓ Penalty Charges

- First offence: **£160 per parent, per child** (within 28 days), reduced to **£80 if paid within 21 days**.
- Second offence (within 3 years): **£160 (no discount)**.
- Third offence: **Court prosecution** – fines up to **£2,500** or even imprisonment.

### ✓ What You Can Do

- Plan holidays **outside school terms**.
- **Submit a leave request** if unavoidable but this **will likely be unauthorised**.
- **Pay promptly if fined** to avoid escalation.

If you need further information, contact:

School Name	Whitehouse Primary School
Phone	01642 678212
Email	<a href="mailto:vgibson@whitehouseprimaryschool.org.uk">vgibson@whitehouseprimaryschool.org.uk</a>

# Help Your Child Play Smart Online



## Think Before Sharing

Help your child keep personal info private.

Help them understand what details should remain private and how to use privacy settings.



## Be Game-Wise

Remind who's behind the screen may be different.

Talk about online friendships and explain that people online aren't always who they claim to be. Encourage them to tell you about concerning interactions.



## Respect Others

Encourage kindness and empathy online.

Discuss kind online behavior and the impact of words. Encourage reporting bullying and inappropriate content rather than responding to it.



## Balance Play

Encourage healthy screen-time online.

Set reasonable time limits and create tech-free zones. Help your child develop healthy gaming habits that balance online and offline activities.

Keep conversations open — it's the best safety tool

For more resources visit: [safergaming.org](https://safergaming.org)

## Parent Guide:

# How to Help Your Child with Cyberbullying



Talk openly with your child about their online experiences



Document everything - save screenshots, messages and dates of cyberbullying incidents



Report the behaviour to the platform and block the bully



Reassure your child it's not their fault and they did the right thing telling you



Contact parents if the bully is a classmate or known to them and seek professional help if your child shows signs of distress



**Booking will go live at 4.00p.m on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.**

If you are lucky enough to secure a place, you will then receive a notification and link for payment.

**Full payment** must be made in order to secure your child's place in the club, if this is an issue please call the school office for further payment options.

Once this payment has been received you will see your child linked to the club on your home page.

Any questions please contact the school office.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
Year 6 SATS Booster – <b>Maths</b>  Separate letter will be sent to children invited to the session	Year 6 SATS Booster – <b>English</b>  Separate letter will be sent to children invited to the session	Dance Club – Miss Poole KS1 – 20 children <b>£2.00 per session</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> (4 weeks) <b>Collection from LKS2 Playground</b> <b>(near main hall)</b>
	Music Club – Miss Leach KS1 – 12 children <b>£2 per session</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> (4 weeks) <b>Collection from UKS2 Playground</b>	Sewing Club – Mrs Robinson KS2 – 8 children <b>£2.00 per session</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> (4 weeks) <b>Collection from UKS2 Playground</b>
	Coding Club – Miss Ayub KS2 – 20 children <b>£2 per session</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> (4 weeks) <b>Collection from LKS2 Playground</b> <b>(near main hall)</b>	<b>Basketball Club – Tees Valley Mohawks</b> KS2 – 20 children <b>£2.00 per session</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> April – 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> (4 weeks) <b>Collection from LKS2 Playground</b> <b>(near main hall)</b>
	Cricket – Durham All Stars KS2 – 20 children <b>£2 per session</b> <b>29<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> (4 weeks) <b>Collection from LKS2 Playground</b> <b>(near main hall)</b>	

## In Reception

We ran an after-school cookery club for Reception, and the children made delicious vegan sausage rolls.

They were very proud of themselves and rightly so!!



We would like to wish our Year 6 Choir the very best of luck - alongside all the children involved across the Spark Trust – for the Spark Sings event at the Globe!



We are so proud of them.

A poster for the Spark Sings Spring Concert. The background is a bright yellow sunburst with scattered musical notes. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of a crowd with their arms raised. The text is in red and white.

**SPARK SINGS**  
**SPRING CONCERT**

Featuring choirs and singers from across the Spark Education Trust

 1st April  
 6pm  
 STOCKTON GLOBE  
 Tickets £5 \*  
Available from [www.stocktonglobe.co.uk](http://www.stocktonglobe.co.uk)  
\*1 free U18 ticket with every adult ticket purchased

 **SPARK**  
EDUCATION TRUST



## TEAM Whitehouse



Together Everyone Achieves More

As always, we couldn't do it all  
Without your support!

Thank you!