

WEEKLY NEWS

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A GREEN START TO THE NEW YEAR AT WILLOUGHBY ROAD

We may have had the Summer Holiday but pupils at Willoughby Road have returned for a new school year with big smiles and bags of enthusiasm for their learning. Already, pupils have started to earn their green stamps for this half term's Evergreen Event and they have earned lots of green points too. Everyone is looking forward to trading their points for prizes in The Willoughby Exchange! Check out our Twitter account for a sneak peek inside the shop. There has been plenty of chatter on the playground about which items each pupil is saving up for. The shop is open every lunchtime for pupils and is run by our 'Y6 Willoughby Workers team' who earn points as wages for their work! Who will earn the most green points this year?



Healthy Snacks at Break Time

Pupils are welcome to bring **a piece of fruit** to school for snack at breaktime. We also offer fruit and/or vegetables on entry to school for anyone who would like some. We are keeping healthy at Willoughby Road!



Spotlight on... Pupil Leadership



School Council

Attendance Champions

Year 6 - 98.1%
Year 3 - 97%
Reception - 96.7%
Year 5 - 96%
Year 4 - 93.6%
Year 2 - 92.6%
Year 1 - 91.4%
Nursery - 90.5%

Sneak Peek in the Classroom

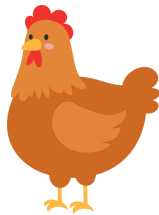


There has been lots of exciting learning in our classrooms this week!

Reception

Well done to all our Reception children who have settled into school life wonderfully. They are learning our classroom routines quickly and have showcased excellent behaviour. All children have enjoyed receiving their, 'Good to be Green' stamps in their brand new Evergreen passports.

This week, we have explored the story of the Little Red Hen and even practised writing our new sound 's' in flour and oats.



Year 3 and Year 4

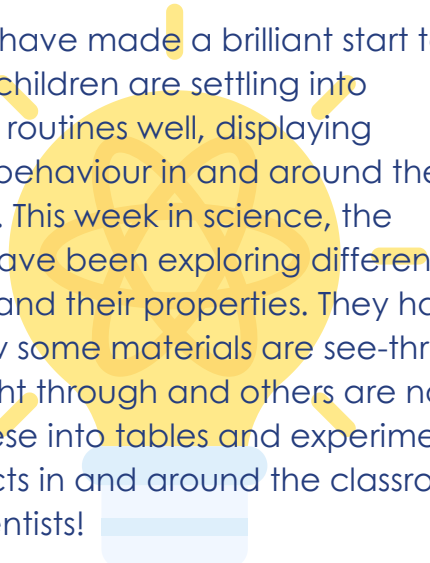
This week, the children stepped back in time to discover what homes were like in the Middle Stone Age. They found out how people built shelters from wood, stone, and animal skins, and compared them to the cosy houses we live in today. There were lots of great discussions about how people might have kept warm and safe without the modern comforts we're used to!



**Do you follow us
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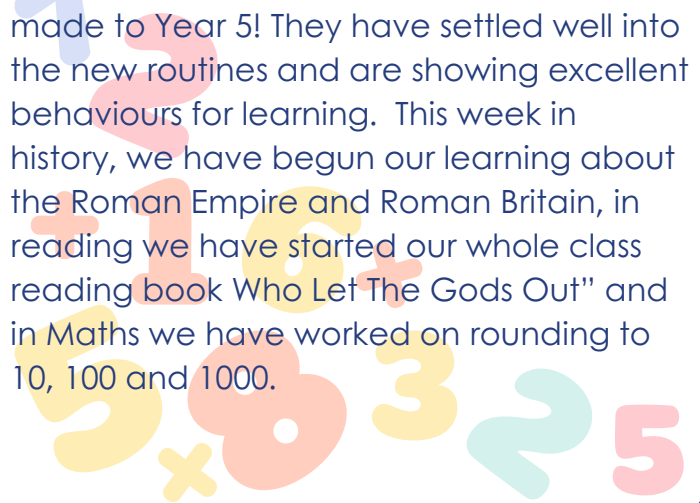
Year 1 and Year 2

Year 1 / 2 have made a brilliant start to the year! The children are settling into classroom routines well, displaying excellent behaviour in and around the academy. This week in science, the children have been exploring different materials and their properties. They have learnt how some materials are see-through and let light through and others are not, sorting these into tables and experimenting with objects in and around the classroom. Super Scientists!



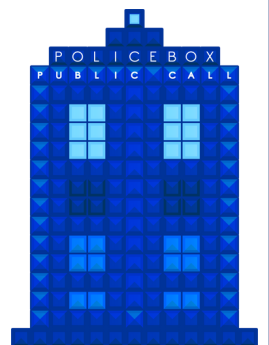
Year 5

What a fantastic start all the children have made to Year 5! They have settled well into the new routines and are showing excellent behaviours for learning. This week in history, we have begun our learning about the Roman Empire and Roman Britain, in reading we have started our whole class reading book 'Who Let The Gods Out' and in Maths we have worked on rounding to 10, 100 and 1000.



Year 6

Year 6 have hit the ground running this year! They have settled into school life well and are rising to the challenges Year 6 has in store for them. This week we have been looking at our new whole class reading book 'Black Powder' and looking deeper at the feelings of Tom. We have also enjoyed learning about the power of dialogue in our Dr. Who writing unit and how we can use it to advance the action in our writing. In maths, we have been recapping our place value skills and have been looking at numbers up to 1,000,000. Magnificent Mathematicians!



SAVE THE DATE

Monday 15th September:

After School Clubs start this week!

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Tuesday 16th September:

KS2 Choir 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Wednesday 17th September:

EYFS Stay and Read 9.00 - 9.30am

Thursday 18th September:

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS2 Boxercise 3:15 - 4:15pm

Friday 19th September:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Celebration Assembly at 2:40pm

Monday 22nd September:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Tuesday 23rd September:

KS2 Choir 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Wednesday 24th September:

Year 1 / 2 Stay and Read 9.00 - 9.30am

Thursday 25th September:

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS2 Boxercise 3:15 - 4:15pm

Friday 26th September:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Celebration Assembly at 2:40pm

Monday 29th September:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Tuesday 30th September:

KS2 Choir 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Wednesday 1st October:

Year 3 / 4 Stay and Read 9.00 - 9.30am

Thursday 2nd October:

Mc Delta's at Willoughby Road - book your school lunch now!

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS2 Boxercise 3:15 - 4:15pm

Friday 3rd October:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Celebration Assembly at 2:40pm

Monday 6th October:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Tuesday 7th October:

KS2 Choir 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Wednesday 8th October:

Year 5 / 6 Stay and Read 9.00 - 9.30am

Thursday 9th October:

KS1 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

KS2 Boxercise 3:15 - 4:15pm

Friday 10th October:

KS2 Fit and Fun 3:15pm - 4:15pm

Celebration Assembly at 2:40pm

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PUPILS
THIS WEEK



THIS TERM'S
EVERGREEN
THURSDAY 23rd OCTOBER
3:15pm - 4:15pm
BINGO NIGHT

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

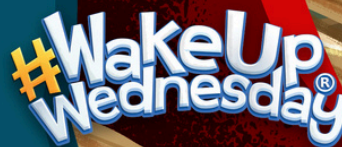
Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



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