George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025

To all our families,

Thank you to our Year 6 parents who were able to attend our SATs Parents Information session on Tuesday afternoon. For any parents who could not make this session, the PowerPoint and parent information booklet can be found on our school website linked Year 6 – George White Junior School

If you have any further SATs questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.



Yesterday, ten children from across Year 4 represented our school in a **school's basketball event at the UEA**. The children were absolutely amazing, and I felt so privileged to be able to spend the day with them, watching their skills develop and progress. Throughout each session, every child demonstrated our 4 school values and in addition to this I saw determination, teamwork, positivity and hard work. After four coaching sessions, the children then played three basketball games where they won their first two games 1-0 and 6-0 and narrowly lost their final game 2-1. A great day filled with smiles and lots of cheering was had by all!



We are delighted to have our very own **'Go Go Giraffe'** arrive in school to design and decorate. Mrs Gosling and Mrs Cojoc are working with some of our children to create our George White Giraffe. What this space for the finished design! More information about the Break Go Go Safari 2025 can be found linked GoGoSafari

Finally, please find below details of a local Easter Craft Activity at Silver Road Community Centre happening on Sunday 13th April. Please contact them directly if you would like to book your space.



Lost Property

Our lost property box is once again full. To help us get items back to your child quickly, please can you ensure all items brought into school are clearly named. Please have a look through lost property for any items which may be missing. We seem to have a lot of coats and jumpers.



Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday from 8:30am when it will be February already!

Mrs Petchey and the George White Team.

This Week's Attendance

We hold a celebration assembly every Friday morning to share and celebrate the children's achievements. During this assembly, we also recognise the class with the highest overall attendance for the week.

Well-done to **6 Palacio** this week, for having the highest attendance.

6 Ness: 92%

6 Palacio: 97%

6 Morpurgo: 94%

5 Almond: 96%

5 Johnson: 94%

4 Tan: 95%

4 Pullman: 94%

3 Potter: 94%

3 Blyton: 94%

Whole school attendance for this week: 95%

School Target: 96%



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Burman and Miss Alderton.

These members of staff monitor and manage all safeguarding practices and ensure staff are supported and have the training they need. Please ask to see one of these adults if you are worried about the safety of a child at school.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours, then the number to ring is:

CADS – Children's Advice and Duty Service – 0344 800 8020



Why is school attendance important?

Research has shown that children with good attendance are more than twice as likely to pass their English and Maths GCSEs compared to those whose attendance is below 90%. However, if your child's attendance starts to slip the negative effect might increase because;

- It is hard for children to catch up on work they have missed. This quickly affects their learning and leaves gaps in their understanding.
- It gets in the way of building strong, positive friendships and makes them more at risk of spending time with bad influences.
- It affects exam results and this means they have less choice about further education and careers.
- They miss out on the structure and routines of school which are important practice for adult life.

- They’re likely to be less active and not get into healthy habits important for physical and mental wellbeing.

The school will be sensitive to their needs and are here to help all pupils. If you are worried give the school a call to talk about how they can help your child.

You can contact the Healthy Child Service team by calling **Just One Number** on 0300 300 0123 or texting **Parentline** on [https://sms:07520631590/]07520 631590. Opening hours are 8am-6pm Monday-Friday (excluding bank holidays) and 9am-1pm on Saturdays.

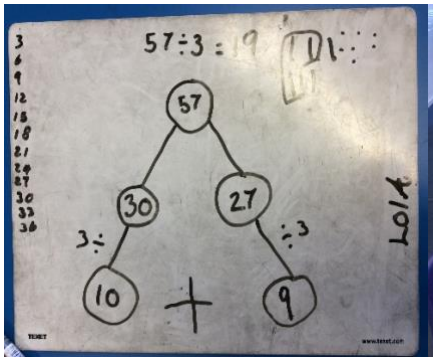
There is an NHS video link here with further advice;

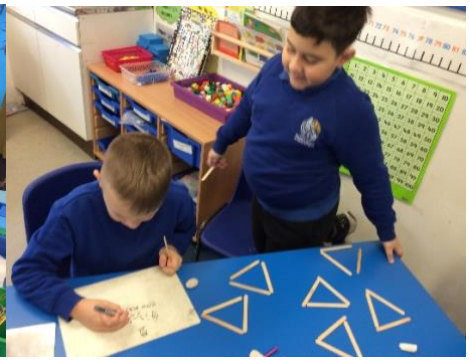
How to support a child who doesn’t want to go to school - YouTube

Look at what we're learning

Year 3

What an exciting week of learning we've had in Year 3!
In English, we have been busy creating our own characters for a sequel to *Winter's Child*. Our characters are inspired by Autumn, and we have been developing rich, descriptive settings to bring our stories to life. The children have also written their own five-sentence stories, demonstrating their creativity and growing confidence in writing.
In Maths, we have been diving into division, using base 10 and part-whole models to support our understanding. The children have worked hard to develop their reasoning skills and apply different methods to solve problems.
In Science, we have continued our exploration of magnets and have now started experimenting with friction. The children have enjoyed investigating how different surfaces affect movement and learning more about forces in action.
In Computing, we have been exploring coding with Scratch. The children have loved experimenting with programming and creating their own simple animations and interactive projects. It has been wonderful to see their problem-solving skills in action.
We've had a fantastic start to the term, and the children's enthusiasm and engagement have been fantastic. We can't wait for another exciting week of learning ahead.
Well done, Year 3!



Year 4

What a fantastic week of learning we've had in year 4! In **Maths** we are continuing to learn about fractions. We have moved on to adding and subtracting unit and mixed number fractions. The children also completed a practice MTC and we are very proud of the children and how much their times tables knowledge has improved! In **English** we are continuing to learn about 'Our Tower' the children have had the opportunity this week to go down to the nature garden and collect special items from nature. We took these back to class and wrote descriptive sentences around our objects and how this links to the story. We are now starting to look at Journal writing as this will be their final independent write at the end of this half term. In **Science** we are continuing our practical work around States of Matter. This week we investigated what happens to chocolate when we apply different heat sources. In **History** we are continuing to learn about Ancient Greece we have learnt about the Minoans and life in Athens and

Spartans. In **Music** we continue our Charanga lessons and Glockenspiel work practicing a Melody. We hope you all have a lovely weekend.





Year 5

What a fantastic week we have had in year 5! The children have loved learning more about the solar system this week and exploring the movements and orbits of the earth and moon. The highlight was definitely our Virtual Reality experience on Tuesday where the children had a wonderful opportunity to become fully immersed in outer space and explore some of the amazing planets in our solar system. They were bursting with amazing facts to share afterwards and loved the opportunity to bring their learning to life!

In maths we have continued to work on fractions and we are so proud of each of the children for how hard they've been working. In music the children are really enjoying their percussion sessions delivered by the Norfolk Music Hub and this week they enjoyed learning about the value of different notes and even composed their own clapping rhythms. In French we have been practising speaking about travelling around the world, naming continents and transport. The children formed some really good sentences and we were so impressed!

This week Year 5 are completing their termly assessments and are working really hard to show us all the amazing knowledge they know! Keep up the good work!

Have a lovely weekend.



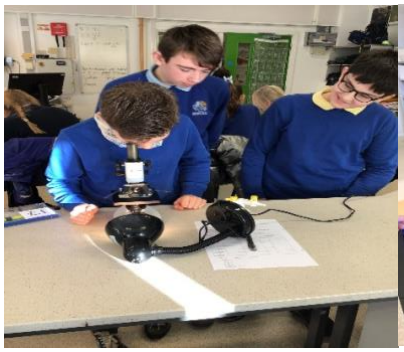


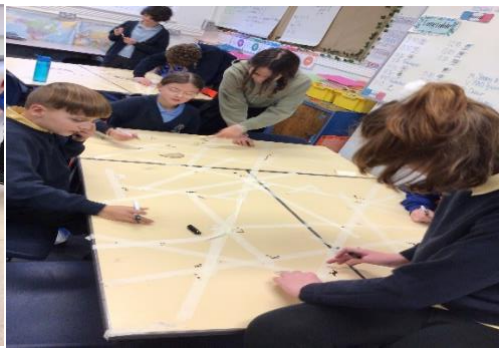
Year 6

We are delighted to share with you the exciting learning that has been happening in Year 6 this week! The children have settled back into our routine wonderfully, and we have been busy with engaging lessons across all subjects.

This week in Maths, we've been working on measuring angles and calculating missing angles. The children have been mastering their skills in geometry and have shown great focus and perseverance when solving problems. Keep up the fantastic work!

In English, we've kicked off a new project where we're researching endangered animals. The children will soon begin writing a hybrid informational text, combining research and creativity. We're excited to see their informative yet imaginative writing unfold.
Our Science lesson this week was a real highlight! The children learned about adaptations, evolution, and natural selection. They were especially excited to create beautiful moths that camouflaged within our classroom, illustrating how nature has designed creatures to blend into their environments for survival.
We have absolutely loved our WW II History topic! This week, the children began learning about Winston Churchill and the ways in which Britain responded to the outbreak of the war. Their enthusiasm for this important part of history has been incredible, and we can't wait to dive deeper into the topic.
We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made in their recent mock SATs! They have demonstrated such determination and ambition, showing improvements from their previous assessments. Well done, Year 6! You are all amazing, and we couldn't be prouder of how far you've come.
As always, we truly appreciate your continued support and encouragement. It's wonderful to see how much the children have grown and developed, both academically and personally.
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend!
Best regards,
The Year 6 Teachers





Blake Class

We've had a celebratory week in Blake class. Ava brought in her medals from a dance and baton twirling competition. She talked about all the events she took part in and shared her success. We are all very proud of her.
We also celebrated Chinese New Year. Children all received a red envelope with a gold coin (chocolate!) and a fortune. All the fortunes made us reflect on how we need to keep trying and never give up, and how unique and special we are. Children also drew a Chinese dragon and did a quiz to see what they could remember about the festival. We also had the opportunity to try spring rolls and lots of children tried something new which was brilliant!
In English, we have been describing the main character in our book, 'Leon and the Place Between', and now children are ready to move on to describing their own characters. They picked their own and we have a great variety, from Dogman to Harry Potter. We look forward to reading their descriptions next week.
In science, children have designed a clown face to fit with our circus topic this term. They are going to use their knowledge of circuits to create a light-up nose for the clowns, controlled by a switch which they will also make.





Dates for the Diary 2024/2025

Friday 7th February	Half of Year 6 visit to Norwich Cathedral
Monday 10th February	Aspirations Week
Tuesday 11th February	Open Classrooms for all years from 3.20pm
Friday 14th February	Half of Year 6 visit to Norwich Cathedral
Monday 17th February	Half Term Break
Monday 24th February	Welcome Back after half term- gates open at 8.30am
Monday 24th February	Year 4 Multiplication Timetable Check Parent Meeting at 3.30pm
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day – Details to follow
Tuesday 18th March	Open Classrooms for all years from 3.20pm
Friday 21st March	Red Nose Day – Do something funny for money – Details to follow
Monday 24th March	Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.30pm
Tuesday 25th March	Parents Evening 3.30 – 7.00pm
Wednesday 2nd April	Easter Bonnet Competition and parade