George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was absolutely lovely to see so many of you at our first **Open Classrooms** event on Tuesday. The classrooms were buzzing with excitement, and it was a real pleasure to watch pupils proudly sharing their work and learning spaces with you. Thank you for taking the time to come in and support your child—your engagement makes such a positive difference.

We'd also like to say a heartfelt **thank you** to all families who have kindly donated items for our **Harvest collection**. Your generosity will go directly to the **Silver Road Food Bank**, helping local families in need. It's wonderful to see our school community come together in such a thoughtful and impactful way.

It's hard to believe, but we are already approaching the end of the first half of the autumn term. With just **two weeks remaining until half term**, the time has flown by! The children have settled in well and are working hard across all areas of the curriculum. We look forward to a strong finish to the half term and appreciate your continued support.

🔔 **Reminder:** Don't forget to sign up for your **Parents' Evening slot via Weduc**. These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in over this half term, the progress they are making as well as ask any questions you may have. If you need any help accessing the system or booking a time, please contact Mrs Chester in the school office.

🚫 **Polite Safety Reminder:** Please do not walk through the **school car park** at the start or end of the school day. This area can get very busy, and there is a **blind corner** which poses a safety risk. We kindly ask all children, parents and visitors to use the **steps by the school office entrance** instead. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

Have a lovely weekend.

Warm wishes,

Mrs Petchey and the GWJS Team



This **Friday, 10th October**, we are recognising **World Mental Health Day** — a global day dedicated to raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing. At George White Junior School, we believe that mental health is just as important as physical health, and we are committed to supporting the emotional wellbeing of all our pupils.

Children's mental health can be supported in many small but meaningful ways at home. Here are a few ideas you might find helpful:

- **Talk regularly** – Create time each day to check in with your child. Even a few minutes of undivided attention can make a big difference.
- **Encourage healthy routines** – A good night's sleep, balanced meals, regular physical activity, and screen time boundaries can all help boost mood and reduce stress.
- **Model emotional expression** – It's helpful for children to see adults talk about feelings in healthy ways. Share how you cope with stress or frustration, and show that it's okay to ask for help.
- **Praise effort, not just outcomes** – Recognising hard work and resilience builds confidence and a growth mindset.
- **Create calming moments** – Reading together, going for a walk, or practising simple breathing exercises can help children regulate their emotions and feel secure.

If you ever have concerns about your child's mental health or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support your child and your family and can signpost you to additional resources if needed.

Let's keep the conversation going — mental health matters, every day



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. Each individual child's attendance counts towards this.

Well-done to 4T this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 90%
6W: 96%
5W: 96%
5D: 96%
4T: 99%
4B: 97%
3C: 95%
3L: 93%

Whole school attendance for this week: 95%

School Target: 96%

This week you will have received the 'Attendance Quick Guide for Parents'. This includes details of how to report pupil absence and key timings of the school day. Please remember the gates open at 8:30am and close at 8:50.



Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs. Petchey, Mrs. Stolworthy, Mrs. Greenwood, Miss Derer, Mrs Thorpe, Miss Whing, 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



Look at what we're learning

Year 3

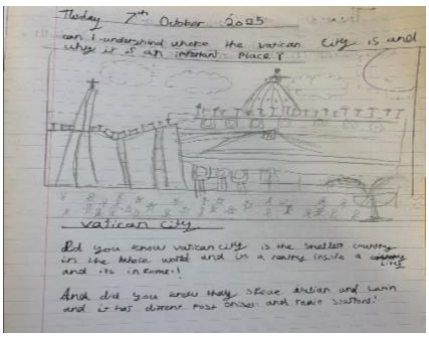
This week in DT, Year 3 put their cooking skills to the test by making vegetable soup and delicious scones! The children carefully chopped vegetables, measured ingredients, and worked safely in the kitchen. They learned about healthy eating, kitchen hygiene, and how to follow a simple recipe. Best of all - they got to taste their tasty creations! Well done, Year 3 chefs!

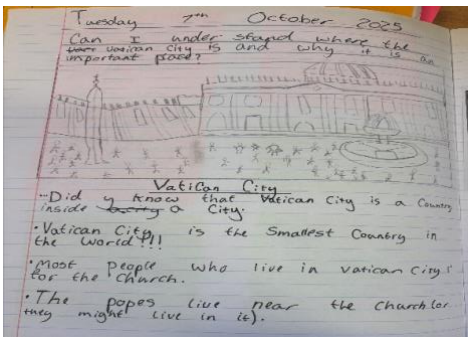


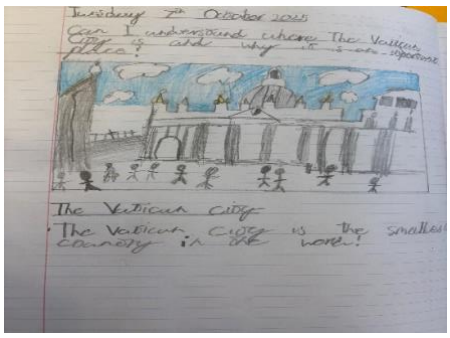


Year 4

This week the children have been working hard on their assessments. We are so proud of all the children for their hard work and resilience. Another highlight to our week has been in our Humanities learning, we have learnt about the Vatican City and made some fact files about the city.







Year 5

This week, Year 5 have worked incredibly hard on their assessments, and we couldn't be prouder of their focus, determination, and effort. Every pupil gave their best, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they tackled new challenges. In PE, the children have shown amazing creativity, designing their own warm-up activities and developing their netball skills, learning new techniques and working brilliantly as a team. Well done, Year 5 – keep up the fantastic work!



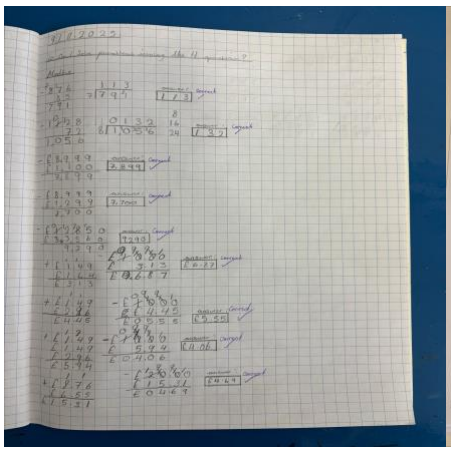


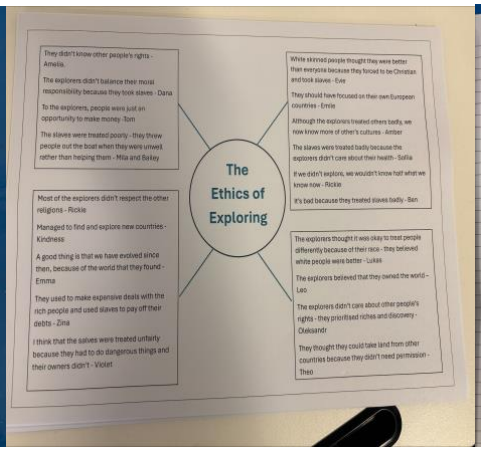
Year 6

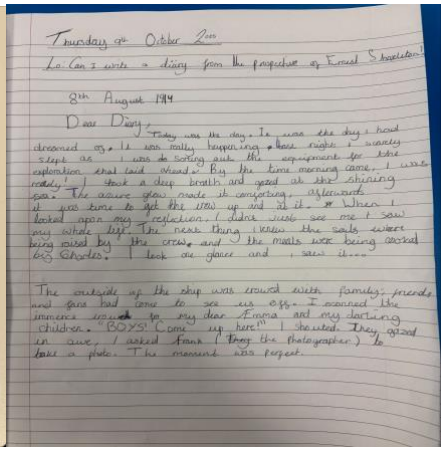
A week filled with learning in year 6. In our maths work we began the week looking at order of operations and learning about BODMAS. We then looked at common factors, common multiples, and prime numbers before moving onto problem solving involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

In English this week we have been writing another diary, this time from the perspective of Ernest Shackleton. In preparation for this, we learnt about the subjunctive voice and passive voice and included these in our writing.

In our science this week we learnt about how the body transports water and nutrients. We then looked at the ethics of explorers during the age of exploration, focusing on the Atlantic slave trade. We also began working on D and T, beginning to design an interactive heart model.







SRB

This week was Dyslexia Awareness Week. This year's theme focused on the voices of young people with dyslexia – their stories, challenges, and successes. By "raising the volume," we want to make sure their experiences are heard loud and clear in schools, families, workplaces, and beyond.

In the SRB, we often learn about famous people who have dyslexia and how this has contributed to their creativity and other skills needed to succeed in their fields.

- Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Group, credits his dyslexia for his entrepreneurial creativity and ability to delegate effectively.
- Dav Pilkey, children's author, uses his experiences with dyslexia to inspire stories for young readers.
- Jamie Oliver, a world-renowned chef and restauranteur, says cooking showed him his worth and made him feel like he had skills outside of the classroom.







If your young person has dyslexia, show them these people and maybe research some more. There are many well-known people succeeding in all areas of literature, finance, the arts, science and sports who have dyslexia. If your young person finds out about any, please let us know and we can share!

Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

Thursday 16th October	Flu Vaccination team in
Friday 17th October	Year 5 Cake sale at the end of the day on the playground. If the weather is wet, this will take place in the school hall.
Monday 20th October	Parent Evening 3.30 -5pm Class 4B only
Tuesday 21st October	Parents Evening 3.30- 5pm – Bookings available via Weduc
Wednesday 22nd October	Parents Evening 3.30 - 7pm – Bookings available via Weduc
Friday 24th October	Year 6 Weight & Height check
Friday 24th October	End of term at 3.20pm
Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October	Half term holiday
Monday 3rd November	Back to school – gates open at 8:30am
Friday 7th November	Year 5 Trip to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village
Wednesday 12th November	New year 3 Open Morning 9-10am
Thursday 13th November	SEND Cafe 9-10am
Friday 14th November	Children in Need – More details to follow
Tuesday 18th November	Open Classrooms for all year groups 3.20pm
Wednesday 19th November	New year 3 Open Morning 9-10am
Thursday 20th November	Flu Vaccination team in follow up
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December	Christmas lunch
Thursday 11th December	George White Christmas Fair 3.30 -5pm
Wednesday 17th December	Carols round the Tree 2.30pm
Friday 19th December	End of Term at 3.20pm
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Start of the Spring Term – gates open at 8:30am