George White Junior School Newsletter

Friday 10th July 2026

As we come to the end of another fantastic academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community for making this year so wonderful!

It has certainly been a year to remember, filled with so many wonderful opportunities, experiences and memories for our children and staff. From educational visits, sporting events and performances to enterprise projects, residentials, enrichment activities and curriculum experiences, our children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, confidence and increased determination. Watching them grow academically, socially and personally has been a real privilege.

I would also like to say an enormous THANK YOU to our incredible staff. Our teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and Mrs Chester and Mrs Watts in the school office who all work tirelessly every single day to provide the very best education and care for our children and families. Their dedication, passion and commitment make an enormous difference to the lives of our children. I am incredibly proud to work alongside such a talented, enthusiastic and caring team, and I know you will join me in thanking them for everything they do.

This week has been our annual Transition Week, and it has been wonderful to see how positively the children have embraced the changes ahead of September. Our current pupils have settled quickly into their new classes, and it has been especially lovely to welcome our new Year 3 children from MIANS and schools beyond. They have arrived with huge smiles, excitement and confidence.

To our Year 6 pupils, we all wish you every success and happiness as you move on to high school. You have been a fantastic year group and have left your mark on George White Junior School in so many positive ways. Be proud of all that you have achieved, continue to work hard, be kind, believe in yourselves and embrace every opportunity that comes your way. We cannot wait to hear about all the amazing things you go on to accomplish.

Finally, I hope all our children, families and staff have a safe, relaxing and well-deserved summer break. It has been a busy and incredibly successful year, and we all deserve the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends before we do it all again next year. Thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, opportunity, friendship and success.

Have a wonderful summer!

The GWJS Team

Our updated shelter

A huge thank you to Mr Akkache, who has recently spent a considerable amount of time repairing our shelter on the playground. It is lovely to have it back in use and is already a popular area of the playground for children to gather at playtimes and lunchtimes.

The shelter provides a lovely shaded space where children can relax, chat with friends and enjoy some quieter time outdoors, particularly during the warmer weather. Thank you, Mr Akkache, for helping to make our playground an even better place for everyone.

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.

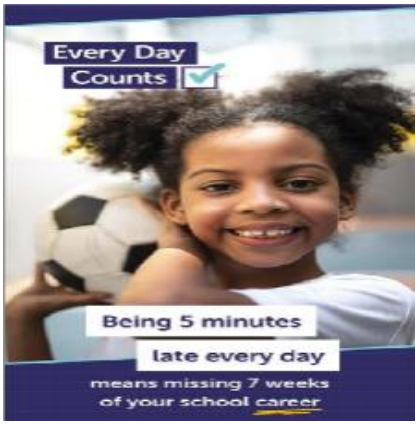
Well-done to 3L & 4B this week, for having the highest attendance.

6E: 93%
6W: 93%
5W: 85%
5D: 88%
4T: 96%
4B: 97%
3C: 96%
3L: 97%

Whole school attendance for this week: 93%

School Target: 96%

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, 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





Year 3

What a fantastic year it has been for our Year 3s! They have all made incredible progress and should be very proud of everything they have achieved. We have explored so many exciting topics this year, from the history of Norwich and its castle to the fascinating worlds of Ancient Egypt and the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. This half-term, we have enjoyed learning about bee conservation and plants in Geography and Science, finishing with a wonderful trip to Whitlingham. In Maths, we have developed our skills across a wide range of topics, from addition and subtraction to telling the time. Our writing has also improved tremendously, with the children confidently using features such as expanded noun phrases and subordinating conjunctions in their Stone Age letters.

"I loved learning about Ancient Egypt and the Pharaohs and Gods." – Miguel

"*My favourite day was Science day and testing different materials to see what would make the best tissue"* - Rudy

Year 4

What a fantastic year it has been for our Year 4 pupils! They have shown great enthusiasm, resilience and determination throughout the year, making excellent progress and achieving so much to be proud of. This year, we have explored a wide range of exciting topics across the curriculum. From discovering the achievements of the Ancient Greeks to learning about the Romans. The highlight of our year was Roman Day! The children have developed a deeper understanding of history and the world around them. In Science and Geography, they have investigated fascinating topics through practical activities and enquiry, building their curiosity and confidence as young learners. In Maths, the children have strengthened their understanding across many areas, including multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, measurement and geometry. Their confidence and fluency have grown enormously, and they have shown great perseverance when tackling challenging problems. Writing has also been a real highlight this year. The children have produced a fantastic range of imaginative and non-fiction writing, applying ambitious vocabulary, varied sentence structures and accurate punctuation with increasing independence. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in confidence, maturity and independence throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and wish them every success as they move on to Year 5. We hope you all have a happy, restful and well-deserved summer break!

Year 5

What a fantastic year it has been for Year 5! We have enjoyed an exciting year full of learning, creativity and memorable experiences. In the Autumn Term, we travelled back in time to explore the world of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. A highlight was our visit to West Stow, where we experienced life in an Anglo-Saxon village and enjoyed a dramatic retelling of *Beowulf*. Back at school, we created Anglo-

Saxon brooches in clay and designed our own tunics in DT. In Science, we investigated the properties of materials, learned about the human life cycle and took part in First Aid training with the East Anglian Air Ambulance, developing valuable life-saving skills. The Spring Term took us on an adventure through the Solar System, brought to life through an exciting VR experience. We explored forces by testing parachutes, created colourful space-inspired artwork and learned about extreme weather and natural disasters, using our knowledge to design weather warning systems. We also celebrated Heritage Day, exploring and sharing our own family histories. In the Summer Term, we discovered the fascinating Ancient Maya civilisation and explored plant reproduction through visits to Whitlingham Lake and the Bug Parc, where we investigated habitats and wildlife. In Art, we were inspired by Henri Rousseau, while in DT we became chefs, preparing delicious vegetable fritters using seasonal ingredients. We also enjoyed taking part in a fantastic Sports Day, showing great teamwork, determination and enthusiasm. It has been a joy to watch Year 5 grow in confidence, curiosity and resilience throughout the year. They have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, supported one another and made us incredibly proud. We wish them all the very best as they begin their exciting journey into Year 6!

“I’ve enjoyed learning about space, and I liked it when we learned about how flowers reproduce. I’ve enjoyed my spelling.”

“I’ve enjoyed the VR experience and the trip to Bug Parc. I’ve gotten better at maths, especially co-ordinates."

“I enjoyed the trips and all the fun activities. I’ve enjoyed year 5 geography and space.”

Year 6

What a fantastic year the children in Year 6 have had. When we think back to our transition days with them last year, we are so phenomenally proud of the progress that they have made. They have become resilient, confident, self-advocating learners who understand themselves better and the part they play in the world. They have made us so proud with their determination to mature and take on the challenges of Year 6. As well as the inevitable mention of SATs, our young people surpassed themselves at the residential, pushing themselves to new limits. We took part in trips to the Norfolk coastline to study erosion, had visitors from a heart surgeon and various other aspirational careers. The curriculum took us on a journey of Evolution and Climate Change, Ancient Islamic Civilizations and the lasting impact of World War Two. Throughout all these lessons, our children showed curiosity and a growing awareness of the world around them. Another highlight from the year was our amazing children planning and delivering George White’s first ever Enterprise Week, where they pitched their idea, researched, designed and sold their products. We certainly have some budding entrepreneurs leaving us this year. The year group also wrote their own end of year performance, choosing their own scripts, songs and stepping up for solo roles. It has been an exceptional year, and we want to say well done and good luck to every one of our Year 6 children as they leave us for High School.

“I really liked learning about erosion, and our local coastline.”

“I just really loved the Y6 Maths. It was the best!”

“I have improved my vocabulary this year.”

SRB

Children in the SRB have had a great year of learning! They have enjoyed growing sunflowers, making pneumatic monsters, building air raid shelters, singing songs about the planets, learning about life in the Stone Age and building circuits. Children come to the SRB for only 2 terms and start at different times throughout the year, so we are always impressed with how they adapt to their new school and class and the resilience they show when moving between settings. We say goodbye to 3 of our children who are returning to their mainstream schools and look forward to welcoming our new children in September for another year of hard work, enthusiasm and fun!

Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

Monday 13th July	George White's Got Talent Year 3 and 4 auditions in school
Tuesday 14th July	George White's Got Talent Year 5 and 6 auditions in school
Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Leavers show to Parents 1:15-3:00
Thursday 16th July	George White Got Talent Grand Final
Thursday 16th July	Year 6 Leavers Disco 3.30 -5pm
Friday 17th July	End of term at 3:20pm

Dates for the Diary 2026/2027

Tuesday 1st September	Inset Day – school shut for all children
Wednesday 2nd September	Inset Day – school shut for all children
Thursday 3rd September	Start of the autumn term. Gates open for all children at 8:30am
Monday 7th September	Year 4 welcome meeting for all parents from 3:30pm in the school hall
Tuesday 8th September	Year 5 welcome meeting for all parents from 3:30pm in the school hall
Wednesday 9th September	Year 6 welcome meeting for all parents from 3:30pm in the school hall
Tuesday 20th October	Parents evening 3:30pm-5pm
Wednesday 21st October	Parents evening 3:30pm – 7pm

SEND news



At the end of each half term, we include an article about supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. As we go into the summer holidays, please see information below about activities to do with your child over the coming weeks.

The Norfolk SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Local Offer has information on activities happening across Norfolk. You can browse the website below and filter by age, postcode or other criteria

Activities for children and young people - Norfolk County Council

The National Trust has a list of '50 things to do before you're 11¾', many of which are free. There are some fun activities suggested and children could keep a diary or photo book to tick off what they have done.

50 things to do before you're 11¾ | Kids | National Trust

Every year, Norfolk Library Service run The Summer Reading Challenge, a free activity for children aged 4-11 which this year is delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music UK. It's all about reading for fun, aiming to improve children's skills and confidence over the summer holiday.

Children can pick up their Summer Reading Challenge pack and free magazine from their local library. They set their own reading goals and read anything they like from the library. They collect reward stickers as they achieve their reading goals. At the end of the summer, children who complete all their goals earn a certificate and a medal.

Summer Reading Challenge 2026 - Norfolk County Council

There are also free activities running in many libraries over the summer so use the link below to check out what is happening in your local library.

Activities for children and young people - Norfolk County Council

If your child completes the summer reading challenge, we would love to see their certificate in September and share their achievement with the wider school!

Wishing all families a happy summer holiday.