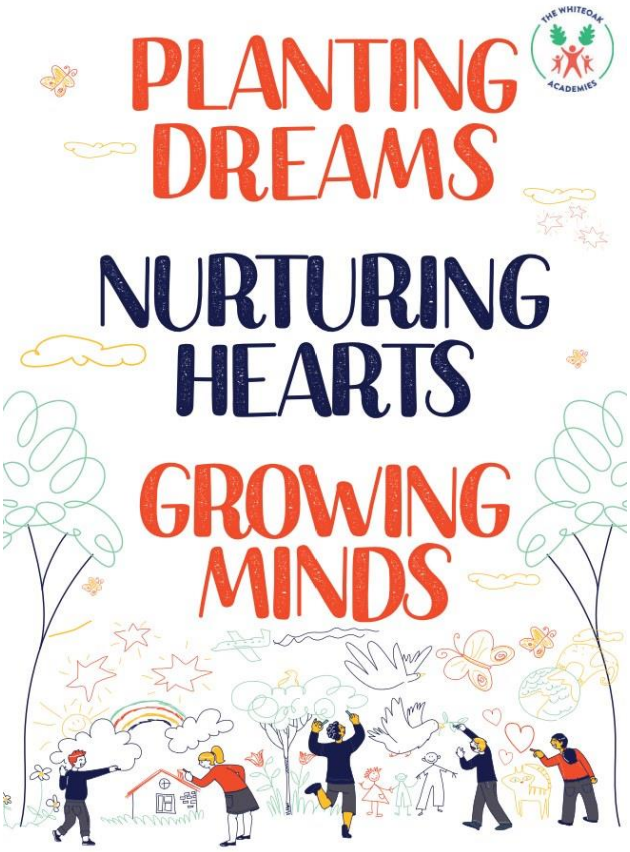


The Whiteoak Academies Newsletter 7

Headteacher's Message



I hope you enjoy reading this week's newsletter, there is a lot to celebrate and enjoy!

Looking ahead, Parents' Evenings will take place during the first week back after half term. These are a valuable opportunity to meet with your child's teacher, celebrate their progress and discuss the next steps in their learning. Please read the section below for booking details.

I am also delighted to introduce Gina, our new Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP), who will be working with us every Wednesday. Gina is part of North Somerset's Mental Health Support Team and will support us in promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, including helping children to manage anxiety, worries and other emotional challenges. Please take a moment to read the information about Gina in this week's newsletter.

Finally, a gentle reminder about keeping our pavements clear at the start of the school day. We know that mornings can be busy, but please be mindful of where you stop to chat or wait with your children, ensuring that everyone can pass safely along the pavement. This is particularly important for families with younger children and those using pushchairs or mobility aids. Thank you for helping us to keep the journey into school safe and accessible for everyone.

Have a good week and please do catch me on one of the gates if you wish to share or ask anything.

Mrs Reyes

What you need to do this week:



1. If your child is in Reception, please do put the **Nativity dates** in your diaries! (See section below.)
2. Remember to go online from 6.00pm tomorrow (Monday 19th October) to **book your Parents' Evening appointments** using the links in the section below or through the two documents attached in Studybugs.
3. Don't forget to **book your child's school dinners** for after half term.

Stone Age Day in Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful Stone Age Day on Friday! The children threw themselves into all the activities, showing great enthusiasm and curiosity as they explored life in the Stone Age. They created their own Stonehenge silhouettes, acted out Stone Age scenes and researched fascinating facts to produce their own posters and fact files. It was lovely to see the children so engaged in their learning and bringing their history topic to life. Their outfits were also incredible; thank you families!









Our new flowerbed is finished!

The School Council had a great gardening session on Friday afternoon and we are delighted to say that the circular flowerbed in The Quad is now finished! We are so pleased with how it looks and so grateful to the parents who donated plants and to WOWSA for giving us enough money to purchase the rest.

When you come for Parents' Evening after half term, please do stop and admire it. One of our Year 4 pupils said to Miss Flemming at the end of the week: *'Every time I walk past this tree, it makes me smile.'*







Supporting your child's times tables learning



Many thanks to all of the families who came to our times tables meeting on Wednesday evening last week. The hall was absolutely full and it was fantastic to see so many of you there!

If you weren't able to attend, a handout summarising the session is attached. One of the key messages from the session was the importance of supporting children's practice of the recall of times tables facts, as opposed to just chanting a times table. Times Table Rockstars creates a visual 'heatmap', which highlights facts the children need to practise. If your child is in Year 3-5, they should now have brought a copy of their heatmap home. You are also able to access up-to-date versions of the heatmap via your child's TT Rockstars account; instructions on how to do this are below.

Follow these simple steps to view your child's heatmap:

1. **Log in** to TT Rock Stars using your child's school login details.
2. **Click on your child's avatar** in the top-right corner of the screen.
3. Select **My Stats**.
4. Scroll down to the **Fluency** section to find their heatmap.

How to Read the Heatmap

- 🟢 **Green:** Facts your child can recall quickly.
- 🟠 **Orange:** Facts that need a little more practice.
- 🔴 **Red:** Facts that need further practice to improve recall speed.
- Grey squares indicate facts for which there is not yet enough data.

Many thanks for supporting times tables learning!

Miss Kerlogue



How to book your Parents' Evening appointments

Within the Studybugs message are the two sets of guidelines you will need to book your parents' evening slots for either **Tuesday 3rd or Thursday 5th November**. There are guidelines for Hannah More Infants and a separate one for Grove Juniors so please ensure you are on the

correct website. If you have children in both schools, you will need to log onto both and book them separately. The links are below:

Grove Juniors - https://gjs.schoolcloud.co.uk/

Hannah More Infants - https://hmg.schoolcloud.co.uk/.

The system will go 'live' for bookings from 6.00pm on Monday 19th October. If you need any help booking your slot or have any questions, please call the school office who will be happy to help.

Meet Gina, our Education Mental Health Practitioner

We are delighted to introduce **Gina, our Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP)**, who is part of the Mental Health Support Team within North Somerset. Gina will be working at our school every Wednesday and has already started getting to know the children and staff.

The Mental Health Support Team supports schools to promote positive mental health and wellbeing for children, staff and families. As part of her role, Gina can provide support for children experiencing anxiety, low mood and other difficulties with their emotional wellbeing. She also works with schools to develop understanding of mental health and offers support and lessons to help children build positive wellbeing.

The team shares practical tools to help children manage worries, challenge negative thoughts, solve problems and develop self-care strategies, building their confidence and resilience.

If you would like to find out more about the support available, please speak to Gina (she is planning to be out on the Grove gate every Wednesday morning), our Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead (Mrs McClive) or another trusted adult in school. We are pleased to have Gina working with us to help our children feel happy, supported and ready to learn.

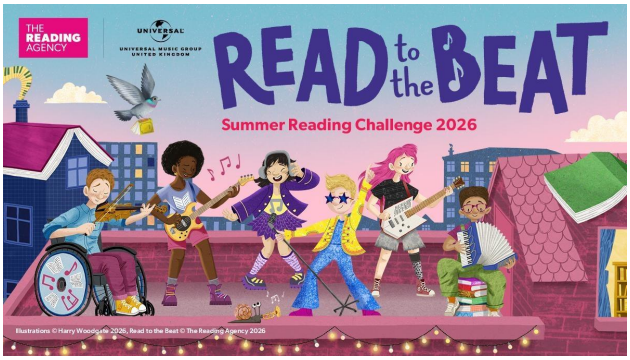


We've won a mural for our library!

We have some very exciting news to share! So many of our children took part in our local library's Summer Reading Challenge that we have won the **top prize – a beautiful mural for our school library!**

We are absolutely delighted and want to say a huge thank you to all the children who took part and to the families who encouraged them to keep reading over the summer. Your enthusiasm has helped us achieve something really special for our school.

The mural will be the perfect finishing touch to our renovated library, helping us to create an inspiring space where children can discover new books, develop a love of reading and let their imaginations soar. We can't wait to share the finished result with you!



Children in Need - Friday 13th November

We're supporting BBC Children in Need with our very own **Run Pudsey Challenge** this year! Children are invited to wear **sporty and/or spotty clothing** on Friday 13th November and take part in a fun run with their class (or an indoor fitness circuit if the weather is unkind!).

Please ensure children wear suitable footwear for running and bring a **voluntary donation** to support this fantastic cause. All money raised will go directly to BBC Children in Need.

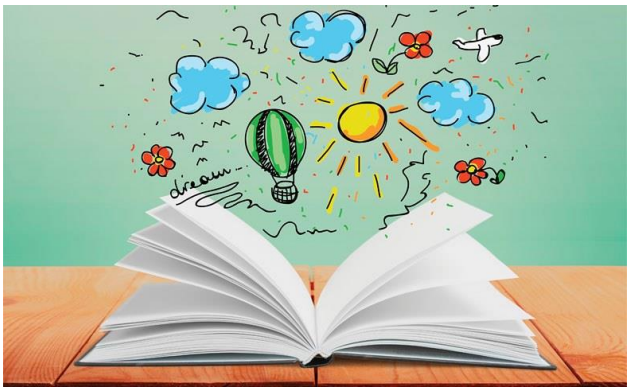
We look forward to seeing everyone's spotty and sporty outfits!



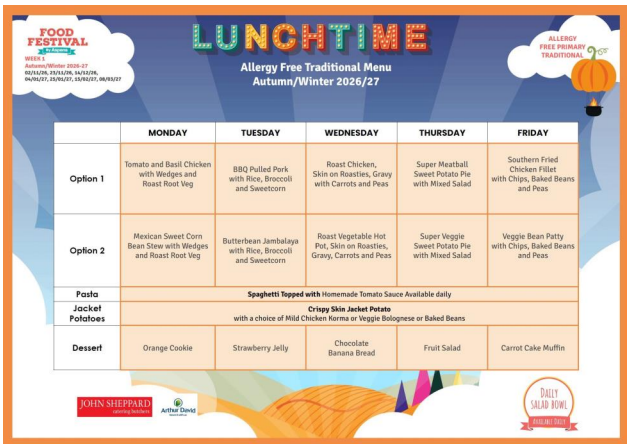
Reading Tip of the Week

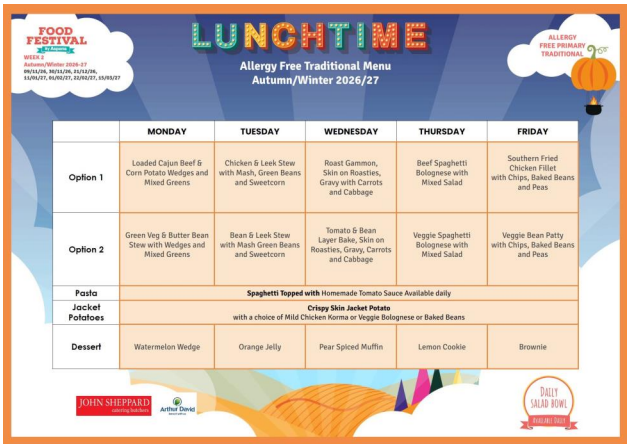
Build vocabulary

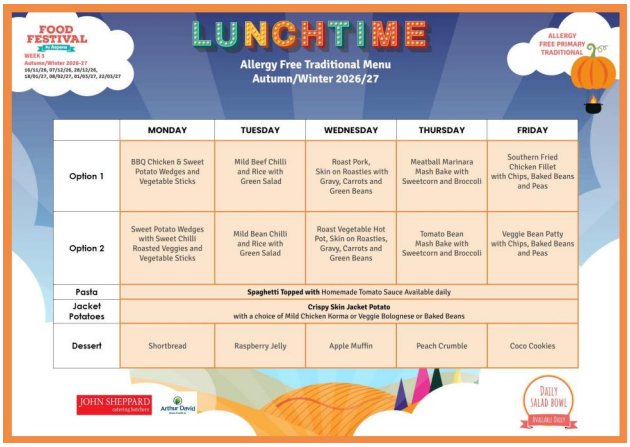
When you come across an unfamiliar word, stop and talk about it. What does it mean? Can you think of another word that means something similar? Can you use it in a sentence? Building vocabulary makes a huge difference to children's understanding.



New Autumn/Winter menu for school dinners







	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Option 1	BBQ Chicken & Sweet Potato Wedges and Vegetable Sticks	Mild Beef Chilli and Rice with Green Salad	Roast Pork, Skin on Roasties with Gravy, Carrots and Green Beans	Meatball Marinara Mash Bake with Sweetcorn and Broccoli	Southern Fried Chicken Fillet with Chips, Baked Beans and Peas
Option 2	Sweet Potato Wedges with Sweet Chilli Roasted Veggies and Vegetable Sticks	Mild Bean Chilli and Rice with Green Salad	Roast Vegetable Hot Pot, Skin on Roasties, Gravy, Carrots and Green Beans	Tomato Bean Mash Bake with Sweetcorn and Broccoli	Veggie Bean Patty with Chips, Baked Beans and Peas
Pasta	**Spaghetti Topped with** Homemade Tomato Sauce Available daily				
Jacket Potatoes	**Crispy Skin Jacket Potato** with a choice of Mild Chicken Korma or Veggie Bolognese or Baked Beans				
Dessert	Shortbread	Raspberry Jelly	Apple Muffin	Peach Crumble	Coco Cookies

ASPENS

MENU INNOVATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

A FRESH TAKE ON A FAVOURITE

VENISON ON THE MENU

We're excited to trial venison in familiar favourites, bringing new flavour and nutritious variety to school lunches.

VENISON VS BEEF

Compare 100g of each cooked mince

Nutrient	Venison	Beef
Energy (est.)	180 kcal	231 kcal
Fat	8.2g	15.1g
Saturated fat	4.0g	6.5g
Protein	26.5g	23.8g
Iron	3.35mg	2.35mg
Vitamin B12	2.32mcg	2.17mcg
Vitamin B6	0.47mg	0.27mg

g = grams; mg = milligrams;
mcg = micrograms (a very small amount).

WHY WE ARE TRIALLING IT

A NEW FLAVOUR

Familiar dishes are a welcoming way for pupils to explore a new ingredient.

NUTRITION FIRST

Venison provides protein for growth and repair, iron for oxygen transport and B vitamins that help the body use energy from food.

THOUGHTFUL MENUS

The trial helps us explore variety, flavour and responsible food choices.

SOMETHING NEW TO TALK ABOUT

Primary: bolognaise. Secondary: bolognaise, keema, burger or kofta. Ask your child what they think!

RESPONSIBLE FOOD CHOICES

When venison comes from responsible wild deer management, using the meat can support woodland care and reduce waste.



Reception Nativity – Save the Dates



We are delighted to let you know that our Reception children will be performing this year's Nativity on:

- **Tuesday 8th December at 9.30am**

- **Thursday 10th December at 2.15pm**

Our youngest children are already looking forward to sharing this special Christmas performance with you! Please save the dates in your diaries. More information about the performances will follow nearer the time.

WOWSA - Save the Dates



Two Christmas dates to put in your diaries:

Wednesday 2nd December - Wreath making workshop. An evening event for adults.

Saturday 5th December - 'Elf Academy'. Fun Christmas activities for children.

Links to book for these events, plus the Winter discos, will be shared over the next couple of weeks.

Upcoming Events



Term 1 - 'Belonging'

- 23 October - Last day of Term 1
- 31 October - Closing date for applications to Secondary School for pupils currently in Year 6

Term 2 - 'Courage'

- 2nd November - Children return to school
- 5 November - Prospective parents' tour (children starting school Sept 2027), 1.45pm
- 13 November - Children in Need Day
- 16 November - Road Safety Week
- 16 November - Anti Bullying Week
- 16 November - Odd Socks Day!
- 20 November - INSET Day (school closed to children)
- 24 November - Reception, Year 3 and Year 4 Winter Discos
- 26 November - Year 1, Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 Winter Discos
- 27 November - School photos (individual)
- 28 November - Whiteoak Choir to sing at Holy Trinity Christmas Fair, 10.30am
- 2 December - WOWSA Wreath Making Workshop (for adults)
- 5 December - WOWSA 'Elf Academy'

- 8 December - Reception Nativity performance, 9.30am
- 8 December - Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
- 9 December - Whiteoak Choir to take part in Christmas Extravaganza at the Winter Gardens, 5.00pm
- 10 December - Reception Nativity performance, 2.15pm
- 15 December - Year 3 to Redgrave Theatre
- 18 December - Hot Chocolate Friday and Uniform Sale after school
- 18 December - Last day of Term 2

Term 3 - 'Kindness'

- 4 January - Children return to school

Housepoint Celebrations

MOOREND
EAGLES



GLASSWORK
GRIZZLIES



TITHE
TIGERS

TRENDLEWOOD
WOLVES

Congratulations to Glasswork Grizzlies who were the winning house in last week's house point totals! Great work everyone!