

Wheatcroft School



End of Term Newsletter



July 2025



Mrs Miller's message



As we come to the end of another academic year, we all have so much to reflect on and be proud of. Our school values of being kind, respectful, determined, responsible and ready to learn have been at the heart of our learning and behaviour; the children have followed these values with respect and I am proud of each and every one of them. I hope that you were able to recognise and celebrate your child's achievements in their end of year report and that you have been able to see the progress they have made academically, socially and in their perseverance towards their learning.

Our staff this year have worked hard to ensure our children have been given opportunities to make progress and achieve in many ways. Through external visits, learning walks, governor visits and pupil voice, it is clear that the hard work and dedication from our staff has ensured an increase in our data outcomes and I thank them for their dedication to the school and our pupils each and every day.

Our transition day was a great way for us to celebrate all that the children have achieved as well as a good opportunity to thank our staff. Thank you to our parent body for supporting your children at home through their homework tasks and regular reading, spellings and maths practice; this regular practice at home really does have a positive impact. If you have been a regular parent helper in school, we really do appreciate all the time you have given to help us to provide our children with a range of activities both in and out of the classroom ensuring we continue to commit to our Learning Outside the Classroom gold award. We are also proud to announce that Wheatcroft has again achieved Gold for the School Games Mark, showing how committed we are to ensuring our children have a broad range of PE experiences. Our school is extremely lucky to have our minibuses to transport the children and we look forward to planning the purchase of our new bus in the next academic year.

This year we wave goodbye to Mrs Tuck who has been our SenCo for nine years. We wish her all the very best in her retirement and thank her for her commitment to our school and the impact she has had on our SEND pupils past and present. We are pleased to announce that following our recent recruitment process, congratulations go to Mrs O'Brien who has been appointed as our new SenCo from September. We also say a fond farewell to Miss Sharpner who will be leaving us to complete her university degree; we wish her all the very best and thank her for all the support she has given our school and children during her time here.

Our PTFA have worked extremely hard this year to organise and arrange many events to keep raising the much needed funds for our school. Thank you so much to all of the parents who have given up their time to ensure these events can happen. Please do speak with your class PTFA reps if you are able to give any time next year as I am sure they are already planning great things! A huge thank you to Mrs Monckton and Mrs Sleight for taking on the roles as joint chairs and helping lead the PTFA this year. I would also like to personally thank them both for all their continued support of the school through the years their children have attended. I wish their families all the very best as they leave Wheatcroft; they will be missed.

As they leave us to move onto their secondary schools, I wish our Year 6 cohort the very best of luck. I am so proud of every one of them for all they have achieved during their time at Wheatcroft and wish them all the very best of luck as they start their secondary school journey.

A huge thank you goes out to the school staff and governors for their continued dedication to our children; I wish them and their families a restful summer break. On behalf of the Wheatcroft community, we wish you all an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you and our new families in the new academic year.

With very best wishes

Mrs D Miller

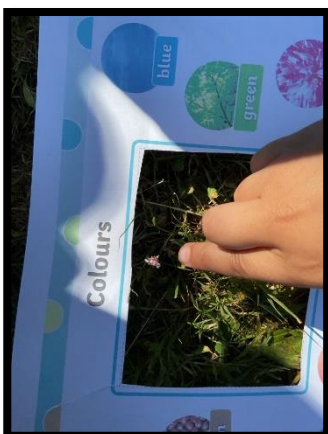
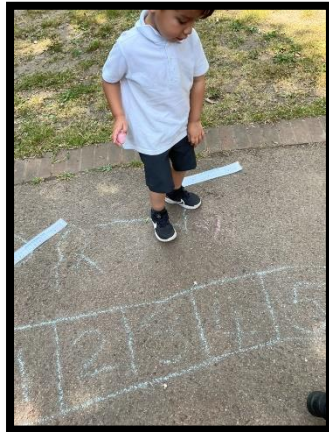
Headteacher



Nursery



We have really enjoyed our Summer term in Nursery. Our topics were minibeasts and transport. We have worked really hard on our counting skills and pattern making. In English we have been learning lots of rhymes and listening to the initial sounds in words.



We had our EYFS sports day and picnic as well as going back to the Year 2000 to celebrate our school's 50th birthday. We had a trip to Cedars Park too and we really enjoyed feeding the meerkats and riding on our minibus. We enjoyed 'Break the rules day' and meeting our new Reception teachers.



Reception



We have had a fabulous Summer Term in Reception. Our first topic was 'People Who Help Us'. We loved learning about many types of jobs people do in our community.



A big highlight of the year for us was our class trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park, as part of our 'Animals' topic. We have been writing about our trip and learning facts about animals. We also participated in our EYFS Sports Day and had a lovely picnic afterwards with some of our family.



Year 1



We have had a lovely summer term in Year 1. We have been artists and made 3D models using different coloured paper. We have been mathematicians and explored money and time. We also made different patterns using 2D and 3D shapes!



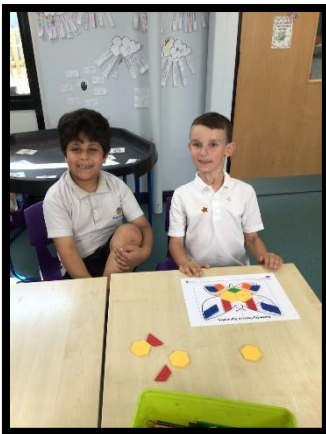
We have also been scientists and learnt a lot about materials! We have been outside on a hunt to find the right material to make a rocket with. We also conducted an experiment to decide which materials are best for curtains. We have done a lot of work on transport this term in Design and Technology and in History. The children loved their trip into London to see the different transport at the Science Museum.



Year 1 /2



We have had a very busy summer term in Year 1-2 and have had lots of fun. In art, we used paper to create our own masterpieces by bending, rolling and folding paper. In Geography, we have enjoyed learning about the seven continents and singing a song all about them.



During National Sports week the children took part in PE workshops, they loved Drumba, making music while dancing had everyone smiling. Our trip to the Science Museum had an added highlight when the children got to meet Dr Helen Sharman and ask her lots of questions about her time in Space. It has been a pleasure to teach Year 1-2 this year and we wish them all the best for next year. Have a wonderful summer!



Year 2



It has been lovely to spend so much time outside this term! We went on a walk around the school on a hunt to identify lots of different materials and their properties.



We all had lots of fun celebrating the school's 50th birthday! We dressed up in bright colours to celebrate the 80s and we really enjoyed performing a song and dance to the rest of the school!



A highlight of the summer term was our trip to the science museum. It was an amazing experience to learn about different types of transport throughout the years. We even got to meet Helen Sharman! It was fantastic to hear so many interesting questions and fascinating answers all about space! The children have also enjoyed meeting their new teachers and classmates ahead of the next school year.



Year 3



We have had a busy and exciting Summer term in Year 3, from visiting Celtic Harmony Camp, a day out at Woodhall Estate and of course being able to swim for PE. The children all enjoyed a Drumba workshop during PE week.



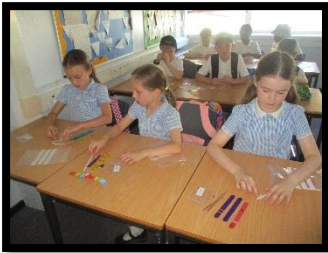
The children had great fun dressing up in their 70's outfits for our celebration of Wheatcroft's 50th anniversary. They all looked fantastic and did a really good job of performing YMCA! We hope that they will all take some lovely memories of Year 3 as they move to Year 4 and we wish you all an amazing Summer holiday and a well-deserved rest.



Class 3/4



We have had another exciting and busy term in Class 3/4. In the first half term we enjoyed visiting Celtic Harmony Camp and the Woodhall Estate. This half term our Year 4s had a fun interactive Science Day at Presdales and we all enjoyed a Drumba workshop in PE Week.



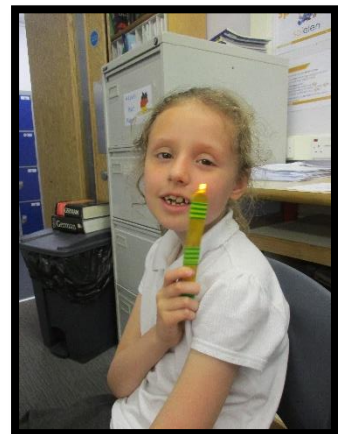
We had great fun dressing up in 1970s outfits, performing YMCA and enjoying a picnic to celebrate Wheatcroft's 50th year. Thank you very much for all your support this year. Have a wonderful summer break and I hope everyone has lots of happy memories of their time in 34!



Year 4



We were lucky enough to go on great trips this summer term! Our first was the Celtic harmony camp where we learned about life on an Iron Age farm! We also visited the Woodhall Estate for a countryside activity day.



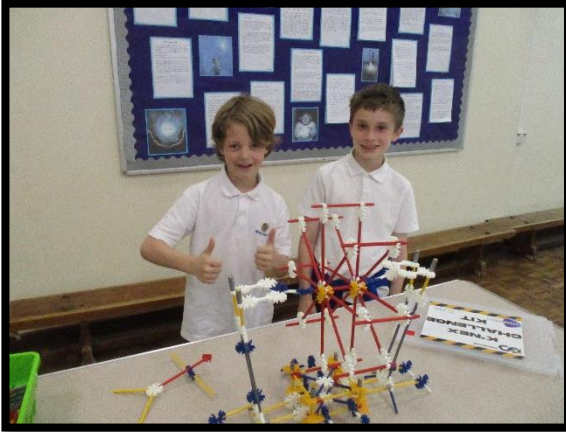
We were invited to Presdales School to take part in an interactive Science day. We made light up magic wands, a marble run for an egg and watched a show all about sound!



Year 5



What a busy term we have had! We kicked the new term off with our KNEX challenge; there were some extremely inventive fairground rides and more importantly, excellent team work, resilience and determination to succeed. We have also enjoyed drumba and BMX workshops – how exciting!



We have also enjoyed our topic on Ancient Greece and produced a lovely display to showcase our work in the hall. Additionally, Science has been very busy this term with many practical experiments on our topic of forces. We have made parachutes, boats, rockets and much more!



Finally, we are so proud of our singing and dancing for our production of 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean' and we loved performing for you. A huge thank you for coming to see our production and all the help you have given us in learning songs and providing costumes. Everyone has achieved so much this year and should be very proud – enjoy a brilliant and very well deserved holiday!



Year 5/6



Year 5/6 have had a fantastic, fun-filled summer term – it's been busy, memorable, and full of unforgettable moments!



This term, we embraced plenty of hands-on learning opportunities! In Science, we investigated water resistance by designing and testing our very own boats—though a few proved not quite as waterproof as hoped! Year 5 rose to the challenge in the KNEX competition, constructing imaginative and impressive creations. All the children also took part in both the Drumba and BMX workshops, trying new activities and having lots of fun along the way!



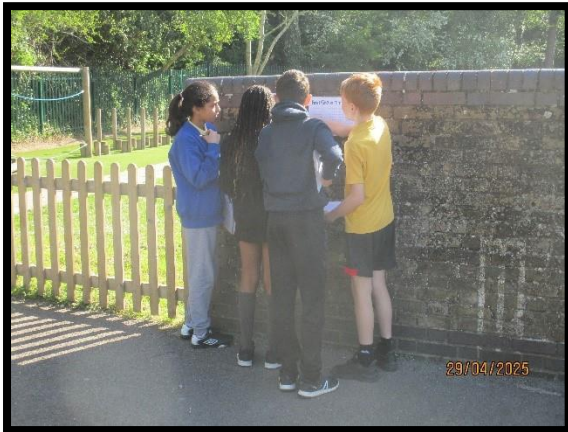
After working incredibly hard on their SATs, Year 6 enjoyed their well-deserved Norfolk residential. They stepped outside of their comfort zones, building confidence and resilience while taking part in a range of exciting activities, including canoeing, blind trails, and fencing. Every single pupil should feel immensely proud of what they achieved – they truly did themselves proud! I hope you all have a wonderful summer break and look back on the term with smiles and great memories.



Year 6



Year 6 have had a wonderfully busy and exciting Summer term! We worked diligently to prepare for our SATS assessments and we are proud of our determination and resilience shown and of all our achievements this year.



We have thoroughly enjoyed learning outside the classroom this term. In maths, we practised reading train and bus timetables, planning many exciting journeys. In science, we have been learning about forces and applied our knowledge of air resistance to create parachutes and water resistance to create boats – luckily, none of them sunk! We also took part in an exciting BMX workshop, where we learnt how to perform tricks safely on our bikes, and a drumba workshop!



One of the main highlights of the term was our residential trip to Manor Lakes Adventure in Norfolk. We had an amazing time trying lots of new sports and activities, such as rock climbing, blind trail and kayaking, and we will cherish those memories created with our friends. Finally, we thoroughly enjoyed rehearsing and performing our production 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean' and we loved taking you on the treasure-hunting adventure with us!

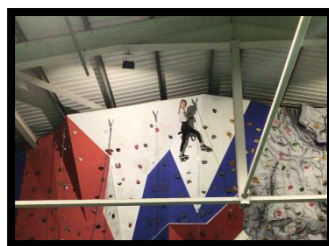
Year 6 have achieved so much this year and we hope you have a restful and relaxing Summer!



Norfolk Residential Trip



Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Manor Adventure, Norfolk Lakes. We enjoyed a range of activities on both land and lake. Some of our favourite activities included kayaking, rock climbing and archery.



All of the children showed determination and resilience when trying new activities and kindness when helping their peers. Well done to Year 6 for being such a wonderful group to take.



UKS2 Production – The Pirates of the Curry Bean



We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 and 6 children who have worked very hard this term to put together their brilliant production of 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'. The children demonstrated they are fantastic actors, brilliant dancers and wonderful singers! We hope that the UKS2 parents enjoyed watching it as much as we enjoyed performing it!



A special thank you must be given to Mrs Levesley-Turner, Miss Nunn, Mrs McLeod, Mrs Standen, Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Waterfall-Allen and Miss Sharpner who supported the rehearsal process and performances. This production would not have been possible without their support.



Green Bees



After chitting our potatoes in the Spring term, we planted our sprouted potatoes in a big black sack. Potatoes grow underground in the dark so we had to keep watering and topping up the soil in the bag.



We hosted our annual plant sale. Thank you to everyone who came out to support us and make it a great success! It was lovely to see so many of you browsing the lovely selection and taking home some new additions for your gardens.

A big thank you to Watton nursery for supplying such healthy, vibrant plants. Finally thank you to the Green Bees for all of their hard work for this event and throughout the year.



School Council



The School council children have worked hard throughout the school year ensuring that the school is a happy and supportive place to be for all children.



Thank you for the endless support with lost property, school fetes and being amazing buddies to all children in the playground. I wish you all the best for the future and know you will become leaders as you grow up.



PTFA



As we come to the end of our school's 50th anniversary year, we're delighted to report that the PTFA has raised an amazing **£10,592** since last September. This is a fantastic first step towards our ambitious fundraising target of £50,000 towards a new minibus.

This would not have been possible without the support of parents, so a big THANK YOU to everyone who has attended or supported our events and initiatives throughout the year. We welcome any feedback or ideas for next year, please email ptfa@wheatcroft.herts.sch.uk.

Summer Term fundraising

Our **Summer Party** was a huge success, raising a fantastic **£3,113**! The sun was shining, the tunes were playing, the bar was buzzing and the children all had a wonderful time. The Mayor of Hertford joined in the celebrations, cutting a cake to commemorate our 50th anniversary.

Events like this are a huge team effort and we're so grateful to the organising committee, as well as over 50 parents, 50 children and 11 members of staff who volunteered to run nearly 30 stalls. Special thanks to Miss Nunn who bravely faced the Ice Bucket Challenge!

Our Year 6 children did a wonderful job of running their own stalls, raising over £600. The School Council and Green Bees also did brilliantly, manning the Coconut Shy and Garden Craft stalls.

Other fundraising events this term included: our ever-popular **Ice Cream Fridays** (£513), **Magic Show & Discos** (£390) and **Break the Rules Day** (£549).

In June, 60 children enjoyed a free inflatables session, kindly donated by **Inflatacity Ware**, after winning our 50th anniversary poster competition. We were so impressed by all the creative entries!

Introducing your new PTFA

Many thanks to the PTFA for their commitment to providing memorable events for our children and raising vital funds for our school. It has been our privilege to chair this lovely group over the last year but sadly we're stepping down as our children are now moving on to secondary school.

Please join us in welcoming your new Chairs, **Josie Bristow** and **Kate Connolly**, who were elected at our AGM in April and will do a fabulous job! Many thanks also to our Deputy Chair Hannah Dobson, Treasurer Rachael Adler, Secretaries Jackie Baillie & Hayley Reader, Communications Officer Josie Bristow & Grants Officers Hannah Dobson & Jo Salter.

As always, your **Class Reps** are your first points of contact for any questions about the PTFA. From September, they are: Keira Pugh (Nursery), Vicki Thompson (Reception), Ally Livings (Yr1), Jo Salter (Yr2), Lynsey Gray (Yr3), Charley Crowe (Yr4), Lynsey Lewis (Yr5) & Jackie Baillie (Yr6).

We still need more members to help deliver our fun-packed schedule of events throughout the year. Please join our friendly team to make new friends and find out how you can get involved. We meet once a term in school (tea & biscuits provided!) and once a term in a local pub.

The next meeting is at school on Friday 12th September at 2pm, all are welcome.

We hope you and your children have a wonderful summer!

Laura Sleight and Michelle Monckton, PTFA Co-Chairs (2024-25)



Notes from the Office



Free School Meal Transitional Protection

Following recent Government guidance, pupils who become eligible for free school meals under the benefits-based criteria from April 2018, will continue to receive free meals until the end of the 2025/26 school year. This applies, regardless of any change in household circumstances, including an increase in earnings above the eligibility threshold.

Please note: Parents/carers of a current year 2 pupil who's moving to year 3 from September must re-apply for the means-tested benefit at

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

Milk ordering

Due to the system change of ordering milk, please order directly from [Dairy Link](#), a copy of the letter sent home can be found on the school website under the school meals tab. Please note: if your child receives free milk under the Free School Meals scheme, then please order directly with the school office.

Birthday Sweets

Following recent communication from Hertfordshire County Council stating they would highly recommend that the practice of 'birthday or celebration sweets' should be discouraged in line with Anaphylaxis UK advice, we will no longer be allowing children to bring birthday sweets into school. We have discussed this at length, and whilst we fully understand that the children love to share sweets with their peers, the risks to those children with allergies needs to be at the fore front of this decision.

Thank you for your understanding.



Smart Phone Free Childhood



In a follow up to our previous letter, we want to celebrate the fact that as a school we are championing a smartphone free childhood at Wheatcroft School from September 2025. We are working collaboratively with other schools in the local area to engage with this joint initiative to protect our children from online harm.

Along with other local schools we are implementing a new policy whereby primary aged children are not allowed to bring smartphones on school premises. The new policy will be effective from September 2025. This decision has been made to better safeguard the learning environment, ensure the welfare of all students, and uphold the ethos of our school community. Any smartphone that is found will be confiscated and returned to parents at the end of the day via the office.

If your child is in Year 6 and will be walking home independently and you would like them to be contactable on their way to and from school please provide them with a simple phone (without access to the internet). These phones will need to be handed in for safekeeping at the start of the school day and will be returned at the end of the day.

We would also expect adults to support this initiative by keeping their own smartphones put away in a pocket or bag while on site or leave them at home.

For some children there may be exceptional circumstances that require them to bring a smartphone into school each day, for example if it is used as a medical device. If this is the case, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

We understand that many parents don't want to give their child a smartphone but feel they have no choice because everyone else is. No parent wants to isolate their child from their peer group. The solution to this problem lies in better regulation of the tech industry, but enacting legislation takes years, time that this generation of children don't have. Meanwhile our most powerful defence lies in taking collective action at school and at home. We hope that we can support you by working collaboratively in the community.

Therefore, we strongly encourage parents to resist the pressure from your children and their peers, and hold back on giving your children smartphones until **at least the end of year 9**. If we all work together, social pressure is removed, and no child is the odd one out.

Our children's futures are so important, to you and to us. In a world where fast-changing and unregulated technology is actually impacting the development of our children's brains, it is up to us to stand up for them, and their futures.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Miller

Headteacher