

The WHPS Weekly

Friday 23rd January 2026



Dear WHPS Families,

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at West Hampstead, with lots of learning, community connection and school values on display!

With the recent rainy weather, we kindly remind families to ensure children bring a waterproof jacket to school each day. Even when there is light rain, we aim to get outside for some fresh air and movement whenever possible.

Our pupils have proudly represented the school in sporting events this week. Children took part in an athletics competition last Friday and a football competition on Tuesday. As always, we were incredibly proud of the sportsmanship shown and the way our children embodied our school values of consideration and resilience.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome families into school for a coffee morning. Thank you to everyone who joined Mr Drake to connect with other families and share your thoughts and ideas — these opportunities to build our school community are always valued.

Staff training this week has focused on reading and writing. On Wednesday, we welcomed a colleague from Argyle who worked with our LSAs on strategies to support effective reading interventions. At the same time, teachers explored the new writing framework and discussed what high-quality feedback looks like for our developing writers.

This week's newsletter also includes photos from our fun and engaging Science Week, which featured classroom science workshops and a fun-packed experiment assembly that the children thoroughly enjoyed!

We are hoping the weather improves over the weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Alex Efford, Assistant Headteacher

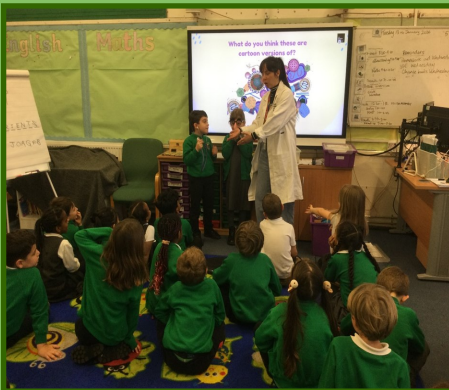
EVENTS NEXT WEEK

- MONDAY:** Seine Class Swimming PM
9-10 am Yr6 SAT's Breakfast for parents
- WEDNESDAY:** Mersey Class Swimming PM
9:30– 10:15 Willow Room– Local are walk
- THURSDAY:** EYFS Bright Bites Workshop
12:30– 5:30 Yr 4-6 London Coliseum Trip
- FRIDAY:** 9:10– 10a m Seine Class Assembly
2:45-3:15 Golden Time

Science Week

What an incredible week we have had at WHPS. Science Week was packed with curiosity excitement hands on learning and plenty of wow moments across the whole school. From Year 1 all the way up to Year 6 our pupils immersed themselves in scientific thinking asking questions, experimenting ,exploring and discovering just how exciting science can be.

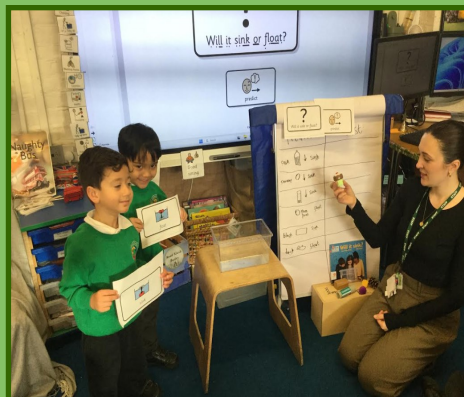
Our aim for Science Week was simple but powerful to inspire curiosity, build confidence and help children see themselves as scientists. I am delighted to say that this goal was well and truly achieved.



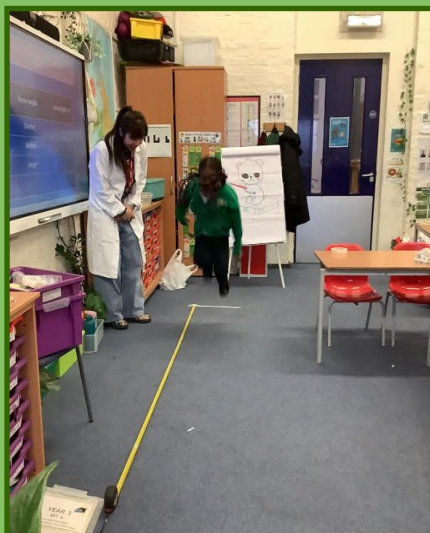
Science learning began with our youngest scientists in Nursery where real life experiences sparked great excitement and curiosity. During a period of freezing temperatures the children explored ice in the outdoor area, collecting it in buckets and bringing it indoors to observe what happened next. They watched closely as the ice slowly melted, discussing changes they could see and feel. This simple but powerful experience encouraged observation language and early scientific thinking as children explored change materials and temperature through play.



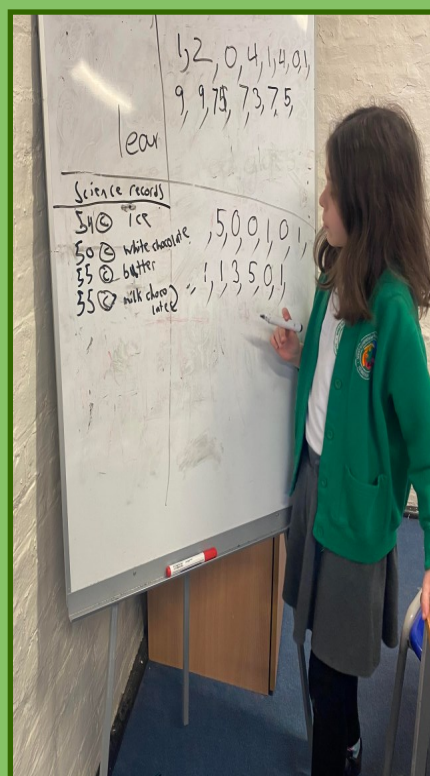
In Reception, pupils explored floating and sinking through practical investigation and exploration. Children made predictions tested different objects and talked about what they noticed. They were encouraged to explain their thinking and use new vocabulary as they discovered that some objects float while others sink. These hands on activities supported curiosity problem solving and confidence in asking questions.



In Year 3 the focus was on the human body. Pupils explored skeletons and muscles and learned how our bodies are structured to help us move, protect ourselves and stay strong. They worked scientifically by observing models comparing bones and discussing how joints allow movement. The children were highly engaged and impressed by how complex and clever the human body is.

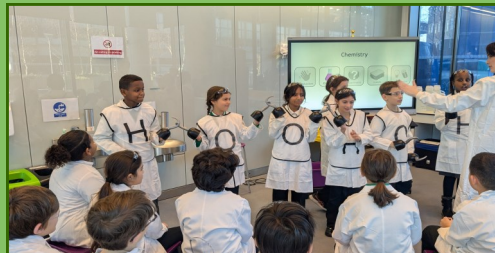


Year 4 investigated sound through a range of hands on experiments. Pupils explored how sound is made, how it travels and how pitch and volume can change. They tested different materials and made links between vibrations and sound production. These practical investigations helped pupils develop their ability to explain scientific ideas clearly using accurate vocabulary.



One of the highlights of the week was the Year 5 visit to the Francis Crick Institute itself. Our Year 5 pupils travelled to the Crick centre where they took part in a full day workshop in a real scientific environment. This was an unforgettable experience that brought classroom learning to life.

Pupils worked like real scientists carrying out investigations, handling equipment and thinking carefully about evidence and results. They showed excellent teamwork, resilience and curiosity throughout the day. Being in a working research institute helped pupils understand that science is not just something we learn about in school but something that people do every day to improve lives and answer important questions.



Year 6 explored light and reflection through structured investigations and discussion. They examined how light travels, how we see objects and how mirrors reflect light. Pupils made predictions, tested ideas and recorded observations showing strong scientific reasoning skills. The workshop supported deeper understanding and encouraged pupils to think critically and explain their findings confidently.



To end the week on a high note, we came together on Friday for a whole school Science Week assembly, delivered by Science Buffins. We were thrilled to welcome Keith Buffins, a scientist and educator who brought energy humour and inspiration to the hall.

The assembly was interactive exciting and full of memorable demonstrations. Keith shared his passion for science and helped pupils understand that scientists are curious, creative and determined people just like them. There was laughter surprise and plenty of moments where children were left wide eyed ,eager to know more and excited about science.



Science Week at WHPS was a true whole school celebration. It showed the power of practical learning, expert visitors and rich experiences to inspire young minds. I am incredibly proud of how engaged enthusiastic and thoughtful our pupils were throughout the week.

Thank you to all staff who supported the workshops and visits , to our visitors from the Francis Crick Institute and Science Buffins for making the week so special. Most of all well done to our pupils for embracing Science Week with such curiosity excitement and enthusiasm.

I hope this week has sparked questions that continue long after the workshops have ended because at WHPS we believe that science is not just a subject it is a way of thinking exploring and understanding the world.

Here is to many more scientific adventures ahead.



EMOTION COACHING

This is a two-part workshop; both sessions need to be attended

The workshop is interactive, a mixture of discussion, reflection & presentation

The workshop aims to support parent/carers to understand and validate their child's emotions, respond more helpfully during moments of heightened emotions, and implement appropriate boundary setting



Sign up with the QR code below:



Tuesday 24th Feb & 3rd March,
12.00 to 2.00pm,
Harmood Children's Centre,
Forge Pl, Ferdinand St, NW1 8DQ



CAMDEN Parent Carer Forum

REFLECTIVE SPACE WITH CAMHS



A CAMHS group for parents who want a safe and confidential space to reflect on the joys and challenges of parenting children with additional needs. The group of up to 12 parents will meet termly with two experienced clinicians from Camden Mosaic CAMHS. We encourage parents to come to each session or to however many sessions they can manage. We hope the group will offer mutual support between parents and provide an opportunity to explore issues through personal and professional lenses.

When: Monday 26th Jan, 12.30pm-2pm

**Where: Kentish Town Congregational Church,
Kelly Street, NW1 8PH**

To register for the link please email: Camdenpcf@kids.org.uk /
Aishatu.Mohammed@kids.org.uk Or you can call or text 07385 003 662

Movement, Relaxation & Lunch



Would you like to join a group of parents and carers, led by an instructor in gentle movement and relaxation sessions followed by a lovely, freshly prepared group lunch?

If so, please join us on:

When?

Tuesday 27th January 26

Tuesday 17th March 26

Tuesday 10th February 26

Tuesday 2^{8th} April 26

Time?

12-2pm

Where:

Kentish Town Congregational Church, Kelly Street, Kentish Town NW1 8PH (The entrance is through the gates and across the garden)

These sessions will focus on gentle movement, stretching, relaxation and well-being, followed by a re-invigorating lunch freshly prepared by our KIDS keyworkers – suitable for all abilities.

Come along and try it out, this one is for looking after YOU!

To book a place please text your name to Aishatu.mohammed@kids.org.uk call or text 07385 003 662/ Jade.Green@kids.org.uk call or text 07711 767 258

<https://www.facebook.com/CamdenSpecialParentsForum>

Limited numbers - booking in advance is required.

Please bring an exercise mat or something comfortable to use.