

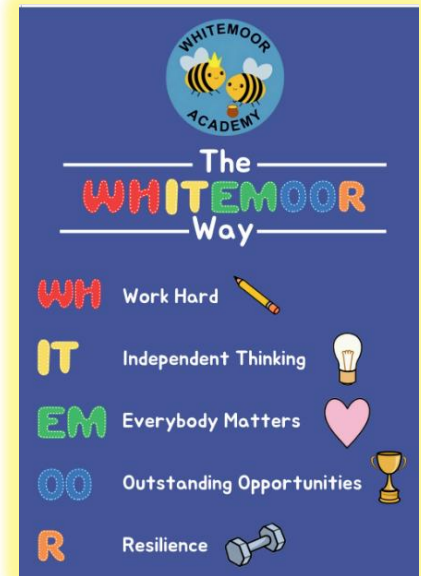
## A message from Mr Lord

*Good afternoon everyone!*

*As we break up for Christmas, I just wanted to thank you all for your continued support at Whitemoor. We began the half term with the sad news of Mrs Stapleton's passing. Once again, we truly appreciate your understanding during this difficult time. Despite the tragic circumstances, it highlighted the power of the Whitemoor community- of which Mrs Stapleton was a huge part of. Thank you to all those who have already donated to create a lasting memory of her on the school site.*

*The build up to Christmas has provided lots of joy, fun and memories for the children in school. From fabulous Christmas performances to cheeky elves misbehaving whilst we were asleep, there has been a wonderful feeling at Whitemoor.*

*Please enjoy your time as a family during this break and we look forward to welcoming the children back in the new year. Take care and have fun.*



## Outstanding opportunities

It has been another fantastic half-term at Whitemoor - full of Outstanding Opportunities. These opportunities have included:

BBC Children in Need  
Scholastic Book Fair  
KS1 and KS2 Carol Concert  
Christmas Jumper Day  
Rocksteady Concert  
EYFS Nativity  
Christmas Parties  
Primary Parliament meeting at Nottingham Council House  
Christmas in the City concert at The Albert Hall  
Young Ambassadors training at Harvey Hadden

And these sports events:

Y5/6 Forest Football Festival  
KS1 Cricket Festival  
Y5/6 Central Venue League Football Matches  
Y5/6 Cross Country Championships  
Y6 This Girl Can Festival  
Y5/6 Inclusive Mega Festival  
Y6 Boys Active Festival  
KS1 Infant Agility Festival  
Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics 'A Finals'

It is worth highlighting that our Y5/6 Sportshall Athletics team finished 3rd out of all schools in Nottingham. A huge achievement!

## Christmas Extravaganza Feedback



Thank you all for the valuable feedback you shared following our Christmas Extravaganza performances. We truly appreciate the thoughtful suggestions, many of which we will take into consideration when planning future events.

One key area highlighted was visibility, with some families feeling that not all children could be seen clearly. Moving forward, we will explore ways to ensure every child is visible, whether positioned at the front or back of the stage, for example by arranging children to sit or kneel in front where appropriate.

Another point raised was the concern that Key Stage 1 children performed one song before leaving, which some families felt was disappointing, particularly if they had attended specifically to see them. We completely understand this perspective. Unfortunately, due to fire safety regulations, it is not possible for all children and parents to remain in the hall for the entire performance. That said, several constructive alternatives were suggested, including holding separate performances or inviting the children back to join in a whole-school song, and these ideas will be carefully considered.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your feedback. It is greatly valued, and we will do our best to incorporate your suggestions into future performances.



## DT Days



Many classes have taken part in Design and Technology days. The children (and staff) really enjoy these days as it is an opportunity to show some extra creativity.

Here are the bookmarks year 4 made. The children showed great skill and resilience!

## Food Parcels

Due to the rising cost of living we are here to help you.

If you need help, your local food bank can provide an emergency food parcel for you.

Please contact the school office on 01159786351 and ask to speak to Ellen.



## Attendance

As we prepare for the upcoming December winter break, we want to share how grateful we are for each of you. Together we have worked to establish routines of showing up to school and create a school community for everyone.

We know the winter season is busy, and we appreciate your efforts to avoid taking extra days off around the winter break. Our teachers will be teaching and our students will be learning right up until holiday starts at 3:15pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December and the first day back on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Every school day matters. When students are healthy and able to attend, it gives them the chance to keep learning, connect with friends, and grow both socially and academically.

### Nottingham City Council School terms and holiday calendar – 2025/26

AUGUST 2025							SEPTEMBER 2025							OCTOBER 2025						
M		4	11	18	25		M	1	8	15	22	29		M		6	13	20	27	
T		5	12	19	26		T	2	9	16	23	30		T		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W	3	10	17	24			W	1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28		T	4	11	18	25			T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F	5	12	19	26			F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30		S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S	7	14	21	28			S	5	12	19	26		

NOVEMBER 2025							DECEMBER 2025							JANUARY 2026						
M		3	10	17	24		M	1	8	15	22	29		M		5	12	19	26	
T		4	11	18	25		T	2	9	16	23	30		T		6	13	20	27	
W		5	12	19	26		W	3	10	17	24	31		W		7	14	21	28	
T		6	13	20	27		T	4	11	18	25			T	1	8	15	22	29	
F		7	14	21	28		F	5	12	19	26			F	2	9	16	23	30	
S	1	8	15	22	29		S	6	13	20	27			S	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30		S	7	14	21	28			S	4	11	18	25		

FEBRUARY 2026							MARCH 2026							APRIL 2026						
M		2	9	16	23		M	1	8	15	22	29	30	M		6	13	20	27	
T		3	10	17	24		T	2	9	16	23	30	31	T		7	14	21	28	
W		4	11	18	25		W	3	10	17	24	31		W	1	8	15	22	29	
T		5	12	19	26		T	4	11	18	25			T	2	9	16	23	30	
F		6	13	20	27		F	5	12	19	26			F	3	10	17	24		
S		7	14	21	28		S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25		
S	1	8	15	22			S	7	14	21	28			S	5	12	19	26		

MAY 2026							JUNE 2026							JULY 2026						
M		4	11	18	25		M	1	8	15	22	29		M		6	13	20	27	
T		5	12	19	26		T	2	9	16	23	30		T		7	14	21	28	
W		6	13	20	27		W	3	10	17	24			W	1	8	15	22	29	
T		7	14	21	28		T	4	11	18	25			T	2	9	16	23	30	
F	1	8	15	22	29		F	5	12	19	26			F	3	10	17	24	31	
S	2	9	16	23	30		S	6	13	20	27			S	4	11	18	25		
S	3	10	17	24	31		S	7	14	21	28			S	5	12	19	26		

Your support makes such a difference in helping children feel connected and prepared.

If your family or your child needs support, please reach out to Mr Bevington and Ellen for help.

We look forward to seeing you again when school resumes on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January**.

Thank you for partnering with us!

## Winter Scholastic Book Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Winter Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to your amazing book purchases, we raised over £500 to invest in new books for our classrooms. It has been lovely to see the excitement on the children's faces as they enjoy their new reads.



## Mental Health Moment

Whether or not Christmas is part of your life and your traditions, your mental health might be affected by it happening around you. It is often referred to as 'The most wonderful time of the year,' and for some this may be true but for others, Christmas can add financial pressures, social expectations and a lack of true rest. Believe it or not, our children can feel similar pressures too. Here are a few tips for how to make the festive season more manageable for both yourselves and your children.

### For children:

- **Create a Gratitude Garland:** Draw things you're thankful for on paper leaves and string them together to make a garland.
- **Kindness Countdown:** A daily challenge (like "help a family member," "share a toy," "make someone smile").
- **Mindful Moments:** Christmas-themed mindfulness colouring pages or simple breathing exercises (e.g., "smell the candy cane, blow out the candle").
- **Story Corner:** A short, uplifting Christmas story about friendship or overcoming a small challenge.


### For grown-ups

- **Managing Expectations:** Reminders that it's okay if not everything is perfect.
- **Stress-Busting Tips:** Simple ideas like 'brain breaks,' gentle walks, and limiting screen time.
- **Open Communication:** Encourage talking about feelings, not just presents.
- **Remembering Loved Ones:** Gentle ways to remember those who can't be there.

However, you spend these next two weeks, try and find some time to recharge and pause. Christmas can be so busy and might feel overwhelming at times but, at the heart of it all, this break is about being together with people we hold dear to us and hopefully making memories. As always, reach out if you need any support.

I hope you have a restful and joyful break and, if you celebrate, a very Merry Christmas.

## PSHE TOPICS

All children from Y1-6 follow the  curriculum for PSHE. Here is a brief overview of what they have learnt in the Autumn Term and what they will be learning about in the Spring Term. For more information, support and additional activities for home, please access the SCARF website [www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/family-scarf](http://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/family-scarf)

	Autumn Me and My Relationships Valuing Differences	Spring Keeping Safe Rights and Respect
Y1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feelings</li> <li>Getting help</li> <li>Classroom rules</li> <li>Special people</li> <li>Being a good friend</li> <li>Recognising, valuing and celebrating difference</li> <li>Developing respect and accepting others</li> <li>Bullying and getting help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How our feelings can keep us safe – including online safety</li> <li>Safe and unsafe touches</li> <li>Medicine Safety</li> <li>Sleep</li> <li>Taking care of things: Myself, My money, My environment</li> </ul>
Y2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bullying and teasing</li> <li>Our school rules about bullying</li> <li>Being a good friend</li> <li>Feelings/self-regulation</li> <li>Being kind and helping others</li> <li>Celebrating difference</li> <li>People who help us</li> <li>Listening Skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe and unsafe secrets</li> <li>Appropriate touch</li> <li>Medicine safety</li> <li>Cooperation</li> <li>Self-regulation</li> <li>Online safety</li> <li>Looking after money – saving and spending</li> </ul>
Y3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rules and their purpose</li> <li>Cooperation</li> <li>Friendship (including respectful relationships)</li> <li>Coping with loss</li> <li>Recognising and respecting diversity</li> <li>Being respectful and tolerant</li> <li>My community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing risk</li> <li>Decision-making skills</li> <li>Drugs and their risks</li> <li>Staying safe online</li> <li>Skills we need to develop as we grow up</li> <li>Helping and being helped</li> <li>Looking after the environment</li> <li>Managing money</li> </ul>
Y4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy relationships</li> <li>Listening to feelings</li> <li>Bullying</li> <li>Assertive skills</li> <li>Recognising and celebrating difference (including religions and cultural difference)</li> <li>Understanding and challenging stereotypes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing risk</li> <li>Understanding the norms of drug use (cigarette and alcohol use)</li> <li>Influences</li> <li>Online safety</li> <li>Making a difference (different ways of helping others or the environment)</li> <li>Media influence</li> <li>Decisions about spending money</li> </ul>

<p><b>Y5</b></p>	<p>Feelings          Friendship skills, including compromise          Assertive skills          Cooperation          Recognising emotional needs          Recognising and celebrating difference, including religions and cultural          Influence and pressure of social media</p>	<p>Managing risk, including online safety          Norms around use of legal drugs (tobacco, alcohol)          Decision-making skills          Rights, respect and duties relating to my health          Making a difference          Decisions about lending, borrowing and spending</p>
<p><b>Y6</b></p>	<p>Assertiveness          Cooperation          Safe/unsafe touches          Positive relationships          Recognising and celebrating difference          Recognising and reflecting on prejudice-based bullying          Understanding Bystander behaviour          Gender stereotyping</p>	<p>Understanding emotional needs          Staying safe online          Drugs: norms and risks (including the law) Understanding media bias, including social media          Caring: communities and the environment          Earning and saving money          Understanding democracy</p>

# Winter Holiday Scheme Places for Free

## FREE FUN AND FOOD

Would your child like to attend a **fully funded holiday scheme** during the Winter holidays where fun experiences, a meal and snacks are all included?

Children in receipt of, or eligible for, **Free School Meals** can attend up to **4 free holiday activity clubs** in the Winter holidays.

✉ [freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

Further information:  
[asklion.co.uk/funandfood](http://asklion.co.uk/funandfood)  
or scan the QR Code

Questions:  
[freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:freefunandfood@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)



You may be entitled to Free School Meals!

To find out, please follow the guidance on the Nottingham City website:

[Free School Meals and Free Milk - Nottingham City Council](#)

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit -Your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian can also get free school meals.

This also bumps up school's funding to allow us to provide more resources, staff and opportunities for the children.

Therefore, even if you would prefer to continue with packed lunches, we would appreciate you applying for Free School Meals if you are eligible. Any additional funding goes straight back to the children.

Also, even if your child is in Year 2 or younger and they already have free school meals, if you apply now school receives more funding to put back into their education.

Many thanks 😊

School begins again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January