



Whitley Lodge First School

Newsletter 12 – Spring 2026



Curriculum News



Here are the details of the exciting learning opportunities on offer this term. We are particularly excited about the launch of our **STEAM Fortnight** across school. Please see the special newsletter for all the details. We welcome parents/carers into school to see our **STEAM showcase** of the children's work on **Thursday 12 March from 3:00pm**.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery: This half term we will be taking a closer look at the traditional fairy tales we all know and love in our new topic called *"What's your story?"*. We will be cooking delicious healthy porridge for Goldilocks, building new houses to replace the blown down ones and designing our very own gingerbread men that will outrun any fox in the land. Get ready for your happy ever after...your carriage awaits!



Reception: *If you go down the woods*, or Reception, this half term you're in for a big surprise! Reception will be exploring the wonderful world of bears. Michael Rosen's fantastic and iconic story *"We're Going on a Bear Hunt"* is our key text which we will use as the stimulus for a range of other creative projects.

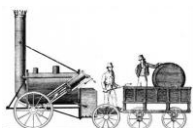
We will learn about the first Teddy Bears made by Margarete Steiff and have a very special visitor coming into school to share her own special collection of rare bears. We will be building a new chair for Baby Bear and creating our own bear themed snacks. Our brilliant topic will come to an end with a *"Bring a bear to school day"* where we will spend time writing about our own bears and making observational paintings. It's going to be a grrrrrrreat half term!



Key Stage One – Local Heroes

We are excited to begin our brand-new topic about **Local Heroes**. We will explore the life and work of Wylam-born George Stephenson.

In English, we will learn about the features of biographies and write our own versions about the *"Father of the Railways."*



In Maths, Year 1 will build confidence with number while Year 2 focus on measuring length, mass, capacity and temperature using standard units. In Science, we will investigate everyday materials, explore recycling and find out what happens when materials are heated or cooled. In Art, we will study the work of L. S. Lowry and develop our drawing skills using charcoal, pencil and pastel. Alongside this, we will explore the meaning of Easter in RE, focus on kindness and belonging in PSHE, develop our skills in dodgeball and multi-skills in PE, and learn about algorithms and coding in Computing. It's going to be a very busy and exciting half term!

Key Stage Two -Wonderful World

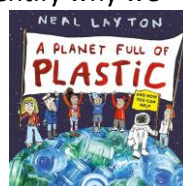
This half term we will be learning all about our wonderful planet Earth. Our focus text, *A Planet Full of Plastic*, will help us identify why we should recycle and protect our world.

In Geography, we will learn how and why volcanoes are formed as well as their impact on the people who live in their shadows.

In Art, the children will explore a range of fabric design techniques before progressing to tie-dye.

As we approach Easter, we will explore its origins and identify the importance of the days up to and including Easter Sunday.

This is all on top of Year Four's exciting residential visit to Robinwood, celebrating World Book day, Green Class assembly as well as completing lots of investigations and workshops during the ever popular STEAM week. We can't wait!



Diary Dates 2026

12.3.26 STEAM Showcase

19.3.26 Spring Disco

20.3.26 Red Nose Day

27.3.26 Green Class Assembly @9am

30.3.26 Parent Evening (1)

31.3.26 Parent Evening (2)

3.4.26-17.4.26 Easter Break

4.5.26 May Day Bank Holiday

8.5.26 Purple Class Assembly @9am

25.5.26-29.5.26 Half Term

18.6.26 Yellow Class Assembly @9am

19.06.26 Training Day

3.7.26 Booknic @ 2:30pm

10.7.26 Reception Joint class assembly @9am

10.7.26 Summer Fair

16.7.26 Y4 Leaver's Assembly @9am

17.7.26 Last day of term

New Academic Year @ WLFS

September 2026

1.9.26 Training Day

26.10.26-30.10.26 Half Term

18.12.26 Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

The next newsletter is out on
Friday 13 March 2026



Whitley Lodge First School STEAM Fortnight

2 March – 13 March 2026



Curiosity – What's your question?

We are very excited to be hosting our first ever STEAM fortnight incorporating British Science Week 2026. During the two weeks the children will be taking part in a wide range of activities and workshops linked to engineering, science, sustainability & saving the planet culminating in a celebration of all their work which we would like to invite you to.

STEAM SHOWCASE on Thursday 12 March

Curriculum News



[Inventors & Makers | STEM Workshops for Primary Schools & Early Years](#)

Inventors & Makers will be launching our STEAM Fortnight with a **'Kickstart Engineering Day'** in which the children will be involved in a range of design and making challenges including building *brilliant bridges* and *super structures* including the *tallest tower* contest.

The children will also participate in a range of workshops linked to **Engineering and the Environment:**

EYFS: Look at ways we can reduce, reuse and recycle through practical activities, songs, movement and a story.

KS1 & KS2: Learn about the impact of unsustainable energy on our planet and how engineers have designed sustainable energy sources to help as we investigate and build **solar panels** and **wind turbines** including **gears**.



This year BSW is all about asking **BIG** questions.

Children will be taking part in a range of open investigations built around the question - **"What happens if...?"**

They will be designing their own experiments, making predictions, testing ideas, and exploring results through hands-on science.

By generating and investigating their own questions, children are developing curiosity, critical thinking, and a real love of scientific discovery.



"I am neither clever nor especially gifted. I am only very, very curious."
-Albert Einstein



On **Friday 6th March** we have our **Eco-Engineering Challenge Day** We kindly request your help, on this day we ask that all children bring to school, *preferably in a named bag*, clean recyclables e.g. *egg boxes, yoghurt pots, kitchen roll tubes, food packaging etc* that they can use to create their own 'treasure'. It would be really helpful if you had a chat with your child to share ideas too!

Key Question: What new things can we make from old things?

STEAM Showcase schedule – Thursday 12 March from 3pm

To ease congestion, everyone will enter the hall via the main entrance and leave through the Community Room door. Plus, we will be operating a staggered pick-up time on this day.

Reception: from 3:00pm

Key Stage 1: from 3.10pm

Key Stage 2: from 3.20pm

Older children will be taken to their youngest siblings classroom and dismissed with them.

If you are unable to collect before the regular pick up time, children will remain with their class teacher until 3:20pm.

Siblings will remain in their youngest sibling's classroom until they are all collected.

The usual Zone4Kids arrangements will remain unless we are notified otherwise.

We would like to extend a **HUGE** thank you to our Science and DT school governors, Professor Knapton and Ben Burnip of Morgan Sindall Group for providing the funding to make all our workshops possible.

A reminder regarding the showcase will be sent out nearer to the event date.