

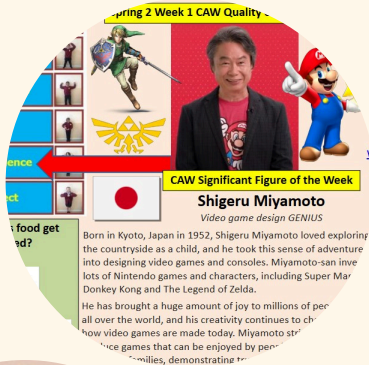


# Headteacher's Farewell

We've had an excellent start to 2026 and I hope you enjoy reading about everything we have going on in this Spring 1 Newsletter.

Today was my last day at City Academy Whitehawk, and although I am sad to be going, it's been lovely to reflect on my time here. I leave with so many amazing memories of working with the wonderful CAW children...I hope you enjoy some of the photos here showing just a few of my personal CAW highlights!

Being part of City Academy Whitehawk has been the greatest honour and privilege of my career. The school continues to go from strength to strength, and I've been proud to contribute to some of our best ever academic results, as well as our outstanding 2024 Ofsted report.



We have such a fantastic school, and being able to work with the amazing children and endlessly compassionate staff has been a true joy. Whitehawk will forever hold a special place in my heart and I feel fortunate to have served this community for the last four years.

I am so excited for City Academy Whitehawk's future: Miss Scozzafava and Mr. McMorrin are exceptional leaders, teachers and people who know and love Whitehawk deeply, and the school couldn't be in better hands. I will follow CAW's future successes with real pride at having contributed to such a brilliant school.

With love,  
Russell Wood



**RUSSELL WOOD**  
Headteacher  
City Academy  
Whitehawk



# Multiplication Tables Check

At City Academy Whitehawk, the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) is an important milestone for our Year 4 pupils. The MTC is a short, online check that helps children show how well they know their times tables up to  $12 \times 12$ . Being fluent with multiplication supports learning across maths and boosts confidence in problem-solving. Last year, 67% of our pupils met the expected standard which is an incredible achievement and **more than double the national average!** This fantastic result shows the hard work of our children, staff, and families, and highlights just how powerful regular practice can be. 🌟

One of the key ways we support this success is through Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) 🎸. At school, children work towards becoming Rock Heroes, earning Gone Green badges, Rock Hero badges, and a place on our Rock Hero Wall of Fame with their handprints proudly displayed. We also take part in exciting Inter Trust TTRS competitions, which motivate pupils to practise and celebrate their progress. TTRS helps children build speed, accuracy, and confidence which are all essential skills for success in the MTC.



Parents and carers play a huge role too. You can help at home by encouraging your child to log into TTRS little and often, even 5 minutes a day makes a big difference. Celebrate their badges, talk about their scores, and cheer them on as they improve. Regular practice at home, combined with our school approach, helps times tables become automatic and gives children the confidence they need to succeed in the MTC and beyond.



	10	2	5	3	4	8	6	7	9
10	$10 \times 10$	$10 \times 2$	$10 \times 5$	$10 \times 3$	$10 \times 4$	$10 \times 8$	$10 \times 6$	$10 \times 7$	$10 \times 9$
2	$2 \times 10$	$2 \times 2$	$2 \times 5$	$2 \times 3$	$2 \times 4$	$2 \times 8$	$2 \times 6$	$2 \times 7$	$2 \times 9$
5	$5 \times 10$	$5 \times 2$	$5 \times 5$	$5 \times 3$	$5 \times 4$	$5 \times 8$	$5 \times 6$	$5 \times 7$	$5 \times 9$
3	$3 \times 10$	$3 \times 2$	$3 \times 5$	$3 \times 3$	$3 \times 4$	$3 \times 8$	$3 \times 6$	$3 \times 7$	$3 \times 9$
4	$4 \times 10$	$4 \times 2$	$4 \times 5$	$4 \times 3$	$4 \times 4$	$4 \times 8$	$4 \times 6$	$4 \times 7$	$4 \times 9$
8	$8 \times 10$	$8 \times 2$	$8 \times 5$	$8 \times 3$	$8 \times 4$	$8 \times 8$	$8 \times 6$	$8 \times 7$	$8 \times 9$
6	$6 \times 10$	$6 \times 2$	$6 \times 5$	$6 \times 3$	$6 \times 4$	$6 \times 8$	$6 \times 6$	$6 \times 7$	$6 \times 9$
7	$7 \times 10$	$7 \times 2$	$7 \times 5$	$7 \times 3$	$7 \times 4$	$7 \times 8$	$7 \times 6$	$7 \times 7$	$7 \times 9$
9	$9 \times 10$	$9 \times 2$	$9 \times 5$	$9 \times 3$	$9 \times 4$	$9 \times 8$	$9 \times 6$	$9 \times 7$	$9 \times 9$
11	$11 \times 10$	$11 \times 2$	$11 \times 5$	$11 \times 3$	$11 \times 4$	$11 \times 8$	$11 \times 6$	$11 \times 7$	$11 \times 9$
12	$12 \times 10$	$12 \times 2$	$12 \times 5$	$12 \times 3$	$12 \times 4$	$12 \times 8$	$12 \times 6$	$12 \times 7$	$12 \times 9$



# Accelerated Reader

For all children in Year 3-6, and Year 1 and 2 when they are confident enough in their phonics journey, our library is stocked with a brilliant range of books for children to read and enjoy. What makes our library so special, is that each book is part of the Accelerated Reader programme. Each book has been catalogued for its word count and complexity level. After reading their book, children take a short comprehension quiz on it. This is typically 3 questions for very early readers, 5 questions for shorter chapter and picture story books and 10 questions for longer chapter books. If they pass their quiz (60% or above), the word count for that book gets added to their personal score that follows them through the school year. Children earn themselves certificates for reaching 1,000, 5,000, 10,000, 25,000, 50,000, 100,000, 250,000, 500,000, 750,000 and the ultimate word millionaire status. As well as this, the complexity score for each book, typically 0.5 points for a picture book, 1-2 points for a short chapter book and around 7-12 points for longer chapter books, gets added to their half termly progress.

Each half term children are set individual targets by Miss Scozzafava to reach and earn themselves lots of praise and a lovely themed certificate if they make it! Children are given a guide to what sort of books are about right for them but we support children in following their interests to find books they love and enjoy. Everything about AR is linked to personal excellence and personal best, so children are only ever in competition with themselves! AR is just one of many strands in our Reading For Pleasure offer, which you'll hear more about in coming newsletters and school communications.

## Some of the ways you can help at home....

- Encourage your child to read shorter books more than once. This builds fluency and deepens comprehension knowledge.
- Dedicate a short amount of time every day to reading
- Write in your child's reading record whenever they read any book!
- Log into their AR account from home (children know how to do this) to review books read, targets and progress



A handy website to see if books you own or have borrowed from elsewhere are already on the AR system



Great website for book ideas themed by age and interest!



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# SENDCo



I'm Gabby Gosztonyi and I'm the Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion (SENDCo) at City Academy Whitehawk. I work closely with children, families, CAW staff and external agencies to make sure that every child feels supported and understood. This includes working with the other members of the CAW Senior Leadership Team to ensure that effective ordinarily available provision is in place across the school. Ordinarily available provision is the support and strategies that all children can access, including high-quality teaching and an inclusive environment. I also support with organising more targeted support for children who need something additional or different to help them thrive at school. I help to identify when a child may need additional support, plan the right provision, and check that the strategies we use are making a positive difference. I am here to listen, to work in partnership with families, and to advocate for children so that their needs are understood and their voices are heard.



## SEND Signposting



**mASCot** is a parent led peer to peer support network for families with autistic children, whether that's from the point of recognising it may be autism, being on the diagnostic pathway or with a full diagnosis.

**Brighton & Hove Inclusion Support Services (BHISS)** is a Local Authority service that includes Educational Psychologists, specialist teachers and practitioners in learning and communication and social, emotional and mental health. Schools contact BHISS if they need extra support to meet your child's needs. BHISS also offer training and workshops for families..

**Aspens** provide care and support to people with autism and learning disabilities. They provide support in Brighton and Hove, including community outreach, day services, young people's groups, family support, and a helpline service. They also have a live chat offering support for parents and carers of someone with autism.

**Home to School Transport** is a Local Authority Team that can support with providing free home to school transport for some children who live further away from school, families on low income, and children with SEND. Your child may get help with transport if they can't walk to school due to SEND or mobility problems.

**PaCC Brighton (Parent Carers' Council)** is a city-wide forum in Brighton & Hove for parents and carers of children (0-25) with special needs or disabilities, working to ensure their voices influence local health, education, and social care services.

**Amaze** is a charity that gives information, advice and support to families with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Brighton & Hove and East Sussex. Your child or young person does not need to have a formal diagnosis to get support from Amaze.



If you have a child with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), you may be entitled to **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** which may help with the extra costs of looking after a child who is under 16 and has difficulties walking or needs much more looking after than a child of the same age who does not have a disability.

**Brighton Pebbles** is a parent-led charity that provides support for families with children and young people with disabilities, such as drop-in sessions, days out, short breaks and holidays. Family drop in sessions are at the Manor Gym in Whitehawk.



# Welfare Manager



I'm Sarah Orchard and I am the Safeguarding & Welfare Lead at City Academy Whitehawk. Although I have only recently taken up this role, I have been part of the school community for the past 16 years and feel very fortunate to have built strong, trusting relationships with our children, families, and wider community. At the heart of my role is ensuring that all our children are safe, supported, and able to develop and thrive. I work closely with families, class teachers, inclusion mentors and external agencies to ensure a high level of care and wellbeing for every child. My aim is for all children to know they have trusted adults available each day, who they can talk to if they have any worries or concerns — no matter how small. As a school, we are always here to support our children and families. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you feel I, or the school, can help in any way.



## Welfare Signposting



### School Safeguarding & Welfare Team (City Academy Whitehawk)

If you have any worries about your child's wellbeing, safety, behaviour, attendance, or home life, please speak to the school — we are always here to listen and support.

### RISE – Domestic Abuse Support

Confidential support for adults and children affected by domestic abuse, including advice, safety planning, and emotional support.

### Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) – Brighton & Hove

Free or low-cost holiday clubs and food provision to keep children active, fed, and engaged during school holidays.

### Early Help & Family Support – Brighton & Hove

Offers practical and emotional support for families with things like parenting, routines, behaviour, housing pressures, or money worries.



### Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Help with accessing food banks, community food projects, and advice if you are worried about food or money.

### Safety Net – Brighton & Hove (Impact Initiatives)

A confidential service offering advice, advocacy, and support for children, young people, and families affected by domestic abuse or safeguarding concerns.



### School Nursing Service

### School Nurse

Support with your child's physical health, growth, immunisations, sleep, toileting, emotional wellbeing, and any worries about their development or daily routines. Please speak to a school member of staff – We can submit a referral

### Winston's Wish – Support for Grieving Children

Provides compassionate support, guidance, and resources for children and families who have experienced the death of a loved one, helping them grieve in a safe and understanding way.



City Academy  
Whitehawk



Early Help  
for families



WINSTON'S  
WISH WW  
Giving hope to grieving children

# A Day In The Life of a CAW Ambassador

We asked two of our Year 6 ambassadors to tell us what they get up to in their role and what it means to them. Thank you Leja and Leela for writing these words for our newsletter!

Each autumn, Year 5 and 6 pupils are invited to apply to be CAW Ambassadors. Letters are written to the headteacher and then children present in a special assembly. Children are selected based on votes from students, ideas for change, behaviour and attitude for learning. Ambassadors wear special uniform so they can be quickly identified as role model pupils for visitors and younger students.

For our jobs, we greet parents into our school and be the best role models we can. We always try to be examples to others by showing these qualities every day, to encourage everyone to be the best they can be.

**Respect** - we show respect by talking about adults or anyone else positively

**Effort** - we show effort by showing kindness and trying our best in every challenging task.

**Excellence** - we show excellence by working our socks off and working our hardest.

**Collaboration** - we show collaboration by working with others when we or the other person needs help.

**Resilience** - we show resilience by not giving up when things are difficult, learning from our mistakes and trying again even when a task feels hard.

**Aspiration** - we show aspiration by aiming high, believing in ourselves and encouraging others to reach their goals and be the best they can be.

These qualities are important because they help make our school a safe, happy and respectful place for everyone. Being an ambassador means helping others, setting a good example and showing pride in our school. If you would like to be an ambassador, come and talk to us – we would be happy to tell you more!

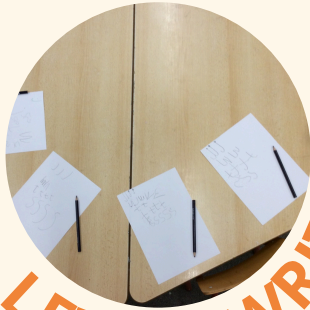


City Academy  
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**Leja & Leela**

# Next Phase Readiness

At CAW, we are always looking at how we can prepare children for their next step in their education journey. This can be from helping our Nursery children learn how to toilet themselves independently to our Year 6 children knowing how to safely travel on the bus to secondary school and many things inbetween. Take a look at just some of the activities and learning going on across the school to support this.



LETTER WRITING



TOILET TRAINING GUIDE



TRANSITION PROJECT



LIFE SKILLS



BALANCE SKILLS



CAREERS



PHONICS



TEAM BUILDING WITH ROEDEAN PUPILS





**Thomas McMorrin**

CAW Executive Headteacher & Director of School Improvement for Aurora Academies Trust

I am delighted to return to Whitehawk as Executive Headteacher. I had the privilege of joining the school in 2017 and care so deeply for the school community. Miss Scozzafava and I are excited to start the second half of the spring term as we mean to go on, with lots of excellent learning planned. Kicking the half term off with World Book Day will be a treat! I am sure you will join me offering Mr. Wood huge thanks and appreciation for his dedication to City Academy Whitehawk.

I absolutely love working at City Academy Whitehawk and feel very privileged to be stepping into the role of Interim Head of School and supporting an even greater number of pupils and families. I have been a teacher and leader at CAW since 2017 and can remember my very first visit to the school; it still feels as special and exciting now as it did then! There really is something truly unique about the children, families and staff at CAW and I'm very lucky to work alongside exceptionally talented colleagues. I'll be looking forward to continuing the great work going on all around CAW and, of course, having even more time to talk about reading!



**Florella Scozzafava**  
Interim Head of School

## Things to look forward to next half term...

- Maths Mentoring Club for Year 6s
- World Book Day celebrations on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- International Women's Day Vertical Learning Session on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- Red Nose Day celebrations on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Year Group Family Events during the week starting 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Easter themed house celebration at the end of term
- Taylor Swift Club performance in the last week of term

