

# Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter – November 2024



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A warm welcome to our November newsletter!

We wish you and your families a very happy, relaxing and enjoyable time over the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you all again on the 4th of November, for another busy and exciting time at Westfield!

Last month was a busy one with lots of additional activities for our children and families to experience. Some of these events included:

- \* Engaging and informative class assemblies
- \* Parent and child art workshop
- \* Year 3 classes visiting our friends at Mayford Grange, retirement village
- \* World War 2 workshops for Year 6
- \* #hello yellow day celebrated in school (World Mental Health Day)
- \* Wellbeing Wednesday event for children and parent/carers
- \* Road safety magic show for Years R, 1 and 2
- \* Year 5 Victorians Day
- \* Whole school skipping workshops
- \* Key Stage Harvest assemblies to parents/carers
- \* Year group book looks

The Friends of Westfield (PTA) have been as busy as ever, this week they have held their popular Halloween Bake Sale and disco and now they are preparing for all the upcoming Christmas events! Thank you to them for their hard work and consistent support for the school.

Looking ahead to the rest of this term, we have many exciting events coming up for the children, including our Anti-bullying themed week, plus celebrating World Kindness Day. Then Christmas will of course be full of fun events, including Christmas jumper days, Christmas assemblies etc. Do check the dates at the back of this newsletter and make a note of any that you need to be aware of, we would hate for you to miss out.

A big thank you for your generosity for our Harvest collection, as previously, we supported the South Woking Food Bank with your food donations, which they gratefully received.

It was lovely to see you all at our recent Parents' consultation evenings, the children really do thrive best (academically, emotionally and socially) when school and home work in partnership

Next half term, the PRIDE value we are focussing on is 'Positivity'. As we remind the children, positivity is an attitude and a choice, which we can all choose. Which is great news!

We wish you a happy November, full of learning and fun!

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## Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

### #hello yellow—World Mental Health Day.

Last month, on the 10th October, we turned the school yellow for #hello yellow day! The 10th October was World Mental Health Day and we marked the day by joining with Young Minds and having a '#hello yellow' day. We had a yellow-themed mufti day—to show young people they are not alone with their mental health. It was wonderful to see so much yellow in school, the children and staff really brightened up the day with their clothing and accessories! In addition to wearing items of yellow the children also took part in fun activities and learnt more about the day and what resources there are in school to support their wellbeing and mental health.

Everyone has feelings and it's ok not to be ok, but there are lots of people and resources that can help our young people.



### Parent/Carer Wellbeing Survey.

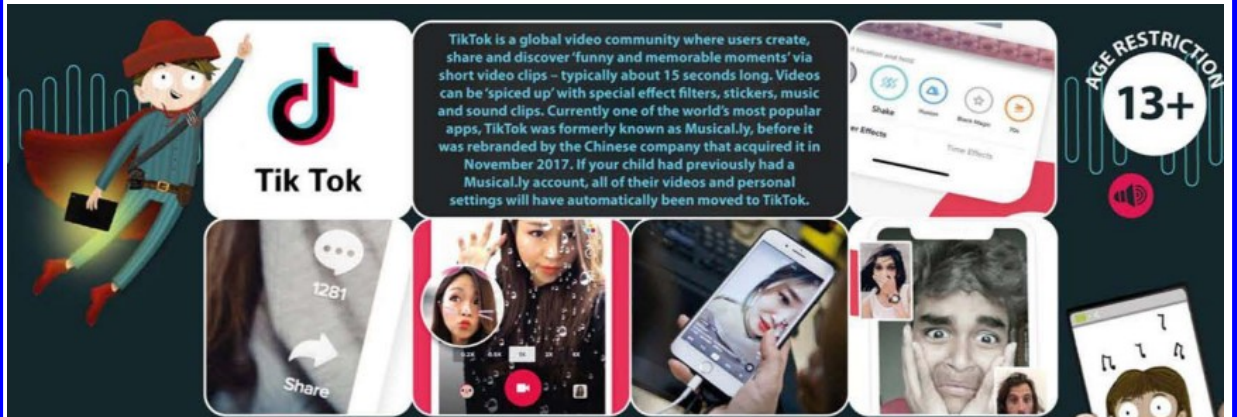
During last half term's parents' evenings we gave parents the opportunity to have their say on wellbeing at Westfield—what is working well and how it could be even better.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the short survey. If you missed this opportunity, but would still like to have your say, then please follow the link below

[Parent Wellbeing Survey](#) which will take you to the survey. Thank you.

We hope you enjoyed last month's Happiness Calendar, Optimistic October. For November, the theme is 'New Ways November', a month for trying new things, for example, a new recipe, a new physical activity, a new routine, a new route to a familiar place etc. You can find the link [HERE](#). We hope you enjoy it!

# Online Safety



What parents need to know about

# TikTok

**BEING INFLUENCED**

More than one third of children aged 6-17 consider 'social media stars' to be among their top role models. There are millions of creators on TikTok, showcasing their 'talents, moments and knowledge', from singing to dancing to stunts and comedy skits, which receive thousands of likes and comments from around the world, quickly turning people into 'stars'. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how they should look and behave on the app in order to become the next 'star'. They may have feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem or become swayed by certain opinions.

**CONCERNING CONTENT**

Some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overtly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

**IN-APP PURCHASES**

Of course, as with many apps, there's a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts – for example, if they like a specific video, your child can use coins to purchase emojis to show approval. These can be expensive and easily purchased – there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £97.99 with a one-click buy button.

**INAPPROPRIATE SONG LYRICS**

TikTok lets users lip-syn to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves miming or singing these lyrics.

**DANGEROUS TRENDS & CHALLENGES**

On TikTok, there are always 'trending challenges' and hashtags that users can copy or build upon, and sometimes, these challenges can pose risks to young people.

**ANYONE CAN SEE YOUR CHILD'S CREATIONS**

TikTok encourages users to 'share their passion and creative expression through their videos' and while something may seem fun at the time, videos can get in the wrong hands and cause embarrassment in the future. If posted publicly, anyone in the world can see your child's homemade music video and potentially cause bullying within personal friendship groups or even online.

**TALK ABOUT THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING**

Encourage your kids to always think before they do, say, like or post anything online, explaining that their 'digital footprint' can shape their online reputation and the way that other people see them. Something they may find funny and entertaining now may impact them in the future. Talk about how to deal with peer pressure and how doing something they think will impress others could affect them.

**SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE**

When signing up to TikTok, you are prompted to input your birth date. If your child inputs their age as 'under 13', the app will not allow them to sign up and will be locked for 24 hours. The app is intended for users aged 13+, so explain that the rating is there for a reason; to keep them protected from online dangers. It is actually possible to watch TikTok videos without even creating an account, so it's important to check if your underage child has downloaded the app to their devices.

**REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**

If you or your child see something on TikTok that appears to be inappropriate, they can report content in different ways within the app. They can report an account, video, comment or chat conversation by simply tapping 'Report'. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is also an 'Enhanced Restricted Mode', which limits the appearance of videos that may not be appropriate for all audiences.

**HANDLING CRITICISM**

While it's fantastic to see your child being creative and expressive and bonding with people with similar interests, they need to be aware that not everyone will be supportive online. Comments can be negative or even cruel. Make sure they know how to comment respectfully and handle negative feedback. In the app's Privacy and Safety settings, your child can decide who can react to their videos, who can comment, and who can send them private chat messages. We suggest using these settings so only their friends can interact with their posts.

**USE THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' SETTING**

If you're concerned about the amount of time your child is spending on TikTok, in the app's setting, you can switch on a feature called Digital Wellbeing. This includes 'Screen Management' to limit the amount of time your child spends on the app.

**AVOID IDENTIFIABLE OBJECTS**

To ensure that there's no way of anyone tracking your child's location or identity, make it clear to them that they should never film a video in their school uniform or near a landmark that gives away where they live.

**SET THE ACCOUNT TO PRIVATE**

This means that only people who you and your child approve of can see their creations. To make an account private, tap the three dots at the top right of the screen to access settings. Click 'Privacy and Safety'. Scroll down until you find 'Private Account' and turn this setting on.

**DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES**

To lower the risk of your child making accidental in-app purchases, teach them exactly what in-app purchases are and the risks of making them without permission. Tell them that they are not essential to enjoy the app and that if they want to make a purchase, they should always ask you beforehand. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is the option to disable the function of purchasing coins and sending gifts.

### Photo deadline

Please ensure that you order your school photos online by midday 5th November.

If you order after this time you will have to pay postage costs.



### Westfield Heroes

It's nice to be nice and if a member of Westfield staff made you smile then let us know and we will pass on your comments to them. It can be for absolutely anyone in school and for any reason - we'd just like to know! Maybe someone in the office was super helpful, someone made your child smile, your class teacher or LSA went the extra mile, or you were helped by a Well-Being Assistant or Nurture Lead, SENCO or Inclusion Leader, or you just want to say thankyou. Please click on the link and fill out the form it will take you to, then just add in the information about the Westfield Hero.

[Click](#) for the Westfield Hero form.



## Harvest Donations

Thank you very much for all the harvest donations that were sent in. The South Woking Foodbank has collected them all and wished to pass on their sincere thanks too.



## Poppy Appeal

The poppy appeal will start on Monday 4th November.

Year 6 will take the merchandise around to the classes. This includes zip pull poppies, silicon wristbands, ribbon wristbands, vinyl poppy on a tag, poppy stickers and poppies.

Suggested donations amounts are 50p—£1. Please send the money in to class with your children if they wish to buy anything.



### Application for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. Holidays should be taken during the school holiday period. During the academic year pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days. Students are expected to attend 100% of the time.

Please fill in a request of absence form (available from the office or online) if you want to ask the Headteacher to authorise a *leave of absence* during term time. You must ask well in advance and you are strongly advised to request leave of absence before you confirm your arrangements.

New legislations (Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013) means that if an application is not "*made in advance to the Head teacher by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides, and the Head teacher does not consider that leave of absence should be granted due to the relating to that application*", then it will not be authorised.

If you take your child out of school without the approval of the school, you may be liable to receive a Penalty Notice from Surrey County Council for failing to ensure your child's regular school attendance.

Unauthorised absence in school time will not be authorised. *Guidelines from the local authority are that they may issue a Penalty Notice (with a fine) to each parent, when students are taken out of school during term for 5 days or more and if this absence is recorded as unauthorised by the school. Please note it includes cumulative absence over a 10 week period (several unauthorised absences that total 5 days within a 10 week period).*

The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices. **If the absence exceeds 20 days, your child's name may be removed from the school roll and you will have to reapply for a place on your return.**

The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully, taking into account the effect on the continuity of your child's learning and your child's overall attendance rate, and then may authorise up to five days of absence. The Headteacher will notify you, via the office, of the decision within five working days of receiving your written application.

Leave of absence, for exceptional circumstances, will not be granted if additional leave is taken as holiday either side of this time. Proof of flights or other documentation supporting the request must be produced if asked for.

### Monthly Attendance Letters

Monthly letters are automatically produced and sent to all parents whose children are late 4 times or more in a month. Monthly letters will also be produced to all parents whose child has an attendance below 90%, and for those between 91-94%. These letters will continue to be sent until the attendance is above 94%. Please be aware that this may take quite a few months.

### Surrey Attendance Advice Officer (previously Education Welfare Officer)

The Surrey Attendance Advice Officer monitors the attendance of all children on a regular basis. They may contact parents if children are consistently late or there are concerns about attendance.

# SCHOOL PENALTY NOTICE FINES FROM AUGUST 2024



**The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024**

**1**

## FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

**2**

## SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

**3**

## THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates'; fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

## 10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10 WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

# Refresh Café

Connecting with the community

Refresh yourself  
after School with a  
free hot drink or  
milkshake.

Children and carers  
can enjoy a place to  
chat, relax and play  
games.

St Mark's Church *(off Bonsey Lane)*

Tuesdays 3.15-4pm *(Term Time only)*



Parish of  
**St Peter Woking**  
St Peter's · St Mark's · All Souls'

[www.stpeterwoking.org](http://www.stpeterwoking.org)

01483 755852

[cfm@stpeterwoking.org](mailto:cfm@stpeterwoking.org)

Refresh Café runs at St Mark's (off Bonsey Lane) every Tuesday in termtime 3.15-4pm. Milkshakes, hot chocolate, table tennis, board games, craft, and chats! Completely free for all parents, carers and children to come.





# CHOBHAM RFC

Girls and Boys of all abilities  
are invited to come and join us to...

## GIVE RUGBY A TRY!

**Sundays 9.30am**

**AGES 4 - 11**  
Come along for a  
**FREE** trial session

**Chobham RFC**

Fowlers Wells,  
Windsor Road,  
Chobham, Surrey,  
GU24 8LD

- Learn new skills!
- Be part of a team!
- Meet new friends!
- Have fun!

>>> CONTACT - MEMBERSHIP@CHOBHAM-RUGBY.CO.UK

TEAMWORK RESPECT ENJOYMENT SPORTSMANSHIP

# JOIN OUR TEAM

**Hoe Valley School - Catering Assistant**

- Flexible hours around lunch service
- Part-Time
- Term Time Only
- Ideal to fit around school pickups & dropoffs

**Apply Now**



**Contact us for more  
information**  
HR@hoevalleyschool.org



## NHS SOUTH EAST ENGLAND NURSING INSIGHT EVENT

Thursday 14th Nov | 18:00 - 19:00

VIRTUAL

Are you a student, parent/carer or teacher interested in finding out more about a career in Nursing? Join this event to hear from NHS South East Nursing representatives about the wide range of opportunities available within Nursing in the South East.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Kick off with Pathway CTM, providing an overview of what to expect!

#### Explore Nursing:

You will learn about the different environments Nurses work within.

#### Panel Discussion 🗣️:

Hear from a diverse panel of professionals about their insights and experiences!

#### ? Engage in a live Q&A session:

Have the opportunity to ask your questions.



REGISTER HERE





**SURREY**  
SPORTS PARK  
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY



MAKE SUNDAY MORNINGS MORE FUN!

# TRY RUGBYTOTS

Our dynamic play sessions enable **boys and girls aged 2-7** to develop their social and physical skills through fun, friendly non-contact rugby activities. Email or call for details!

**enquiries@rugbytots.co.uk**  
**0345 313 3242**



rugbytots.co.uk

The world's favourite rugby play programme



In aid of *Challengers*

## Guildford Santa Fun Run

Sunday 8th December 2024

Stoke Park, Guildford

- Festive fun for all the family
- 2.5k & 5k routes available
- 5k Canicross race, dogs welcome!
- Support an amazing local charity
- Prizes for best dressed



Sign up here!

[kellystorage.co.uk/santa-run](http://kellystorage.co.uk/santa-run)



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**Kelly's**  
STORAGE

## WESTFIELD PRIMARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Whilst we endeavour to keep the school dates fixed, we sometimes need to change these and ask for your support with amendments.*

Tuesday	5th November	Mufti day in return for donations for the chocolate tombola
Thursday	7th November	Open evening 5-6.30pm
Friday	8th November	Year 3 class assembly 10am- Robins
Wednesday	13th November	Year 3 Owls trip to Pizza Express
Friday	15th November	Year 3 class assembly 10am- Owls
Tuesday	19th November	Mufti day in return for donations for the bottle tombola
Thursday	21st November	Year 4 class assembly 10am- Kingfishers
Wednesday	27th November	Christmas assembly for year 3 at 2.15pm
Thursday	28th November	<b>Christmas fair 2.45-4.30pm</b>
Friday	29th November	Christmas assembly for year 5 at 2.15pm
Friday	29th November	Christmas jumper day
Monday	2nd December	Christmas assembly for year 4 at 10am
Thursday	5th December	Christmas assembly for year 1 at 10am
Friday	6th December	Christmas assembly for year 2 at 10am
Friday	6th December	Christmas jumper day
Tuesday	10th December	Reception Classes Advent Assembly at 10am
Tuesday	10th December	Year 6 Christingle St Marks Church at 2pm
Thursday	12th December	Christmas jumper day (to be worn over uniform)
Friday	20th December	1pm Carols around the tree. Pupils break up at 1.20pm