

Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter— June 2025



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Welcome back to Westfield for the last half term of the school year! The time certainly seems to have flown by, as is often the case when learning and having so much fun. The learning and fun continued through May, and some of the curriculum enrichment opportunities included:

- ◆ Class assemblies for Owls, Caterpillars, Dragonflies and Ladybirds
 - ◆ Year 4 girls' football tournament
 - ◆ 'During the War...' theatre production for Years 4 to 6
 - ◆ VE 80 Day, including a dress up day
 - ◆ Year 1 trip to Windsor castle
 - ◆ Year 5 Viking dress up day and activities
 - ◆ Creative Curriculum themed week, including science workshops, 'Bright Bites' workshops, Space assembly and Lego!
 - ◆ Year 3 trip to the Winchester Science Centre
 - ◆ Year 6 trip to Hoe Valley to watch a theatre production
 - ◆ Year 3 visits to Mayford Grange
 - ◆ Year 3 open classroom event, showcasing their 'Delight' project work
- Such a lot has been going on and June shows no sign of slowing down with more trips out, workshops and sports days all planned in.

Year 6 completed their SATs during May and we are so proud of how well they tackled this week; undertaking all that was asked of them with good humour and resilience—and they all certainly enjoyed the breakfast that was laid on each day! They are certainly proving themselves to be ready for the next stage in their education journey, when it arrives.

Looking ahead to September, on page 5 you will find a list of which teachers will be teaching which classes next year, for your information. Over the next couple of weeks, the children will be told where their class is going and who they will have teaching them next year. This is always an exciting, but also a potentially unsettling time for the children as they come to accept that there are necessary changes ahead. Please support them by talking positively about these changes while also reassuring them that it's perfectly normal to feel a little less sure around change, but change and experiencing new things are good for us all and our development.

You will notice that some names are missing from the class teacher table for next year. At the end of this term we will be saying good bye to Mrs Sarah Dearden, Mrs Hayley Collins and Mr Kurt Clarke. We will miss them all hugely, but we wish them every success and happiness in their new ventures. We will be welcoming Miss Hannah Neale and Miss Annabel Moldon who will be joining us as class teachers from September, we hope they will be very happy with us and as part of our Westfield family.

This half term, we will be focusing on the **PRIDE** value of **Excellence**. This is not about coming first in everything or being the best in everything, but rather striving to be the best that we can be, trying our hardest in everything that we do.

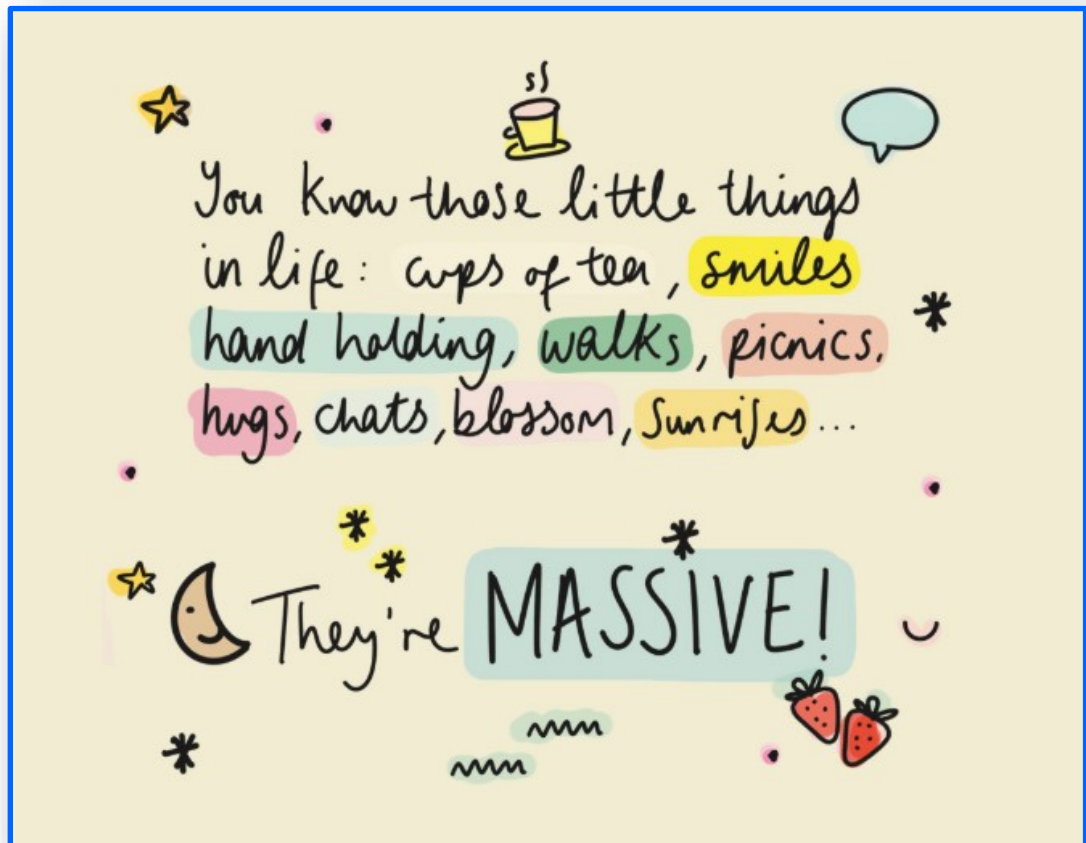
This continues to be a very busy term, so please do make a note of relevant and key dates (at the back of this newsletter).

We wish you a very happy half term and look forward to seeing you at one, or more, of our many events.



Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

We all know that lovely feeling of anticipation when we have something to look forward to, and planning fun things to do can really give us a boost. However, we must also make sure we enjoy and appreciate the 'little things', and the 'here and now' as they also give much joy in our daily lives, and it's important to our wellbeing to notice and appreciate them. Let's make sure we're not too busy looking forward, eager to get to the next big thing, that we miss out on all the little joys of daily life.



As it has been said:

"Enjoy the little things in life because one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things." - Kurt Vonnegut

We hope you enjoyed last month's Action For Happiness calendar (Meaningful May) and tried some of the daily actions.

This month, the theme is 'Joyful June' - and we are being asked to 'look for what's good' each day. The link for the calendar can be found [Here](#).

We wish you all a joyful June!

"Every day may not be good,
but there's something
good in every day,"

— Alice Morse Earle



Online Safety



Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game,' which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately

74m

users each month



What parents need to know about MINECRAFT

GROOMING

As the majority of users who play Minecraft are children, this makes it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

Minecraft incorporates thousands of servers to choose from which are a single world or place created by the public and allow users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the 'Entertaining Software Rating Board' (ESRB), Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence,' the ESRB states that this rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as setting animals on fire and harming them with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. This chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information about you or your child.

CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.



National Top Tips for Parents

DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may restrict their game play.

SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give extra options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. However, although 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec stated that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on and make sure it's regularly kept up-to-date.

SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child plays games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand which 'mode' they are playing the game. This may help you decide on the amount of time you would like them to play. For example, a mini game will have an 'end,' but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode,' the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to 'YouTube' for video tips on improving their game play and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to safely find the content they want.

PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest restricting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

To protect your child from engaging in conversation with strangers, advise them to only enter servers with people they know and trust. Your child can also create their own multiplayer server and share this with their friends, which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

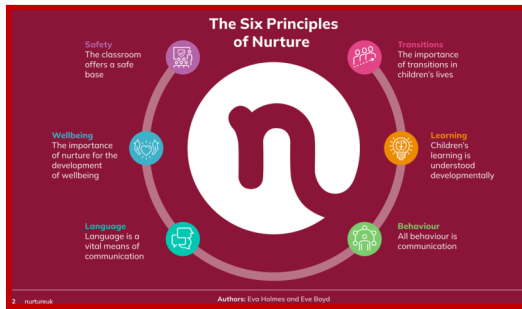
Sources:

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<https://www.kitpeak.com/289985/how-to-set-up-minecraft-to-year-kids-can-play-online-with-friends>
<http://minecraft.com/what-settings>

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE AND IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. THIS GUIDE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY NOR IS IT ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

The Six Principles of Nurture—Transitions



We are working with the children to help them understand the Six Principles of Nurture and how it is reflected in our school community.

Everyday is filled with little **transitions** such as coming to school, going to the lunch hall, changing subjects. There are also larger **transitions** such as changing year groups, schools, houses. This half-term we are focusing on '**Transitions**' as many children can become anxious at this time of year—the unknown can be scary!

Some children enjoy change and see it as exciting and an opportunity for new adventures. Some children find security in knowing what it will be like in September for them. This half-term is always a time of mixed emotions. If children are struggling with change, they might start behaving differently and some children notice stomach pains and/or headaches when they are worrying.

To support the children in school, we will continue with a range of activities. The children will have a swap day with their new teacher and the teachers will start to make connections with the children in their new class as they see them around school. For some children, there will be extra visits to their new class, little booklets and chats so that they will '**Be ready**' for learning in September.

In our well-being lessons we will continue to practise different techniques of breathing and talk about different ways we can deal with our emotions in a positive way. Please ask your children about these at home and encourage them to use the strategies.

The Westfield Way

Our Rules

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Be Ready

Be Kind

We treat others as we want to be treated.

Classes for September Looking Ahead To Next Year

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
Reception	Bumblebees	Catherine Thomas
Reception	Butterflies	Katherine Pear
1	Beetles	Eloise Carey
1	Ladybirds	Annabel Moldon
2	Caterpillars	Andrea Banks
2	Dragonflies	Hareeka Malhotra
3	Owls	Velvet Chaplin
3	Robins	Claire Lee
4	Kingfishers	Ellie Townson
4	Woodpeckers	Kate Beattie
5	Penguins	Rachael Cox
5	Puffins	Hannah Neale
6	Falcons	Marie McAteer
6	Hawks	Jo Phillips

In the coming weeks, teachers will be informing their classes as to which class they will be moving to next year.



Parking

We are writing to share some important reminders *about conduct in and around the school locality*, particularly during drop-off and pick-up times.

We have received a number of reports concerning the *behaviour of a few adults outside the school premises*. In particular, there have been incidents where adults have approached children directly to raise concerns or express frustration. While we understand that tensions can sometimes arise, speaking directly to children in these situations can be upsetting and inappropriate. If you have any concerns that relate to school, please speak directly with a member of school staff who will be happy to support you in resolving the issue. If it is a community issue (abusive or worrying behaviours off site, including safeguarding) then report it using the non - emergency police number 101. Alternatively, you can report incidents online via the [Surrey Police \(https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/\)](https://www.surrey.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us-beta/contact-us/) or Surrey County Council website (<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/community-safety/how-to-report-a-crime-or-anti-social-behaviour>). You can also find information and report incidents on the [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk) website; or if it is a threatening situation where you feel unsafe, you can call for the police directly on 999.

Additionally, we have been made aware of unsafe and inconsiderate driving behaviours in the **Adult Education car park**, which is generously made available to Westfield families and friends at the beginning and end of the school day (and at other pre-planned events). Unfortunately, there have been instances of abusive language, failure to use marked parking bays, and dangerous driving. This not only puts others at risk—especially young children from both Westfield and the nursery, as well as young adults attending Adult Education—but also **jeopardises our continued access to this facility**.

We are currently in conversation with the Adult Education team to try to resolve these concerns. However, if behaviour of drivers using the carpark does not improve, ***we have been told that you may lose the privilege of using this car park altogether***—for both daily drop-offs/pick-ups and wider school events. I'm sure you'll agree that this would be disappointing and disruptive for many families, as well as making Bonsey Lane and surrounding roads more hazardous for all!

We therefore ask all parents and carers to:

- Drive slowly and carefully in and around the car park
- Only park in designated bays
- Be respectful to staff, children, and other site users at all times

Set a positive example by modelling kindness and calm behaviour

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. Together, we can ensure a safe and respectful environment for everyone in the Westfield and Adult Education communities.

Year 1 trip to Windsor Castle

On Friday 9th May 2025, Beetles and Ladybirds went to visit Windsor Castle. They took a tour around Queen Anne's dolls house, the state apartments and St George's Chapel. They even saw where Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest.

As part of their day they had a workshop which taught them all about King Charles III. They learnt about his hobbies and interests as well as his life growing up. We learnt all about the coronation and crowned our own King and Queen.

We had a fantastic day!



Year R—Rainforest Adventures

On Wednesday 21st May 2025, Butterflies and Bumblebees took part in a Rainforest Adventure. They found out about some of the creatures that live in this habitat and were even able to hold them. The creatures included a giant millipede, a corn snake and a hissing cockroach!



Year 3—Winchester Science trip



Year 3 had an amazing time at Winchester Science Centre on 22nd May—we explored all the exhibits, did a great workshop on light and we went to space in the planetarium! We had such a fantastic time exploring and putting all our Science knowledge to the test—we learned about gravity and forces, density of liquids, did an experiment on infrared lights and even saw rainbows!



VE Day

To celebrate the 80-year anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the children in KS2 were treated to an exceptional "During the war " theatre performance.

The actors talked to the children about how, during the war, people were expected to do unbelievable things. They started off by listening to the radio recording of Neville Chamberlain's address to the people of the UK declaring war against Germany. The actors then role-played the 'Hobb' family's reaction to the war, and discussed how very little their lives were affected at the beginning of the war, but that this changed over time.

Throughout the performance, the actors mentioned different war-time features of life in the UK, like rationing and ration recipes, evacuations, air raid alarms and the Blitz, Churchill's rallying speeches, and The Home Guard. They delighted the children with renditions of songs from the 1940s, as well.

It was thoroughly enjoyable, and a wonderful way to celebrate the lives of ordinary people during an extraordinary time!



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.



ALL ABILITIES WELCOME!

 **CHOBHAM RFC**
GIRLS

Join us at Chobham RFC for a Summer of...

TOUCH RUGBY!

 **Fitness** **Fun** **Friendship** 

FROM FRIDAY 6TH JUNE
GIRLS FROM U9 TO U18

 **FRIDAY NIGHTS**

 **6.30-8.00PM**

 **CHOBHAM RFC**

 **GIRLSCHAIR@CHOBHAM-RUGBY.CO.UK**



Thinking of returning to your role as a healthcare professional? We can help you!

This message goes out to all members of the local community who may once have been a healthcare professional such as a Nurse, Midwife, Allied Health Professional or Healthcare Scientist and are now considering a return.

Returning healthcare professionals have a key role to play in ensuring patients and service users have access to experienced and well-trained care staff equipped with the right skills.

NHS England provide funding to support the pathways to return and are keen to support or answer any questions you may have if you are considering returning.

Please do contact us for more information on: 0191 275 4796

or email: england.returntopractice.north@nhs.net



<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-nhs/returning-nhs>



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.



WOKING SWIMMING CLUB

Affiliated to: ASA, ASASER, SURREY COUNTY ASA

www.wokingsc.co.uk



NEW MEMBERS TRIALS

For children born between
April 2016 and December 2019
who are interested in competitive swimming

to be held on

Tuesday 10th June 2025
From 6.30pm

at

Woking Pool in the Park

2019 born are expected to be able to swim basic front crawl and backstroke.

2016 born must be able to swim good front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

To request a time slot please scan the code below on your smartphone to sign up

Or contact Jane by emailing: wokingsc.newmembers@gmail.com



Open
to all!

Westfield

COMMUNITY
FRIDGE

Opening
18th June

St Mark's Church

Wednesdays 1.30-3pm

for more information:

www.stpeterwoking.org/fridge

email westfieldfridge@gmail.com



A simple solution to wasting less through
the sharing of good quality food.



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.

Monday	9th June	Children return to school
Wednesday	11th June	Year 2 trip to Brooklands
Friday	13th June	10am Beetles class assembly
Friday	20th June	10am Bumblebees class assembly
Monday	23rd June	Year 5 Sports Day 9-11am
Tuesday	24th June	Years 3 & 4 Sports Day 9-11am
Wednesday	25th June	Year R Sports Day 9-11am
Wednesday	25th June	Summer Fair 2.30pm-4.15pm
Thursday	26th June	Years 1 & 2 Sports Day 9-11am
Friday	27th June	10am Butterflies class assembly
Monday	30th June	Year 6 Sports Day 9-11am
Tuesday	1st July	Meet your new teacher day—move up day for all children
Tuesday	1st July	Parents of children in Year 1 & 2 in Sep to meet new teachers in hall 3.15-3.45pm
Wednesday	2nd July	Parents of children in Year 3 & 4 in Sep to meet new teachers in hall 3.15-3.45pm
Thursday	3rd July	Parents of children in Year 5 & 6 in Sep to meet new teachers in hall 3.15-3.45pm
Thursday	3rd July	Year 6 Summer production 2pm
Friday	4th July	10am Kingfishers class assembly
Friday	4th July	Year 6 Summer production 2pm
Mon-Fri	7th-11th July	Year 6 activities week
Wednesday	9th July	Wellbeing afternoon 2.30-4pm
Friday	11th July	10am Woodpeckers class assembly
Thursday	17th July	Year 6 leavers bbq 4-5.30pm. Children leave school at 3.10pm, and return at 4pm for BBQ.
Friday	18th July	10.30am Year 6 leavers assembly and graduation
Friday	18th July	Year 6 finish at 11.45am
Friday	18th July	Years R-5 finish at 1.20pm for the Summer holidays.
Wednesday	3rd September	Children return to school