

Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter – May 2026



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A very warm welcome to the May edition of Westfield's newsletter. It seems incredible, but we are already three weeks into the summer term! We hope everyone enjoyed their break over Easter and that you are all feeling re-energised for the term ahead! The summer term is always an exciting and busy one, with much for the children to look forward to and enjoy.

The additional enrichment activities the children have enjoyed so far this term, include:

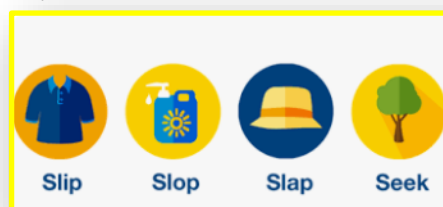
- ◆ Zoolab brought in their exotic animals and insects for the children in Year R to meet and learn about
- ◆ Year 4 children took part in Bikeability
- ◆ The whole school enjoyed workshops with Mark and the Life Bus
- ◆ Year 4 held an 'open classroom' so that parents and carers could appreciate the wonderful, and varied, art work they had produced during the Rainforest Retreat art project (working with the Delight charity)
- ◆ Perform came and delivered workshops (Neverland Nudge) to Years R, 1 and 2
- ◆ There was a day long workshop, provided by 'Aim High, on maths for children in Years 4 and 5 and visiting schools
- ◆ There have been class assemblies from Owls and Caterpillars
- ◆ Year 3 have resumed their fortnightly visits to our friends at Mayford Grange retirement village
- ◆ Year 3 are also working with the Delight Charity on a storytelling and writing project

This half term we are focusing on the **PRIDE** value of **Diversity**. The children have enjoyed an assembly on this and in that we have explored that diversity means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognising and celebrating our individual differences. Moving past simple tolerance to making sure we really value and celebrate our own and each others' differences. Whilst also recognising that we all belong to the same human race!

This month sees our Year 6 children sit their end of Key Stage 2 tests (SATs) and we wish them every success in those. We know they are well prepared, have worked hard and deserve to shine—as we know they will. Tests are a snapshot in time and we know how much our children have already achieved. Our aim is always for our children to not feel any undue stress about these tests and to just do their best.

Please remember that **after half term our gates will be closing at 8:45am every morning** and continuing to open at 8:30am, as they have this half term. Please support your children to be in school on time and ready to learn. Thank you.

As the weather continues to warm up, please do support your children to be 'sun smart' - 'Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek'.



Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

We hoped you enjoyed last month's Action for Happiness calendar: Active April. This month the theme is: Meaningful May, with the idea of finding ways to be part of something bigger; you can find the link [HERE](#).

With this in mind, below are some ideas and thoughts on increasing a sense of belonging and feeling part of something bigger:

Finding Ways to Be Part of Something Bigger

In busy everyday life, it can be easy to feel caught up in what we *have* to do next. Taking moments to feel connected to others, to our community, or to the world around us can make a real difference to our wellbeing. Feeling part of something bigger helps us feel less alone, more hopeful and more positive - and these are feelings we want to nurture in both ourselves and our children.

Small Acts, Big Impact

Doing something kind for someone we care about is one of the simplest ways to boost wellbeing - not just for them, but for ourselves too. This could be a smile, a thank you, a helpful hand or a kind message. Small acts of kindness remind us that we matter to each other.

Finding the Good

Encouraging ourselves, and children, to notice the positives in everyday life can help build a more optimistic mindset. This might be spotting something that made us smile, noticing effort rather than perfection, or recognising kindness in others. Taking a moment to talk about one good thing at the end of the day can gently shift focus away from worries.

Things to Look Forward To

Having something to look forward to - no matter how small - can lift our mood and motivation. This could be time with family, a walk, a favourite meal or a cosy evening at home. Making a simple list of things to look forward to can help us all feel hopeful and excited about what's ahead.

Belonging and Connection

Being part of something bigger doesn't have to mean big events or grand gestures. Feeling connected to family, friends, school or the local community helps adults and children feel safe, confident and supported. It is important for us all to feel we belong, and when children feel they belong, they are better able to cope with challenges and enjoy learning.

A Gentle Reminder

Wellbeing isn't about feeling happy all the time - it's about feeling supported through both the good days and the tricky ones. By focusing on connection, kindness and noticing the positives, we can all take small but meaningful steps towards feeling better together.



Online Safety

A growing number of primary-aged children know about Pinterest or use it for crafts, fashion, gaming ideas and trends. While Pinterest can be creative and inspiring, it is still a social media platform with risks families should understand.



What is Pinterest?

Pinterest is an image-sharing platform where users "pin" ideas to boards such as recipes, outfits, room décor, hairstyles, gaming set-ups and crafts. Many children discover it through searches, YouTube videos or older siblings.

What Age Should Children Be?

Pinterest states users should be **13+** in the UK (or older depending on country laws). If a child is under the minimum age, they should not have an account.

Why Some Primary Children Are Interested

For younger children, Pinterest can seem harmless because it is less focused on chatting than apps like Snapchat or TikTok. They may use it for:

- Craft ideas
- Bedroom or toy wish-lists
- Dance, fashion or hairstyle trends
- Gaming builds or Minecraft ideas
- Birthday party inspiration
- Drawing and art tutorials

However, "inspiration" platforms can still expose children to unsuitable content.

Risks for Primary-Aged Children

1. Inappropriate Images or Topics

Although Pinterest moderates content, unsuitable material can still appear in searches or recommendations.

2. Algorithm Rabbit Holes

If a child repeatedly clicks one topic (appearance, dieting, wealth, relationships etc.), the platform may show more of the same, creating narrow or unhealthy content feeds.

3. External Links

Many pins lead to websites outside Pinterest. These may contain adverts, scams, mature content or poor-quality information.

4. Unrealistic Expectations

Perfect bedrooms, holidays, bodies, outfits and lifestyles can affect self-esteem or create pressure to "have more".

5. Hidden Use

Because Pinterest is often seen as "safe", children may use it without adults realising it has social-media style features.

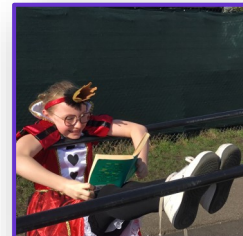
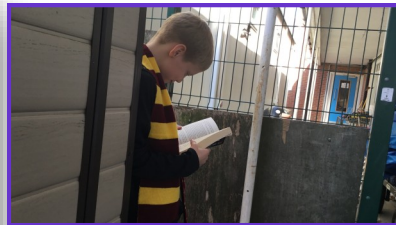


Book Week 2026

We enjoyed a fabulous Book Week in the Spring Term. As this is the National Year of reading, we set ourselves the challenge of Reading Around The World and the children enjoyed listening to, reading and finding out facts from books that have their origins all over the world.

We had a book character hunt around the school, where the children had to look for the likes of The Gruffalo, Paddington Bear and Horrid Henry who had hidden themselves! Each class that found all the characters won a prize of some new books for their classroom book areas. We also had a fabulous visit from a local author, Fiona Scott, who inspired the children to read and write their own stories, and shared her writing process with them.

We then had our Get Caught Reading Competition, which saw children reading books in unusual places. We had some great entries being very creative in their reading. Our winner was Lev in Owls Class, for finding a very chilly spot to get caught reading!



Woking Community Grocery

On Thursday 23rd April, members of the Inclusion Team attended the official launch of the new Woking Community Grocery at the Welcome Church, in the centre of Woking. It is a brilliant new community resource that is open to everyone. "a welcoming social supermarket designed to bridge the gap between food banks and supermarkets - offering reliable, affordable food, dignity and wraparound support, saving members up to £2500 per year off their shopping bills"

For a £5.00 annual membership fee, families can shop in the well-stocked grocery at reduced cost. Every member also gains access to Welcome Works — "a programme of practical courses and support including debt advice, money coaching, cooking skills, wellbeing groups, life skills workshops, and job clubs — all designed to equip people with tools for a stronger future".

More information about the Grocery can be found on its website: <https://communitygrocery.org.uk/woking/>

Address: Welcome Church, 1-5 Church Street West, Woking, GU21 6DJ

Opening times:

Mon: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Tue: 9:30am - 1pm

Thu: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Sat: 9:30am - 1pm



Warmer weather

As the weather is getting warmer, please remember to send your child into school with a **named sun hat** each day. Please also **apply sunscreen to your child before they arrive at school.**

In addition, please ensure your child brings a **reusable water bottle** to school every day so they can stay hydrated, particularly during warmer weather or on more active school days.

Frozen water bottles should not be sent into school.



Thank you for your continued support.

Westfield Heroes

Help celebrate Our Westfield Heroes!

At Westfield Primary School, we believe in recognising the everyday heroes who make our school such a special place. If a member of our staff has brightened your day, supported your child, or made a positive difference—no matter how big or small—we want to hear about it!

Anyone in our school community can be a Westfield Hero:

- A friendly face in the office
- Someone who made your child smile
- A class teacher or Learning Support Assistant who went above and beyond
- Our Well-Being Assistants, Nurture Lead, SENCO, Inclusion Leader, kitchen staff—or anyone else you'd like to thank!

If you'd like to celebrate a member of staff, simply click the link below to fill out our short form. Share your story with us, and we'll make sure your kind words are passed on to your Westfield Hero.

[Click here to nominate a Westfield Hero.](#)

Thank you for helping us celebrate the fantastic staff who make Westfield Primary School such a wonderful community.



Staff Car Park and Adult Ed Car Park

Please note that the car park in the front of the school is for staff parking only.

Parents may use the small car park opposite (please do not block other cars in), Adult Ed (on dates agreed—please see link below), or street parking.

<https://www.westfield.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Events&pid=37>

This being said we have been very disappointed to hear of aggressive behaviour and language being used by **a small number of parents** in the Adult Ed car park towards other users. May we remind you that this is not our car park. We have permission to use it by Surrey County Council. Behaviour like this could result in us not being able to use the car park altogether.

Whilst we understand that Bonsey Lane, and the surrounding area does get very busy and everyone has somewhere to go please be polite to all car users. Please remember there are children in most cars and aggressive behaviour should not be modelled to the children.

Please park considerately, **DO NOT BLOCK OTHERS**, and be kind and polite to each other. Thank you.



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 "exceptional circumstances" 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.

COMMUNITY FUN DAY

ST MARK'S CHURCH WESTFIELD GU22 9PP

Saturday 9 May 2.30–4.30pm

With live music, tea tent, bouncy castle, bungee run, raffle, games, face painting, craft and much more... Entrance FREE







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

www.stpeterwoking.org/funday
01483 755852



New Life Church Woking
humanity learns... transformation starts

Community fun for all ages

Live music and dance including
 Woking Ukrainian choir and
 Summerscales dance school
 Refreshments including hot and
 cold drinks and cakes
 Bouncy castle and bungee run
 Face painting and nail painting
 Raffle and tombola
 Outdoor games and tug of war
 Toddler area
 Craft activities for all ages
 Community stalls inc WEAct
 And lots more...



Entrance is FREE and activities are low cost so all can enjoy.
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THE OLD FORGE, KINGFIELD ROAD WOKING, SURREY GU22 9EG

TEL: 01483 757878
FAX: 01483 757894
EMAIL: candewoking@btconnect.com

Please bring a cup so we can keep waste to a minimum

Park on Bonsey Lane and Westfield Avenue
 Blue Badge Parking only at St Mark's

May Half-term Holiday Activities

Lighthouse-Style Bird House

26 May 2026

Assemble and decorate a wooden
bird house shaped like a
lighthouse.

11am-12pm or 2pm-3pm

Cost: £4.50

Booking is essential

Age: 6-12 (5 year olds with adult)

Weave a Bowl

28 May 2026

Learn to weave with recycled
fabrics and create a woven bowl.

11am-12pm or 2pm-3pm

Cost: £3.50

Booking is essential

Age: 7-12 (6 year olds with adult)

To book: [https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/
organizations/friends-of-chertsey-museum](https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organizations/friends-of-chertsey-museum)
Or phone: 01932 565 764



www.chertseymuseum.org/events

Call 01932 565764 to book your place



For All
The
Family

1st Saturday
of the month
1.30pm-3.30pm

Museum Makes

Join us for a fun family craft activity where imagination
meets history in a hands-on experience for all ages!



FREE
DROP IN
SESSION



Chertsey Museum, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey, Middlesex, KT16 8AT
chertseymuseum.org



It's baaa...ck!



Petting farm, ferris wheel & exotic animals



Half Term • Tue 26, Wed 27, Thurs 28 May • 10.30am-4pm

Woking United Reformed Church, White Rose Lane GU22 7HA

www.wokingurc.org.uk 01483 763078



Charity no. 1130926

Farm Animals • Kids rides • Exotic Animals • Magic Shows • Refreshments • Ferris Wheel • Lunches
Full details at wokingurc.org.uk

Small admission fee in aid of Children With Special Needs Foundation



Children With Special Needs Foundation

Charity no. 1062151

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.

Friday	1st May	10am Caterpillars class assembly
Monday	4th May	Bank Holiday—school closed
Friday	8th May	10am Dragonflies class assembly
Mon-Fri	11th-15th May	SATS week
Monday	12th May	Year 3 Weald & Downland museum trip
Friday	15th May	10am Ladybirds class assembly
Friday	15th May	Year 5 Viking Day
Thursday	21st May	Year 1 trip to Windsor Castle
Friday	22nd May	10am Beetles class assembly
Mon-Fri	25th May—5th June	2 week half term
Thursday	11th June	Class photos and year 6 leavers photos
Friday	12th June	10am Bumblebees class assembly
Wednesday	17th June	Year 2 trip to Brooklands Museum
Thursday	18th June	Summer Fair 2.30pm-4.15pm
Friday	19th June	10am Butterflies class assembly
Mon-Fri	22nd—26th June	Year 6 activities week
Thursday	25th June	9-11am Sports day for years Reception, 1 & 2 NB: Reception sports day has moved to join years 1 & 2 on this day
Friday	26th June	10am Kingfishers class assembly
Monday	29th June	9-11am Sports day for years 5&6
Tuesday	30th June	Parents of children in Year 1 & 2 in September to meet new teachers in the hall 3.15-3.45pm
Tuesday	30th June	Move u day—all children spend the day in their new class

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.

Wednesday	1st July	Parents of children in Year 3 & 4 in September to meet new teachers in the hall 3.15-3.45pm
Thursday	2nd July	9-11am Sports day for years 3&4
Thursday	2nd July	Year 6 summer production 2pm
Thursday	2nd July	Parents of children in Year 5 & 6 in September to meet new teachers in the hall 3.15-3.45pm
Friday	3rd July	10am Woodpeckers class assembly
Friday	3rd July	Year 6 summer production 2pm
Monday	6th July	Wellbeing week dress up day
Wednesday	8th July	Wellbeing afternoon
Thursday	16th July	Year 6 leavers BBQ 4-5.30pm. Children leave at 3.10pm and return at 4pm for the BBQ.
Friday	17th July	10.30am Year 6 leavers assembly
Friday	17th July	11.45am term ends for year 6
Friday	17th July	1.20pm term ends for years R-5