

# Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter— May 2024



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Welcome to the Summer Term! At the moment it feels as if we need to remind ourselves that it is the summer term, as the weather does not feel very 'summery' right now! Although I am sure it is about to change and before you know we'll all be enjoying the warmer days!

A lot of April was in the Easter holidays, however, since we have been back at school we have been as busy as ever and having lots of fun!

Since the term began, just over two weeks ago, curriculum enrichment has included:

- ◆ Year 3 Tudor dress up day
- ◆ Life Bus workshops for every class, in their inflatable learning space
- ◆ Assembly on food waste by Chartwells for Key Stage 2 classes
- ◆ Our Year 3 visits to our neighbours at Mayford Grange have restarted for this term
- ◆ Year 4 held an art exhibition for their parents and carers allowing them to exhibit the incredible art work they produced during their 'Rainforest Retreat' project, working with the Delight Company
- ◆ Archery workshops for Key Stage 1 and Reception classes
- ◆ Bikeability for Year 4
- ◆ Year 5 Viking Day
- ◆ Tag Rugby event at Pirbright Primary School
- ◆ Kidditch workshops for Key Stage 2 classes

So an awful lot going on, and lots more to come this term! Please do keep an eye on the dates at the back of this newsletter and take a note of any relevant dates, we would hate you to miss out.

For when the weather does improve—we all need to be sun smart! This means ensuring we stay hydrated, cover up in the sun (wearing sun hats) and put on sun cream to protect our skin. Therefore, please can you ensure that your children come to school with water, sun hats and with sun cream applied. This way we can all enjoy the warmer weather safely (when it arrives!)—do remember we can still all burn through cloud cover!

A big thank you to the Friends of Westfield, who have recently brought new animal themed wooden seats for the Wild Garden. They have also bought some bird boxes, to encourage our feathered friends to set up home in the Wild Garden and they have formed a working party who have been busy tidying up the area—so that it is not too 'wild'!



At Westfield, we are looking forward to a very productive, happy and fun filled Summer term!



## Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

A though provoking read below—we can all have the same attitude as 'volunteer at mile 6' — it really is up to us and how much we want to get out of, and put back in, to life!

### **Dancing in the rain—a blog from Hannah at The Art of Brilliance:**

**A few weeks ago, I took part in a half marathon. As I arrived at the event, it began to rain, and I mean really rain.**

As we lined up at the start line, there wasn't the usual pre-race buzz of excitement. It seemed the rain had washed away everyone's good moods.

As we began our 13.1 mile journey, the sombre mood didn't get much better. In the distance, I spied one of the race volunteers taking shelter under a tree. I hoped they would throw some encouragement our way, but they seemed to be struggling more than us. It's fair to say, the only thing worse than running 13.1 miles in the rain, is knowing that you are going to be standing in it for hours until the very last runner comes by.

At mile two, I heard a "well done" from underneath a hooded volunteer. Not filling me with the enthusiasm I needed, I just kept going. Mile after mile, it was the same story.

As we began our approach to mile 6, I heard the distant sound of music. I suddenly found myself with a bit of a boost. Intrigued, I pushed on. As I got closer, sure enough, there was a huge speaker playing music. I looked around to see the volunteer. They were dancing. And attached to them was a huge foam hand giving out high fives.

As I ran past, he shouted encouraging words, we high-fived, and he continued dancing.

The group I was running near began to smile and laugh, it was just what they needed. I found I had some more energy so was able to run a little faster. As I overtook another group, they were also talking about the volunteer. Suddenly, there was a buzz. The next few miles seemed to fly by.

The way the race was set up meant we had to pass mile 6 twice. I found myself getting excited on my second approach. I already seemed to have more energy, a smile on my face and a spring in my step. As I turned the corner, there was the blue foam hand still dancing and giving out high fives.

I crossed the finish line in a much better mood than when I started out. I heard other runners talking about the guy at mile 6.

There were so many volunteers at that event, all with the exact same briefing, but there was only one volunteer everyone will remember. The time we spent with him was just seconds, but the impact he had lasted far longer. He was still having to wait for the last runner to pass him. He was still having to stand in the rain for hours. He wasn't being paid to be there.

What separated the guy at mile 6 from all the other volunteers was his attitude. He showed up like he really wanted to be there. Rain or shine, he didn't care. He was going to enjoy the experience and help others to enjoy the experience too.

All of us can be more like this. It really is a matter of choice. The choice to be positive. The choice to be the best version of you that you can be. The choice to make a difference.

The question is, will you?

Hopefully you enjoyed that short read, it makes you think doesn't it?

This month's Action for Happiness calendar theme is Meaningful May (finding ways to be part of something bigger) and the link can be found [Here](#). We hope you enjoy it!



## A Parent's Guide

### What is it?

**Fortnite: Battle Royale** is a game which combines Minecraft-style building with shooting for survival. It has been described as 'Call of Duty for kids' and has 40 million players worldwide. It can be played on the PC, Xbox or Playstation.

### Why is it popular?

The game is fast and generally lasts no more than 20 minutes. It has a silly sense of humour and is popular with YouTubers such as DanTDM and JackSepticEye. Children may have seen their favourite YouTubers playing it and want to play it themselves.

### Is it safe?

With safety settings and the involvement of parents, it can be a positive and engaging experience. The action is cartoonish rather than gory, and players work together to plan strategies and tactics. Fortnite: Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 by the Video Standards Council for frequent scenes of mild violence.



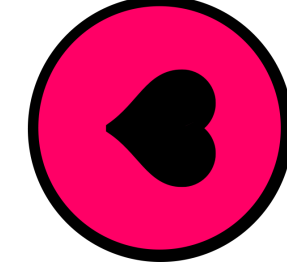
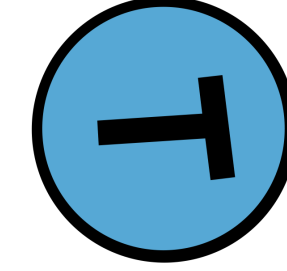
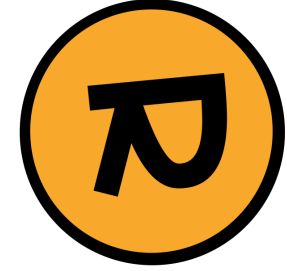
## Security, settings and screentime

To avoid children speaking to strangers during the game, set up a **Party** of friends before they play. This means that they are only **able to communicate with people they know**, and other players voices will be muted.

Although children will want to use headphones during the games, so they don't miss important noises, you should consider **setting the sound so it comes through the TV and headphones**. This means that you can hear what is being said during gameplay.

If they're playing on an Xbox or PlayStation you can use the **parental controls** to limit the length of gaming sessions.

Fortnite matches can last up to 20 minutes, and children won't want to stop playing in the middle of a game as they will leave team-mates in the lurch and lose any points they've earned for that game. You could **use a timer**, or discuss in advance **how long you are happy for them to play**.





**Mindworks Surrey is the children and young people's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service in Surrey.**

**It is delivered by a group made up of NHS, national and local voluntary sector organisations all working together.**

**For more information visit our website:**

**[www.mindworks-surrey.org](http://www.mindworks-surrey.org)**



**Worried about exams? Watch our short video on exam stress. It can help you with effective study strategies and relaxation techniques:**







## Bedser Scholarship Assessments 2024

*Surrey Cricket, in partnership with local businesses, runs a state school cricket programme in the borough of Woking in honour of Alec and Eric Bedser.*



This programme aims to identify six children who have the potential to become performance cricketers.

Six scholarships will be awarded annually to children who are educated in Woking and are not currently in the SCCC player pathway.

### Trial dates:

3rd June: Boys Yr4,5 and 6

10th June: Boys Yrs 7,8 and 9

17th June: Girls Yrs 4,5 and 6

24th June: Girls Yrs 7,8 and 9

### Venue:

Woking and Horsell Cricket Club

### Eligibility:

Have to go to state school in the borough of Woking and not be in the County System.

For more information and to sign up, please contact:

Ed Belger | ebelger@surreyccricket.com | 07843 978 332

## 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.



### 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. **We will therefore not authorise any holidays.**

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. The fine is paid direct to Surrey CC not to the school.

Holidays 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 (e.g. a holiday).* **Please note it includes cumulative absence over a 3 month period (several unauthorised absences that total 5 days within a 3 month period).**

**The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £60 (raising to £80 from August 2024) per parent per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 (raising to £160 from August 2024) 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 will 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 90%. Please be aware that this may take quite a few months.

#### Surrey Inclusion Officer (previously Education Welfare Officer)

The Surrey CC Inclusion Officer (Mrs Beverly King) also comes in half termly and conducts register checks and she may contact parents if children are consistently late or there are concerns about attendance.

## National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence

**The following come in to effect from 19.8.2024 as per guidance from The Department of Education.**

The National Framework will introduce a national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered from the 19th August 2024. The threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence. This can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, such as 4 sessions of holiday taken in term time plus 6 sessions of arriving late after the register closes, all taken within any 10 school week period. The unauthorised absence sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks).

The 10 school week period may span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

An increase to the rate of a penalty notice from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days, and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days.

An additional rung to the ladder of escalation, with any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period being charged at a higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

A national limit of 2 penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, so at the 3<sup>rd</sup> (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).

Further details can be found by clicking the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Work-ing\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance\\_applies\\_from\\_19\\_August\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Work-ing_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf)

# Reawaken your child's imagination

Perform's drama, dance and singing classes use the performing arts to

- ▶ Build confidence
- ▶ Boost concentration
- ▶ Enhance coordination
- ▶ Develop communication skills



## Why try Perform?

- ▶ Unique performing arts-based games and exercises
- ▶ Focus on a different social skill each week
- ▶ Covid safe – full details at [perform.org.uk/covid](https://perform.org.uk/covid)
- ▶ Small classes and feedback on your child's progress
- ▶ Specially created scripts, videos and apps to support your child's learning
- ▶ End of term presentation for family and friends



— I'm very impressed by the thoughtful way each session is run. It is great to know that Ethan is not just being 'entertained' for the hour but proactively being taught new life skills. *Kate Whyley*



## Try Perform for FREE

Your child can come and try a class for FREE and there's no obligation to join afterwards. With almost 500 Perform schools, find your nearest and book online at

[perform.org.uk/free](https://perform.org.uk/free)

[perform.org.uk](https://perform.org.uk)

020 7255 9120

## Free Trial Session and £40 discount at Perform

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is offering a Free Trial Session and a special introductory discount of £40 for members of **Westfield Primary School** if they sign up by Monday 23rd September. Parents should quote WPSY230924 when they book their free session by going to [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try) or calling 020 7255 9120.

You can find out more about the classes at [perform.org.uk/try](https://perform.org.uk/try). Alternatively, pdf flyers can be downloaded from [here](#).

The nearest classes to Westfield Primary School are as follows (please click for a map and further details):

Perform Woking (Drama for 4-7s)  
(0.3 miles)  
Saturdays at 9.30am and 11.16am

Moorcroft Centre For The Community  
Old School Place,  
GU22 9PB

Perform Woking (Drama for 7-12s)  
(0.3 miles)  
Saturdays at 2.00pm

Moorcroft Centre For The Community  
Old School Place,  
GU22 9PB

Perform Woking (Drama for 4-7s)  
(0.8 miles)  
Wednesdays at 4pm

Hoe Valley Community Building  
Next To The Leisure Centre,  
GU22 9BA

Perform Woking (Drama for 7-12s)  
(0.8 miles)  
Wednesdays at 6.06pm

Hoe Valley Community Building  
Next To The Leisure Centre,  
GU22 9BA

Perform Guildford (Drama for 4-7s)  
(4.3 miles)  
Saturdays at 9.30am and 11.16am

Christ Church Hall Guildford  
23 Waterden Road,  
GU1 2AZ



# COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTY

## ST MARK'S CHURCH WESTFIELD GU22 9PP

**Saturday 18 May 2.30-4.30pm**

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

Parish of St Peter Woking [www.stpeterwoking.org/gardenparty](http://www.stpeterwoking.org/gardenparty)
 New Life Church Woking

## Community fun for all ages

- Live music including MbM choir
- Refreshments including hot and cold drinks and cakes
- Bouncy castle and gladiator challenge
- Raffle and tombola
- Outdoor games inc tug of war
- Toddler area
- Craft activities for all ages
- Community stalls including WEAct (with seed swap)
- Westfield Common Society



Entrance is FREE and activities are low cost so all can enjoy.  
 Made possible by C&E Electrical Wholesale Ltd.

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 EMAIL: [candewoking@btconnect.com](mailto: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

**Competition!**  
Win a free place!

**STAGE COACH**

Stagecoach Woking  
Summer School

**WE WILL  
ROCK  
YOU**  
young@part®

**Book Now**  
to avoid disappointment

29 July - 2 August 2024

[www.stagecoach.co.uk/woking](http://www.stagecoach.co.uk/woking)

Stagecoach would like to offer our students the chance to enter a competition to win a FREE place at this year's *We Will Rock You* Summer School!

All you need to do is email them with their answer to the following question:

**What is the name of the lead guitarist in the band Queen?**

All those with the correct answer will be entered into a raffle to win a free place at their awesome *We Will Rock You* Summer School!

Three runners up will have the chance to take advantage of 10% off for this wonderful week of Singing, Dancing and Acting.

Please email all answers to [woking@stagecoach.co.uk](mailto:woking@stagecoach.co.uk)

At Stagecoach Woking, children get the opportunity to stretch their imaginations in three ways at once: we offer quality, part-time classes in the performing arts for ages 4-18. Our aim is to nurture and develop young potential through singing, dancing and acting classes; building confidence and improving communication and life skills. We are open every Friday and Saturday during term time and hold workshops during the school holidays, in Woking.

## 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	3rd May	10am Dragonflies class assembly followed by book look
Monday	6th May	Bank holiday—no school this day
Wednesday	8th May	Year 3 trip to Winchester Science Centre
Thursday	9th May	Year 1 trip to Windsor Castle
Friday	10th May	10am Robins class assembly
Mon-Fri	13th-16th May	Year 6 SATS week
Friday	17th May	10am Owls class assembly
Mon-Fri	20th—24th May	Bikeability level 2 for year 6
Friday	24th May	10am Beetles class assembly, followed by book look until 10.35am
Mon-Fri	27th-31st May	Half term week
Tuesday	4th June	Year 2 trip to Brooklands Museum
Tuesday	11th June	9-11am Year 6 Sports day
Wednesday	12th June	9-11am Year R Sports day
Thursday	13th June	9-11am Year 5 Sports day
Friday	14th June	10am Bumblebees class assembly
Monday	17th June	9-11am Year 3 Sports day
Tuesday	18th June	9-11am Year 4 Sports day
Wednesday	19th June	9-11am Year 1 and 2 Sports day
Thursday	20th June	Summer fayre 2.30-4.15pm
Friday	21st June	10am Ladybirds class assembly, followed by book look until 10.35am
Wednesday	26th June	Wellbeing afternoon 2.30-4pm
Friday	28th June	10am Butterflies class assembly
Tuesday	2nd July	Move up day for children to new classes for September
Tuesday	2nd July	Parents of children in Year 1 & 2 in SEPT to meet new teachers in hall 3.15-3.45pm
Wednesday	3rd July	Year 6 Summer production 2pm
Wednesday	3rd July	Parents of children in Year 3 & 4 in SEPT to meet new teachers in hall 3.15-3.45pm
Thursday	4th July	Year 6 Summer production 2pm
Thursday	4th July	Parents of children in Year 5 & 6 in SEPT to meet new teachers in hall 3.15-3.45pm
Friday	5th July	10am Woodpeckers class assembly
Thursday	11th July	Year 6 Leavers BBQ 4-5.30pm. <b>Please note that children go home as normal at the end of the day, and return at 4pm for the BBQ.</b>
Friday	12th July	10am Kingfishers class assembly
Friday	19th July	Year 6 Leavers assembly and graduation 10.30am
Friday	19th July	Year 6 finish at 11.45am
Friday	19th July	Years R-5 finish at 1.20pm