

Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter— July 2023



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Welcome to July's newsletter, the final one of this academic year! Suddenly it seems that this year has whizzed by, but we have had a great year full of learning, friendships and fun!

June was a typically full month, with lots of extra-curricular activities for the children to get involved in and enjoy. Some of the activities that took place were:

- ♦ Mufti days for the Summer Fair
- ♦ Year 2 began their visits to Mayford Grange to start forming an intergenerational link with our neighbours in the retirement village
- ♦ The Summer Fair
- ♦ Year 2 took part in workshops linked with their current topic
- ♦ Sports day events
- ♦ District sports events for children in Years 5 and 6 and also Years 3 and 4
- ♦ Year 6 had great fun on their residential. The Year 6 children who chose not to go also had a wonderful time undertaking activities back at school
- ♦ Year R took part in a 'Minibeast' workshop to support their current topic
- ♦ Class assemblies, both in-person and recorded

We also achieved the National Wellbeing Award for Schools, for the second time.

At this time of year we often have to say some farewells as staff move on to new ventures and we wish them every success and happiness as they do, although we shall miss them. This July we are saying good bye to Mrs Laura Lewis and Miss Niamh Bates, Mrs Lewis is moving on to another school and Miss Bates is going off to see the world, as she is taking some time to travel. We are also saying good bye to Mrs Ambra Blackwell, who has been with us this year as a maternity cover, and also to Mrs Olcay Tokunaga, who returned after her maternity leave as a tutor teacher for us. We send them off with our very best wishes and we look forward to hearing of their new successes.

We are also welcoming some new teachers to our Westfield family. Mrs Sarah Dearden will be joining us in Year 1, Miss Hareeka Malhotra will be joining us in Year 3 and Miss Ellie Townson will be joining us in Year 4. We extend a very warm welcome to them and are looking forward to them starting fully in September.

Please do take some time to look at the remaining dates at the back of this newsletter, and make a note of any that you need to be aware of, we wouldn't want anyone missing out.

As we head towards the Summer holidays, we want to wish our Year 6 leavers every success and happiness as they move on to their secondary schools. We know they will do themselves proud and we can't wait to hear of all their successes, do come back and visit and let us know how you are doing!



We wish you all a very happy and restful Summer break and we look forward to seeing you again in September!



Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

We are thrilled to inform you that last month we were, once again, awarded the National Wellbeing Award for Schools! This award lasts for three years and recognises all the focus, work and commitment we place on improving our school community's skills, knowledge and confidence in their own and other's wellbeing. We will continue to place a high priority on wellbeing and mental health at Westfield as we know it is such an important area. We will continue to work together to improve wellbeing for all, drive down stigma and help make the world (or our corner of it) a better place for everyone!



We are always keen to hear our stakeholders' views and we recently sent out a wellbeing survey for our parents. If you missed this you can use the link on this page to access it.

The Parent Wellbeing Survey can be found [HERE](#).

We hope you enjoyed June's happiness calendar, 'Joyful June'. The action for the last day of June was a particularly great one, we were encouraged to.... ***'Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to it).'*** Perhaps we can all pay special attention to doing this over the next few weeks of the summer holiday!

This month, the calendar's theme is 'Jump Back Up July'. It is full of daily actions to help us build our resilience. There is a great quote from Nelson Mandela that supports this, ***"Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."***

Resilience is a very important skill and attitude which helps support our wellbeing. We all know that not everything in life will be plain sailing and we will have set backs, upsets and disappointments (this is true for our children too), but how we respond to these setbacks is what helps build our resilience, which supports our wellbeing.

The Action for Happiness calendar for July can be found [HERE](#).



Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield—Our Wellbeing Champions.

At Westfield, everyone can help and support their own and others' wellbeing. However, we also have some 'Wellbeing Champions' who support and lead wellbeing and mental health across the school. We have an active Wellbeing Committee, a Wellbeing Assistant, a Nurture Lead, an Inclusion Leader and our pupil Wellbeing Ambassadors.

Our School Development Plan also has wellbeing as one of its key priorities. The picture below is displayed in every classroom in the school so that everyone is very aware of who our Wellbeing Champions are.

Our Wellbeing Committee is made up of Mrs Francesca McPhee, Mrs Alex Cooke (our Chair of Governors), Mrs Marie McAteer, Miss Kate Beattie, Mrs Catherine Thomas, Miss Tina Weaver, Mrs Annette Newport and Mrs Katherine Pear. Our Wellbeing Assistant is Ms Hannah Anderson. Our Nurture Lead is Miss Tina Weaver and our Inclusion Leader is Ms Julia Findlay. (Miss Hillier will be joining our team in September.) Our current Wellbeing Ambassadors are all from Year 6. In September there will be new Wellbeing Ambassadors and we will introduce you to them then.

Our well-being committee:



Our Inclusion Leader:



Our well-being assistant:



Our Nurture Lead:



Our well-being ambassadors:



Westfield Primary School & Mayford Grange Retirement Village Intergenerational Link.

We are very excited as we have recently formed a new link with our local retirement village, Mayford Grange. Our choir already sing at the village each Christmas, but we wanted to make more of a link with our close neighbours. Our Year 2 children have visited and enjoyed chatting, sharing experiences, finding out about each other and also playing games and doing jigsaws together.

This group of children will continue building this link as they move into Year 3. We are all very excited about getting to know our neighbours better. It also supports our wellbeing and the wellbeing of those we are visiting and fits with the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: **to connect, to give and to learn.**



What parents & carers need to know about ... AMONG US

Inappropriate chat



While Among Us can be enjoyed locally via wi-fi, it is commonly played online. Between rounds, players come together to discuss who they think the Imposter is with a text chat, and it's here where children will come into contact with others. There is a profanity filter on the game as standard, but it can very easily be disabled and (like any unmoderated chat groups) children can be exposed to inappropriate, sexual or explicit language.

Risk of hacking



Among Us has been the target of hacking activity. Indeed, only recently the game's developer, InnerSloth, tweeted advice that users play private games or with people they trust, in response to hacking issues. As yet, there has been no breach in player accounts. However, if a big enough hack were to take place and player details were accessed, it could lead criminals to having access to credit card data and other personal credentials.

In-game purchases



Among Us is currently available on both PC (via the gaming service Steam) and mobile devices. On the PC, the game costs a flat amount of £3.99 and has some in-game purchases, whereas the mobile version is free to play but contains adverts and in-game purchases. You can pay to remove the ads or purchase in-game cosmetic items. While these amounts are relatively low, there's still the possibility that young ones could accidentally spend lots of money on the game without realising it, as the process is complete in a couple of taps if a card is connected to your store account.

Use of external apps



Many players use external apps like Discord to voice chat with each other while they're playing. The problem with this is that it is unregulated by the game. Usually on Discord, players will only talk to other people they know in private chats, but a stranger could add a child on an external app: pretending to be interested in playing Among Us with them, when in reality they could be attempting to bully, groom or extort.

Play with your children

Playing with your kids is one of the best ways to understand the game, and what makes it so popular. Among Us is free on mobile and is incredibly easy to pick up and play. It's also a great way to bond with your young ones - unless of course you're the Imposter or vote them out of the spaceship! You can do this by picking 'Local' on the main menu then 'Create Game'.

Deactivate credit cards



Having your credit card automatically paired with any online accounts that can be accessed by children is asking for trouble. A solution could be setting them up with their own account with no credit card attached. They can still ask you when they want to make a purchase, but it's totally up to you as to when that transaction happens.

Talk about the risks



It's a good idea to talk to your child about the risks associated with online gaming, especially when there are chat options and an ability to communicate with others. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child: talk about their experiences of the game and who they're playing with. This will help you to stay on top of how they're feeling and ensure they know they can come to you if ever they feel upset or uncomfortable about anything they've experienced.

Sports Days



Westfield Sports Day 2023

THE RESULTS

Congratulations to everyone!



We were very impressed with your resilience, sportsmanship and risk-taking whilst trying out each event. Thanks to all parents and carers who came to support we hope you had a great time!



1st Place

2nd Place

3rd Place

4th Place



Dragon



Phoenix



Pegasus



Griffin

District Athletics

Well done to the Year 5&6 team at District Athletics who worked really hard together to score some valuable points in their individual events. Competitors took part in a Vortex throw, standing long jump, 70m sprint and 600m long distance. Many of our children came in the top three for their running heats and we were exceptionally pleased with how the team behaved and supported each other, Well done!



Attendance Award for June

The best attendance this month is

Butterflies class with 99%

Well Done.



Year 6 Residential

On Wednesday 21st of June, some of Year 6 pupils set off on their annual residential trip to Kingswood in Kent. During the action-packed trip, the children shared lots of fun and laughs with their friends whilst putting their nerves to the test on some of the more adventurous activities, one of which included Leap of Faith! They also got to test their skills with a bow on the archery range and even tried the deceptively tricky Jacob's ladder which pushed their teamworking skills to the limit.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip away, and have made memories for life!

Here are some pictures for you to enjoy:

Leap of Faith



Buggy Building



The famous Jacob's Ladder!



Some action shots from the obstacle course!



School drop off protocol and parking/road use considerations

Please use the Adult Education Centre car park for drop off and pick up. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN BONSEY LANE OR HOEBROOK CLOSE** as this causes a problem with the flow of traffic, and is dangerous for any child crossing the road. There are also parking enforcements in place and you may be ticketed. **Please park in the designated bays only.** Parents need to drop and drive off to work in the mornings, and are being prevented from this by some inconsiderate parking.

Please be aware that it is not an offence to park a vehicle on a grass verge unless **there are waiting restrictions (yellow lines) on the road, as these also apply to the verge**; therefore do not park on the grass verges near the school and by the garages as you may be ticketed.

Please ensure that you do not park in front of driveways or the kitchen gates, or stop on any zigzag lines. These need to be kept clear at all times for staff access and deliveries and in consideration of our neighbours.

Whilst we understand that Bonsey Lane does get very busy and everyone has somewhere to go, please be polite to all car users. Please **DO NOT** block the roads and car parks for other drivers.

Adult education will ask their car park attendants to monitor this and cars will be issued with a ticket if they park in this area.

Please do not smoke on the school premises or on the Adult Education premises. These are all no smoking zones.



Parental behaviour and language

Sadly it has been brought to our attention that there are a lot of issues within the Adult Education car park. Parents may be barred from using the car park if they are aggressive to adult education representatives or other members of the community. We do not own the car park and are given permission to use it so please be polite and use the car park appropriately.

Adult Education have emailed us regarding issues with their car park:

- Please park within the marked bays. Cars should not be left blocking the entrance to the car park, or other vehicles
- If parking is not available on site, make alternative arrangements
- Litter should be removed from site, or placed in a bin
- We are a non-smoking/e-cigarette site
- Music should be turned down when on the premises. Music has been played at anti-social levels, disturbing our learners and exams

Although most of our school community model an acceptable way to behave towards other car/road users sadly this is not always the case and we also continue to receive news from parents and neighbours describing how parents have spoken rudely and/or aggressively to them about parking, or just using offensive language in general conversation.

The parking situation is what it is at this school and we are very fortunate to have a large car park for our use at pick up and drop off (which many schools do not have). Why some parents feel the need to be verbally aggressive to others is very sad and to be abusive in front of children is also completely unacceptable. We teach the children how to be kind, and considerate about how to make situations better rather than worse, and to hear that parents are not modelling these same values is very disappointing. Can we please implore all parents to be considerate to each other; you are all trying to do your best to get your children to school. Please do not sit with car engines on, or have loud music playing.

We have been shocked to hear that some Parents have been parking in Adult Educations disabled bays and also on the yellow lines either side of the disabled bays. This has been stopping people that use these bays getting in and out of their cars.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THESE BAYS UNLESS YOU HAVE A DISABLED BADGE YOURSELF.

Please don't park inconsiderately, don't berate other people and just be nice to each other.



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.



Emails over the summer holidays

Please be advised that school email addresses are not routinely monitored over the summer.

We do not have administrative staff working in the office over summer so any requests you send via email after the last day of term will not be responded to until we return to school on Friday 2nd September.

Dropping off at the gate first thing in the morning.

A polite notice to remind parents/carers that all staff on the gates in the morning are there for the children. They are there to welcome the children and support any that are feeling a little bit wobbly into class.

If parents/carers wish to speak to a member of staff then please can you go to the main office and make an appointment.

Please note that a staff member may not be available at that immediate time, but you will be able to make an appointment.
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 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.

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 per parent per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 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.

Carnival Day—Reminder!

On Wednesday 19th July, we will be holding a 'carnival' themed day in school! This will involve fun activities in class, dressing up, and dance workshops for Years 2, 3 & 4! It should be so much fun and we are all really looking forward to it.

This will be a dress up day and we ask that the children, should they want to, come to school in clothes that fit the theme of carnival / holidays / party. Therefore, bright, relaxed clothes. The clothes and footwear still need to be suitable for school and some year groups will be taking part in dance workshops, so clothes need to be suitable for this as well and for being active during the day.



Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Mr Kurt Clarke, who is getting married during the summer holidays!

We wish Mr Clarke, and his future wife, every happiness on their special day and for their future life together.



**HOME
START**
Surrey



RECRUITING
NOW

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have parental experience? Could you spare 2-4 hours a week to share your invaluable knowledge? If yes we would love to hear from you!

Home-Start volunteers work alongside families to give compassionate and confidential support, tailored to each family.



Our volunteers are fully trained and given expert ongoing support

Volunteering for local families can change your life and the life of a family in your community!



Preparation courses beginning in September '23

Home-Start Surrey covers all 11 boroughs in 8 local branches:
East Surrey, Elmbridge, Epsom,
Ewell & Banstead, Guildford,
Runnymede & Woking,
Spelthorne, Surrey Heath &
Waverley

<https://homestartsurrey.org/>



For further details please call:

01252 737453

Or email: volunteers@homestartsurrey.org



London's first ever festival of children's theatre

Popular children's drama and dance school Perform is hosting a new festival called [Perform in the Park](#) in central London this summer where you and your children can enjoy a live theatre show in a 500 seat air-conditioned theatre followed by the fun and activities of Coram's Fields. This six-week festival includes four fantastic productions for children with shows running daily from 22 July to 28 August.

Four wonderful shows for children of all ages

The line-up includes:

- **The Three Billy Goats Gruff** – a smash hit musical adventure for 2–7 year olds
- **Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"** – based on Mo Willems' best-selling books
- **Mermaids & Pirates** – Perform's swashbuckling summer themed show for 4–11s
- **The Dream** – Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* rebooted for 7–14s

Come and make a day of it!

Located in the heart of London, Coram's Fields has an exciting mix of play areas for all ages plus two wide lawns for picnics, an all-weather café, shop and buggy park. The large adventure play area includes a zip wire for those that dare, a witch's hat swing and one of the largest slides in town. With two large sandpits and a paddling pool, on a warm day, you may want to pack swim gear!

Tickets are on sale now

Tickets start at £14.50, visit performinthepark.uk to book. We hope to see you there!



NHS
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



ASPH community open day

Saturday 15th July 2023
10am-3pm



We're excited to open our doors at St Peter's Hospital and inviting everyone to come and experience the hospital as never before, giving you a chance to look around and get involved with some of the different services we offer.

On the day you can expect:

- Interactive Stands
- Tours
- BBQ, ice cream and slushies
- Meet Team ASPH
- Fire engine
- Family friendly activities
- Advice on Health and Wellbeing
- NHS Careers advice
- Give your views on health and wellbeing services in NW Surrey



@ASPHFT

Register your interest

www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk/communityday2023

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.

Thursday	6th July	Year 6 Summer production 2pm
Friday	7th July	10am Woodpeckers class assembly
Friday	7th July	Year 6 Summer production 2pm
Thursday	13th July	Year 6 Leavers BBQ 4-5.30pm. Please note that children go home as normal at the end of the day, and return at 4pm for the BBQ.
Wednesday	19th July	Carnival Day! Dress up day.
Thursday	20th July	Year 6 Leavers assembly and graduation 10.30am
Thursday	20th July	Year 6 finish at 11.45am
Thursday	20th July	Years R-5 finish at 1.20pm
Monday	4th September	Children return to school

