

Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter— December 2023



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Welcome to our December newsletter!

We hope you and your children had a fantastic month of November filled with engaging learning experiences. It certainly was a busy month! Below are some highlights.

During November, our school actively participated in Anti-Bullying Week, which included a range of activities aimed at raising awareness and promoting kindness among our students. We would like to commend all the children for their enthusiastic involvement in Odd Socks Day and the various anti-bullying workshops and assemblies.

Recently, Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a fabulous performance from the Pied Piper Theatre Company of "Can Bears Ski". As well as really enjoying the show, the children were motivated for their own Christmas performances which are coming up soon!

Some of our pupils in years 5 and 6, took part in "Aim High Maths Workshops". These workshops are designed to challenge and inspire our pupils to excel in mathematics. We also hosted visiting pupils from other schools who worked with our pupils on the day. The workshops are a great opportunity to help foster their confidence and further develop their mathematical skills.

Year 5 pupils had the chance to visit a local court and experience a court environment. The children took on different roles and worked through a court case, with witness statements, prosecution and defence arguments and had the chance to examine evidence. It was a wonderful experience for them and provided them with a real-life encounter with the British justice system.

Some of our children have also taken part in an out of hours dance performance with Dance Woking at the Rhoda McGaw theatre. They performed brilliantly!

To celebrate the upcoming festive season, we will have Christmas Jumper Days, the first one being today! We hope this will help everyone get into the holiday spirit!

Finally, we are excited to announce that we have started our Christmas assemblies for parents. These special assemblies will give you the chance to witness the talents and performances of our pupils as they celebrate the joy and traditions of Christmas. Please could you be mindful if you bring a younger child, so as not to take away the enjoyment of those around you, please take your child out if they are disturbing others.

December is certainly shaping up to be an eventful and celebratory month. Please check the diary at the back of the newsletter to avoid missing anything.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you and your family a joyful and peaceful December and a very happy festive season and look forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

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Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

Some great thoughts from The Art of Brilliance, on the subject of being present and enjoying being present in the moment, right now!

Busyness is a problem. We pay thousands for a smartphone to ensure we're never bored. Our scrolling is powered by FOMO and yet the biggest irony is that by scrolling we are missing out.

We're missing the moment.

We're missing eye contact.

We're missing nature.

We're missing out on actual real life.

Bringing your whole self to the present moment is quite a thing. It means you've engaged with life, absolutely.

Imagine - life is playing out right now and you're not showing up. You've got a Willy Wonka golden ticket, an entry to the biggest prize of them all - LIFE - and you can't find the entrance. Imagine NOT rocking up to the biggest moment in history - THIS ONE.

Plot spoiler, it's always NOW o'clock. Your entire life is played out in the present moment.

The less energy you waste regretting the past or worrying about the future, the more energy you have for what shows up right now.

We call it 'the present moment' because it's a gift. Embrace the sumptuousness of now. Unwrap the moment. Delve in. Linger. Roll around in it. Smother yourself in now-ness.

Oh, and the 'delve in' rule applies even if it's stressful, or difficult, or boring. Don't reject the moment because it's not perfect. It might not be exactly as you want, but it's all you've got.

Make the most of what you've been given. NOW is the biggest moment in history because it's the only time there ever is.

NOW is all you have. It's the key to being all of you.

There is definitely some 'food for thought' there!

We hope you enjoyed last month's Happiness Calendar, 'New Ways November'. This month is 'Do Good December', encouraging us all to carry out small acts of kindness.

The calendar can be found [HERE](#).

Wellbeing—peg competition

On Wednesday 11th October we held our first Wellbeing Wednesday event for this school year. The event was themed around our Zones of Regulation and was well supported by local community groups. The Family Centre, the Family Information Service, the School Nurse Team, Mindworks, Woking Library, Foodwise, Surrey Young Carers, Be Your Best Programme, Ultimate Coaching and our school chef, Kirsty, all attended, and provided activities and information for children, parents and carers. The Stripey Stork charity kindly provided free children's bags of toiletries, and our local Co-op store provided the wellbeing bags and fruit for the event.

The event was very well attended by children, parents and carers who all enjoyed the activities and treats on offer. All children received a goody bag with a peg and other materials inside and were invited to take part in a peg decorating design competition. There were 10 competition winners and they all received a certificate and a gift. Pictures of their winning entries are shown below.

Wellbeing Wednesday Autumn Term 2023 : Peg competition winners



Lottie (BF)



Selma (BB)



Mohammed (BF)



Liberty (KF)

Wellbeing—peg competition

Wellbeing Wednesday Autumn Term 2023 : Peg competition winners



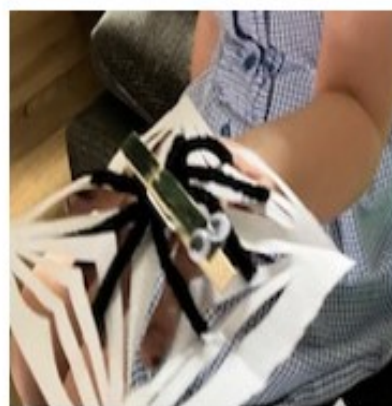
Luna (DF)



Yash (CP)



Elitsa (WP)



Hetty (Beet)



Benjamin (DF)



Micael (Pen)

Online safety

If you are thinking of a console as a Christmas gift this year or already have one at home, we would like to draw your attention to this helpful guide on the Playstation 5.

What parents & carers need to know about ...

PLAYSTATION 5

The PlayStation 5 is the next-generation video game console from Sony. It offers improved graphics, sound and much quicker loading times. It also has a new controller with motion- and force-feedback features for a more immersive experience. Parents should note that there are two different versions available that support discs or digital downloads.

Safely setting up your Playstation 5

Family Settings

Both PlayStation 5 models offer important family controls that should be set up before your family starts using the system. Although this can take a little time, it ensures that children have their own accounts and sets limits on spending, interactions and age ratings. If done correctly, children cannot circumvent these controls that require the parent's password to alter.

Setting Limits on Play Time

You can specify how long, and at which times of day, the console can be used to play without needing a password. Talk to your children and agree how long is appropriate, then set this on their profile, so it's something they understand and accept. You can set different time limits on each of the users on the system.

Managing Spending

You can set a limit on spending via Parental Controls. This means that any additional purchase requires your password. Another alternative is not to put credit card details into your account and instead add credit as they need it using the book token-like cards in-store or online. A nice feature on the PlayStation is setting an amount of pocket money to spend on games each month.

Setting Age Ratings

You can set a limit that stops any older-rated games being played without a password being entered. This is not only a good way to ensure children are playing appropriate content but is a good chance to talk about the games they are playing.

Downloading the PlayStation App

The PlayStation 5 uses the same PlayStation app as the PlayStation 4. This is a super-easy way to tweak the user settings for your family without having to log on to the console. It's also a good way to keep track of what different people are enjoying on the system. The app can also be used as an easier way to log-on by scanning the QR code.

Creating Guest Account Password

An important step during the PlayStation 5 set-up is specifying the default settings for guest accounts as well as a passcode for your own account. This ensures that all users need to access the system with their own account and related limits and settings.

Managing Online Interactions

Another important area of the Parental Controls is specifying how and who your child can interact with online. Modern consoles enable players to share text, voice, images and video with each other. You can set whether they can do this, and also apply a password before they can add new friends.

Game Subscriptions

In addition to buying individual games digitally or in-store, you can also subscribe to services that offer access to hundreds of games for a monthly fee. PlayStation Plus is needed to play games online with other people and offers a set of games you can immediately download for the new system. PlayStation Now enables you to stream (and download) a wider set of games.

Set up Parent Accounts

Setting up a parents' account is important so you can manage the console for your family. After plugging your console in, connect to the internet and wait for updates to finish. Once updated, create a parent user account with an email address you regularly check and password specified.



Set up Child Accounts

Setting up child accounts are important to be able to limit play time, spending and apply age ratings automatically. Separate accounts for each child user can be set up. It's a good idea to specify a password for the guest account so children cannot access this also.



Open Evening

We had a wonderful open evening on 9th November. We had existing parents, carers & friends, and many potential new parents joining in the fun. It was also lovely to see some of our pupils that have left who came back to visit.



Year 5 Trip to Aldershot Magistrates Court



Year 5 had a fantastic time on our school trip to Aldershot Magistrates Court!

The children were given roles to play, such as barristers, solicitors, the jury, judge, clerk and of course, witnesses!

We re-enacted the case of Carly Cooper, a 12 year old girl who was accused of robbery. We heard witness statements and our teams of defence and prosecution came up with questions for the witnesses, before the jury put their heads together and took a vote.

While neither vote was unanimous, both Year 5 classes found Carly Cooper guilty and sentenced her to 6 months in prison. It was an excellent trip and we all learnt a lot!



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.



Tim Hall Workshop for Year 6

Year 6 had a great workshop on 20th October. We had a guest, called Tim Hall, visit us and talk to the children about the importance of a positive attitude in school and in life.

He taught the children that they can learn anything—if they are motivated and keep on trying. The children learnt a pointless pencil trick; they thought about what success meant to them; that learning is a process; that you have to have resilience and work hard to achieve your goals; that life is easier and more enjoyable if you make an effort to get along with everyone.

The children spent the afternoon in groups, trying to build a tepee out of canes, Sellotape and black bin bags. We were very proud of the children as they worked together really well to become successful at all of the tasks.



Year 3 trip to Pizza Express

On November 15th, Robins had a super trip to Pizza Express in Woking. They travelled by Bustler bus in the morning to Pizza Express and were met by the staff who would be showing the children how to make pizzas. The children got to see and feel the pizza dough as it arrives at the restaurant in the morning. It was very hard and cold as it was frozen in pizza dough batches.

The children then watched as the dough was made into dough balls and another, into a pizza base. The children were in awe as the dough was twirled around on the chef's hands to increase the size of the dough base. He then showed the children how to add the tomato base and the cheese.

Next it was time for the children to wash their hands and start making the bases for their Margherita pizzas! The children all accomplished their bases with little support. Then it was time to add the tomato and cheese! After the children had finished making their pizzas, they were then taken to the kitchen to be cooked.

Meanwhile, the children got to sample a dough ball and a cooked Margherita pizza- yummy!

After a quiz, it was then time to say good-bye and collect the cooked pizzas to take back to school. They smelt delicious! A fantastic morning was had by all the children in Robins. Thank you to the staff in Pizza Express, for a great morning!



Books

‘ If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book. ’ *J.K Rowling*

Christmas is coming ... these books could make great presents!!

There are lots of fantastic books for children of all ages, and it can be hard to know what books are appropriate for children at different ages. <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/> is a website which shows suggested books for different ages. It is regularly updated to add new books, which should be accessible for the children—either for their reading ability or as a shared book with a parent.

‘ The more that you read, the more things you
will know. The more that you learn, the more
places you’ll go.

Dr.



Seuss

‘ I read for pleasure and that is the moment I learn the most. ’

Margaret Atwood

Our Book Shed is open every day for children to borrow books. These books are all donated by our school community and are available for all pupils to borrow. It is located between the Year 6 block and the Pod in the playground, and you are welcome to stop in any day after school to select a book to take home. The children also have a selection of books from the Book Shed in their classrooms that they can borrow regularly.

If you are thinking of clearing out bookshelves, please drop the books into the box in the office.

Some winter weather reminders...

As the wintery months begin we would like to remind you that in the event that the school needs to be closed due to bad weather conditions, Surrey schools make announcements on their school website. Ours is www.westfield.surrey.sch.uk

We will also send a text message in the event that the school needs to be closed.

If the weather looks questionable, please continue to check the website and look at your phone messages (in case the website fails), we wouldn't want your child to set off for school only to find we are closed. **Please ensure the school office has your up to date mobile number.**

Should weather conditions turn cold we ask that:

Students and parents should be mindful of their journey to school and allow extra time. **Bonsey Lane is often treacherous and the pedestrian paths have in the past not been treated by Surrey County Council. So we ask that parents/ carers bringing children to school should walk with extreme caution and avoid driving down Bonsey Lane at all if road conditions become icy. THANK YOU!**

When bringing children to school they may come in wearing alternative sturdy footwear (boots) and should change into dry school footwear on arrival.



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 HOE-BROOK 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. Please drive considerately in the car park and be mindful of other children and adults that are around.**

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.



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.

Surrey County Council encourages residents to offer Supported Lodgings/foster

Supported Lodgings, and Fostering are both incredibly rewarding experiences that can transform the lives of both the children/young people being supported and the carers' themselves. Children and young people who enter the care system have often experienced trauma and instability in their lives, and a stable and supportive carer family can make a significant difference in their wellbeing and development.

Nationally, there are currently over 70,000 children living with carer families in the UK. However, there is still a significant shortage of Supported Lodgings and foster carers, with around 9,265 new carer families needed in the next year alone. In Surrey, there are over 1,000 children in care and Surrey County Council have just under 400 carer families.

Supported Lodgings is targeted at young adults aged 16-21 to help them build their independence skills ready to live independently in the future, from the security of a caring, stable home environment. Supported Lodgings Carers and Foster carers come from all walks of life and backgrounds, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to caring. Whether you are single or married, young or old, own your own home or rent, you can still become a carer. The most important thing is a willingness to provide a safe and loving home for a child in need.

This is the message that Surrey County Council is promoting in national recruitment film 'Any of Us'. The short film has been jointly funded by over 80 councils across England and aims to raise awareness about fostering, particularly among those people who may not have previously considered themselves suited to caring for vulnerable children and young people. The film looks at the potential of three people from different backgrounds to become carers, and the potential of children they care for to grow and thrive. 'Any of Us' is available to watch from the 26th September.

If you have ever thought about fostering, or offering Supported Lodgings, now is the time to take that first step and find out more. The more people who consider caring, the greater the chance of finding loving, stable homes for children in Surrey who desperately need them.

You can contact Surrey County Council Fostering Service on 0300 123 1620 (this is the General Fostering Duty telephone, please ask for the Supported Lodgings worker, when connected), via email at supportedlodgings@surreycc.gov.uk or by visiting the website; www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering

You can watch 'Any of Us' via [Any of Us - YouTube](#) and connect with the Fostering Service on social media via @surreyfostering"



The poster features a blue background with white snowflakes and falling snow. In the center, seven cartoon reindeer are depicted. One reindeer on the left plays a yellow trumpet. Another in the middle-left holds a yellow triangle. A reindeer in the center-right wears a white and red striped dress and holds a red drumstick. A reindeer on the far right holds two yellow triangles. In the foreground, Santa Claus, wearing a red suit and hat, is seen from behind, holding a red and white striped candy cane. To the right of Santa, a list of activities is provided. The top left corner contains the Woking Wind Orchestra logo, which is a circular emblem with a wind instrument and the text 'WOKING WIND ORCHESTRA' around it. The title 'Christmas Family Concert' is written in large, white, sans-serif font. The date and time are in white text on a black background at the bottom. Ticket prices are listed in white text on a black background. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. The Surrey Arts logo is in the bottom left corner.

WOKING WIND ORCHESTRA
Conductor: Jeremy Morrish Leader: Maggie Mackie

Christmas Family Concert

- * Mince pies
- * Mulled wine
- * Raffle
- * Children's raffle
- * Sing-along carols

Saturday 2nd December 3pm
Christ Church Woking, Jubilee Square, Woking, GU21 6YG

SURREY
SURREY
ARTS

Tickets: Adults £10
Older Child (12-17) £5
Young Child (0-11) FREE
Available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/woking-wind-orchestra
or on the door







JOIN THE CHRISTMAS CHEER

'THE FORGOTTEN TOYS' DONATION DRIVE
18TH NOV - 17TH DEC

VISIT SANTA IN HIS TOY WORKSHOP
25TH NOV - 24TH DEC (ON SPECIFIC DATES)

TEDDY MASCOT WALKABOUTS
SATURDAYS BETWEEN 25TH NOV - 16TH DEC

All activities are free

Find out more at
vpwoking.co.uk/theforgottentoys  



HOME OF 'THE FORGOTTEN TOYS'

**VICTORIA
PLACE**
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	1st December	Christmas jumper day
Friday	1st December	Christmas assembly for year 5 at 2.15pm
Monday	4th December	Christmas assembly for year 4 at 10am
Tuesday	5th December	Year R advent assembly at 10am
Wednesday	6th December	Year 6 Christingle at St Marks Church at 2pm
Thursday	7th December	Christmas assembly for year 1 at 10am
Friday	8th December	Christmas jumper day
Friday	8th December	Christmas assembly for year 2 at 10am
Thursday	14th December	Christmas jumper day (to be worn over uniform)
Friday	15th December	1pm Carols around the tree. Pupils break up at 1.20pm
Wednesday	3rd January	Pupils return for Spring Term
Friday	12th January	10am Robins class assembly
Wednesday	17th January	3.15pm-3.45pm Year 6 parents meeting in Hawks about mock SATS
Friday	19th January	10am Owls class assembly
Monday -Thurs	22nd-25th January	Year 6 mock SATS
Friday	26th January	10am Beetles class assembly
Friday	2nd February	10am Ladybirds class assembly
Tuesday	6th February	Parents evening in school hall 3.20-5.30pm
Wednesday	7th February	Wellbeing afternoon 2.30pm-4pm. Parents may come early, and then collect children at normal time and take them to the event.
Thursday	8th February	Parents evening in school hall 3.20-5.30pm
Friday	9th February	10am Year R joint class assembly
Monday-Friday	12th—16th February	Half Term week
Friday	23rd February	10am Puffins class assembly
Wednesday	28th February	Owls class trip to Pizza Express
Friday	1st March	10am Penguins class assembly
Thursday	7th March	Book day—dress up day
Friday	8th March	10am Hawks class assembly
Tuesday	12th March	Class and year 6 leavers photos
Thursday	14th March	Millers Ark Farm to visit Year R classes
Friday	15th March	10am Falcons class assembly
Thursday	21st March	9.15am—KS2 Easter assembly
Thursday	21st March	11am—KS1 Easter assembly
Wednesday	27th March	Term finishes at 1.20pm
Monday	15th April	Summer term starts