

Westfield Primary Head's Newsletter – October 2024



Contents

Message from Mrs Hing	1
Wellbeing	2
Online Safety	3
Art/Den Building	4
Photos	5
Reminders	6/7
Absence	8/9
NHS advise	10 11
Notices	12- 15
Dates	16

Welcome to October's newsletter! It is hard to believe we have already been back at school for a month—and what a busy month it has been!

As well as starting a new academic year, new classes/year groups and getting to know new class teachers, the children have also had lots of extracurricular enrichment activities to experience. Since starting back in September the following activities have taken place:

- ◆ Diversity week took place, focusing on musicians from around the world and across the centuries
- ◆ Orienteering day
- ◆ Motivational workshops for Year 6
- ◆ Superhero dress up and activity day for Year 2
- ◆ We held an 'Art Exhibition' where our amazing art was displayed
- ◆ Egyptian dress up and activity day for Year 3
- ◆ Stone Age dress up and activity day for Year 4
- ◆ Class assemblies
- ◆ Aim High writing day for children in Years 5 and 6, alongside visiting schools
- ◆ Swimming started for Year 4
- ◆ Our visits to Mayford Grange for our intergenerational link started again for our Year 3s
- ◆ A group of children in Key Stage 2 visited Wentworth Golf Club to watch the golf

We have also been further developing the playground with new cushions for our 'Quiet Zone' and some amazing wooden blocks (kindly purchased by the Friends of Westfield) for our 'Calm Zone'. The children are loving playing with the blocks!

Our new Reception children have settled extremely well into school life and we are so proud of how well they are doing, we are so glad they have joined our Westfield family.

Just over a week ago, on a very sunny day, we had a photographer visit the school and take lots of photos of the school 'in action' to use on our new website and also around the school. The photos are fabulous! Take a look further on in this newsletter at a small selection of them.

Looking ahead, we have our Harvest assemblies coming up on Thursday 24th October, once again we will be collecting donations for the Woking Food Bank. We also have parent consultation events on Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th October, more details and information on how to sign up will be coming out nearer the event. Do look at all the dates at the back of this newsletter, it is a busy term and we wouldn't want you to miss out on anything.

We look forward to seeing you at many, or all, of our exciting events for parents and carers.



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Well-being and Mental Health at Westfield.

#hello yellow—World Mental Health Day.

On Thursday 10th October it is World Mental Health day and we are celebrating it with YoungMinds' #hello yellow day! 'Hello Yellow' has been showing young people they are not alone with their mental health since 2016. Every year, on world mental health day, the idea is to wear yellow to make the day that bit brighter!

We are inviting the children to come to school dressed in items of yellow clothing....they may want to come to school dressed entirely in yellow! It is a mufti day and we would love for the children to try and wear at least one yellow item.

This year' Hello Yellow is about being 'loud and proud' as we all stand together to support young people's mental health and be proud of who we are.

As well as a yellow themed mufti day, the children will be doing fun activities in class to raise awareness of children's mental health and helping everyone understand that it is 'ok not to be ok' and that there is help available if it is needed.



We hope you enjoyed last month's happiness calendar, this month the theme is '**Optimistic October**' and the calendar can be found [HERE](#). On the 5th of October, on the calendar, it has a really great suggestion, to: 'Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good.'

As the Dalai Lama says, "Choose to be optimistic. It feels better."

**Be patient
with yourself.**

Nothing in nature
blooms all year.

Online Safety

This month we have collected together some top tips about Snapchat. While this is an app that should not be used by children under 13, it is still important to keep key information in mind for the future or in the event that children are accessing it.



Parental Controls in Snapchat

There aren't any built-in Snapchat parental controls, but you can leverage the app's privacy settings to ensure a safer Snapchat experience for your child:

Change "Who Can Contact Me" to "My Friends"

To change who can contact you child:

1. Access your child's Snapchat account.
2. Tap the profile picture icon to open settings.
3. Scroll down and tap the 'Privacy Control'
4. Change who can contact your child to My Friends.
5. Choose your desired option and save your choice.

Uncheck "Show Me in Quick Add"

The Quick Add feature suggests Snapchatters with similar interests to your child. If you want your child to interact with only people they know in real life, you won't want them to appear in Quick Add suggested users. To uncheck it:

1. Access the Snapchat account and tap the profile picture icon to access the settings.
2. Scroll down and tap on the "Who Can" menu item.
3. Tap "See me in Quick Add" and uncheck it.

How to Block Users

Once you are in the account:

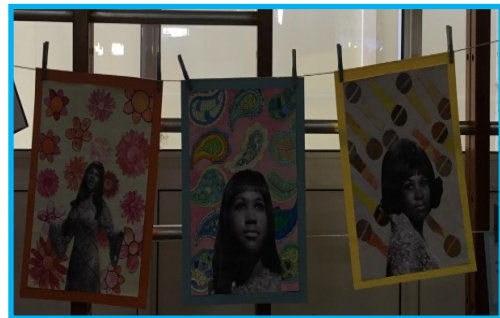
1. Swipe right to access the friends list.
2. Tap and hold the friend's name you wish to block. Alternatively, you can access the messages and tap and hold the friend's name.
3. Tap on "More" and from there you can block the user.

For further information follow this link:

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-snapchat>

Art Showcase

For Diversity Week, Years 1-6 focused on a particular musician/s. This was a huge success, and I think every parent was so proud of their children's artwork!



Wellbeing Wednesday den building competition

The winner of the Summer term Wellbeing Wednesday den building competition was Liberty in Penguins Class.

Here is a photo of the brilliant bed den she built at home during the summer holidays. Liberty described how inside the den they had "lots of pillows and squish mallow toys which are like big, soft pillows". They all "relaxed and read comic books" and they "had torches, so that it looked green from the curtains and blankets around them".












Photos—Westfield in action!

Just a small selection of the wonderful photos we had taken recently!



We are very lucky at Westfield to have the use of the Adult Education Centre for drop off and pick up. Please could we ask for your support:

Please DO	Please DONT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use the REAR carpark only 	<p>.....park on Bonsey Lane or Hoebrook close as this causes problems with traffic flow and overall safety.</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Park in designated bays 	  <p>as it damages the grass.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BE AWARE parking enforcements are in place and you may be ticketed. 	<p>... park in front of driveways or the kitchen gates, or stop on any zigzag lines.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be considerate when parking and using the car park 	   
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Model the polite behaviour you would want your child to see and hear. 	<p>Use aggressive language</p>  

The school gated car park is for staff use only, please do not drive in unless it is dropping off to breakfast club first thing in the morning.

Please be aware that whilst 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 then apply to the verge; therefore, do not park on the grass verges near the school and by the garages as you may be ticketed.

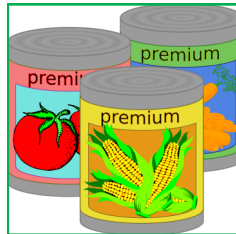
Thank
You

Food Bank Support

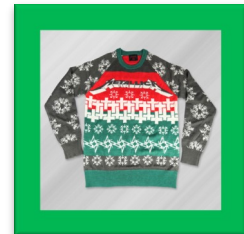
We like to support our local community and so all donations of food will go to the South Woking Community Food Bank. The Food Bank provides basic food and essentials to people in South Woking. We have a contribution box in the school reception area which is emptied regularly and all contributions of (in date) tinned and dry food items are gratefully received.

As previously mentioned, please send donations for the Harvest Celebration Assembly on October 24th in plastic bags so that we can share these too.

Please send donations in between 21st–23rd October.



Christmas Jumper Days



We will be holding our Christmas jumper days on the following dress down Fridays; 29th November & 6th December.

The children may also wear a Christmas Jumper (or Christmas coloured e.g. red or green) over their uniform on Thursday 12th December, this is their Christmas meal day.

This is not compulsory and just for fun to celebrate Christmas.

Application for leave of absence/exceptional circumstances

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. Holidays should be taken during the school holiday period. During the academic year pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days. Students are expected to attend 100% of the time.

Please fill in a request of absence form (available from the office or online) if you want to ask the Headteacher to authorise a *leave of absence* during term time. You must ask well in advance and you are strongly advised to request leave of absence before you confirm your arrangements.

New legislations (Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013) means that if an application is not *"made in advance to the Head teacher by a parent with whom the pupil normally resides, and the Head teacher does not consider that leave of absence should be granted due to the relating to that application"*, then it will not be authorised.

If you take your child out of school without the approval of the school, you may be liable to receive a Penalty Notice from Surrey County Council for failing to ensure your child's regular school attendance.

Unauthorised absence in school time will not be authorised. *Guidelines from the local authority are that they may issue a Penalty Notice (with a fine) to each parent, when students are taken out of school during term for 5 days or more and if this absence is recorded as unauthorised by the school. Please note it includes cumulative absence over a 10 week period (several unauthorised absences that total 5 days within a 10 week period).*

The amount payable on issue of a Penalty Notice is £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices. **If the absence exceeds 20 days, your child's name may be removed from the school roll and you will have to reapply for a place on your return.**

The Headteacher will consider the reasons for the request carefully, taking into account the effect on the continuity of your child's learning and your child's overall attendance rate, and then may authorise up to five days of absence. The Headteacher will notify you, via the office, of the decision within five working days of receiving your written application.

Leave of absence, for exceptional circumstances, will not be granted if additional leave is taken as holiday either side of this time. Proof of flights or other documentation supporting the request must be produced if asked for.

Monthly Attendance Letters

Monthly letters are automatically produced and sent to all parents whose children are late 4 times or more in a month. Monthly letters will also be produced to all parents whose child has an attendance below 90%, and for those between 91-94%. These letters will continue to be sent until the attendance is above 90%. 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.

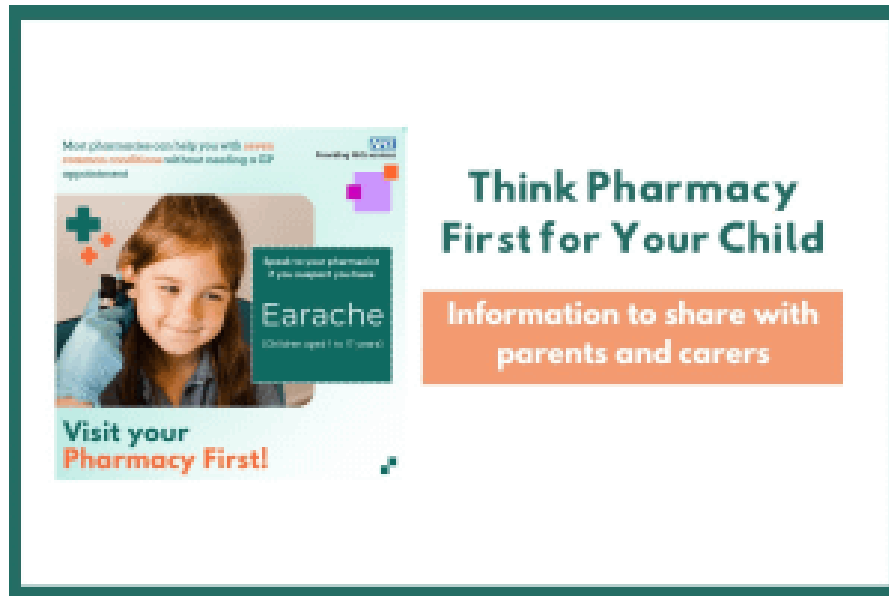
3

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.



GP practices can be very busy, and sometimes your child might not need an appointment. If your child has any of the conditions listed below, you can go straight to your local pharmacy instead of waiting to see a GP. A trained clinical professional at the pharmacy can talk to you, give advice, and even provide medicine if needed, helping your child feel better sooner.

Pharmacies can help with these four common conditions in school-age children:

- Earache (ages 1-17)
- Sore throat (ages 5 and older)
- Infected insect bites (ages 1 and older)
- Impetigo (ages 1 and older)

Most community pharmacies in Surrey offer the Pharmacy First service. This means you can get quick help for these issues without seeing a GP first. So, if your child has an earache, sore throat, impetigo, or a suspected infected insect bite, remember to visit the pharmacy first.

For more information, visit: nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies.

For parents in Surrey



Think Pharmacy First for your child **Surrey Heartlands**



Earache
(Children aged 1 to 17 years)

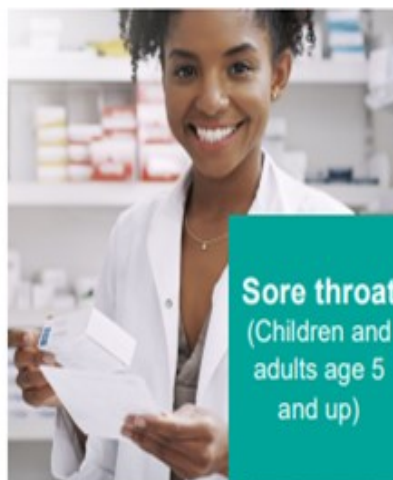
Pharmacies can now offer appointment, with medication available if required, for **four conditions** that affect school-age children:

- Ear ache (children aged 1-17)
- Sore throat (over 5s)
- Infected insect bites (over 1s)
- Impetigo (over 1s)

GP practices are busy and an appointment is not always necessary. When your child is ill with any of the above conditions, by going straight to a local pharmacy, you can have a consultation with a trained clinical professional and receive advice and even medication if it is needed, meaning they could be on the road to recovery as soon as possible.



Infected Insect Bite or Impetigo
(Children and adults age 1 and over)



Sore throat
(Children and adults age 5 and up)

The majority of Surrey community pharmacies offer the Pharmacy First service. Remember – if your child has an ear ache, sore throat, impetigo symptoms or suspected infected insect bite, think **Pharmacy First**.

For more info visit:
nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies

BOOK YOUR SPACE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE OR VISITING WWW.PLLGROUP.CO.UK



**MULTI-ACTIVITY
OCTOBER CAMPS
2024**



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CAMPS RUN FROM 28TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER*

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DATES: 28TH OCTOBER - 1ST NOVEMBER 2024



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**HOME
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New Walking Instructors needed – please apply below.

Dear parents and carers,

Surrey County Council are hiring new Walking Instructors to join their Safer Travel team to help train Year 3 primary aged pupils across Surrey.

What is the Feet First: Walking Training Programme?

Our [Feet First](#) is a road safety and active travel skills awareness course that is aimed at Year 3 pupils (aged 7-8 years old). It will provide pupils with road safety awareness skills, providing them with a key life skill that prepares them for travelling independently in the future.

What is a Walking Instructor?

We would like to hear from people who want to make a difference for primary school-age children, by encouraging them to feel more confident walking to school and equipping them with the necessary road safety knowledge and awareness skills. You will be directly leading the on-road training sessions with small groups of trainees, so you will feel confident engaging children of 7-8 years old both in the classroom and during the on-road training elements of the course. You will also be confident working on your own, managing your own workload and timings, as although you may be attending schools with other Instructors, you will be expected to lead your own groups.

Full training for the role is scheduled to take place in mid-November, ready for the beginning of the spring and summer terms.

So, if you are looking for a rewarding new role that is **term time only** and **flexible around school drop-off and pick-up times**, please apply using the link below:

[Walking Instructor - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](https://surreycc.gov.uk)

Kind Regards,

The Safer Travel Team
WalkingTraining@surreycc.gov.uk

Confidence Building Fun

Try a FREE drama, dance and singing class



— Hannah has thrived at Perform. It is her favourite thing to do and has given her so much confidence, fun and communication skills.

Haley Fuller

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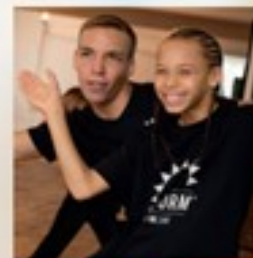
Perform's drama, dance and singing classes use the performing arts to

- 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
- 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 think the whole Perform experience is absolutely brilliant. You get so much for your money and feel part of something really special. *Lucy Holmes*



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/try

perform.org.uk

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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	3rd October	9.15am Year 3 book look in dining hall
Friday	4th October	Year 2 class assembly 10am- Caterpillars
Friday	4th October	2.30pm Year 5 book look dining hall
Monday	7th October	Individual photos
Tuesday	8th October	9am Year 4 book look in wild garden
Thursday	10th October	2.40pm Year 2 book look in dining hall
Friday	11th October	Year 5 class assembly 10am- Penguins
Wednesday	16th October	Flu immunisations
Wednesday	16th October	Well Being afternoon. Parents may arrive for 2.30pm, Children 3.10-3.45pm
Thursday	17th October	2.30pm Year R book look in wild garden
Friday	18th October	9.00am Year 6 book look in wild garden
Friday	18th October	Year 5 class assembly 10am—Puffins
Monday	21st October	9.00am Year 1 book look in dining hall
Tuesday	22nd October	Parents Evening 3.20-5.30pm
Thursday	24th October	9.15am Junior Harvest Assembly
Thursday	24th October	11am Infants Harvest Assembly
Thursday	24th October	Parents Evening 3.20-5.30pm
Half term	28th October to 1st November	Half term
Thursday	7th November	Open evening 5-6.30pm
Friday	8th November	Year 3 class assembly 10am- Robins
Wednesday	13th November	Year 3 Owls trip to Pizza Express
Friday	15th November	Year 3 class assembly 10am- Owls
Thursday	21st November	Year 4 class assembly 10am- Kingfishers
Wednesday	27th November	Christmas assembly for year 3 at 2.15pm
Thursday	28th November	Christmas fair 2.45-4.30pm
Friday	29th November	Christmas assembly for year 5 at 2.15pm
Friday	29th November	Christmas jumper day
Monday	2nd December	Christmas assembly for year 4 at 10am
Thursday	5th December	Christmas assembly for year 1 at 10am
Friday	6th December	Christmas assembly for year 2 at 10am
Friday	6th December	Christmas jumper day
Tuesday	10th December	Reception Classes Advent Assembly at 10am
Tuesday	10th December	Year 6 Christingle St Marks Church at 2pm
Thursday	12th December	Christmas jumper day (to be worn over uniform)
Friday	20th December	1pm Carols around the tree. Pupils break up at 1.20pm