

Westfield Infant News

January 2024

Message from Mrs Ruane

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2024

Happy New Year! It seems like a long time since the Christmas holidays and I hope you all enjoyed time with family and friends over the festive break. The staff and children have come back for the Spring term with enthusiasm and we have started using our our new phonics programme and curriculum.

We have lots of events and activities taking place this term so please make a note of key dates below. We would like to invite families in during Healthy School Week which begins on Monday 12th February so if you haven't seen the breakfast menu, please let us know so that you can come in and join us.

On Friday we said farewell to Mrs Greenwood, from our Resource Base, who has begun her maternity leave. We wish her all the best and hope she enjoys some time at home, focussing on her new family.

School Grounds

Staff are working hard to ensure that our school grounds and outdoor spaces remain safe and orderly at busy times of the day. The playground is a great space for practising bike and scooting skills however recently I have witnessed some near misses particularly at dropping off and collecting time. Please can I remind all families that we cannot allow children to ride on scooters or bikes and they need to be walked carefully through the playground and parked sensibly in the racks. We are looking into having some transport on the playground for children to play with and practice on at break and lunch times. Dogs are also not permitted on school grounds.



School Uniform

Thank you for sending the children into school looking smart in our school uniform. You are able to purchase uniform items from Hole in the Wall and we also have a small selection of pre-loved uniform in our reception area for you to select.

Please can all children come to school in black, sensible footwear which is suitable for the current weather conditions.

Cars and pedestrians on Hays Lane

Some of the local residents on Hays Lane have raised concerns about car users driving up and down the lane and parking in order to drop off/collect children from school. Hays Lane is a private road and residents support it being used for pedestrian access in order to keep everyone safe. If you need to drive, please park in the community centre on Rosemary Way.



Dates for your diary

JANUARY

School opens on **Tuesday 9th January**

FEBRUARY

7th February – Year 1 synagogue visit

7th February – Y2 gymnastics competition

12th February – Healthy School Week

12th February – Valentines disco (details to follow)

16th February – Non -uniform day – donate an Easter egg.

16th February – tuck shop after school on playground

Half term week 19th-23rd February

27th February – Parent/carer meetings

28th February – Parent/carer meetings

MARCH

7th March – World Book Day – Dress as a book character

15th March – Comic relief (details to follow)

21st March – Easter Egg Bingo evening

22nd March – last day of term.

Phonics and Curriculum News



As you are aware, this term we implemented our new phonics scheme and our new curriculum. There is guidance and links to relevant video clips and further information from Little Wandle – our new Phonics scheme on the school website.

Also, in the curriculum section, you will see an overview of what children will be learning each term in different subject areas.

We are frequently updating our information on the website so please do have a look. I would appreciate your feedback ,via Class Dojo or in person, in terms of the information and guidance we are providing.

[Home | Westfield Infant School \(westfield-inf.leics.sch.uk\)](http://www.westfield-inf.leics.sch.uk)

Our school attendance currently stands at **96.2%**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The government have launched a national attendance communications campaign aimed at parents and carers, 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' highlighting the importance of regular school attendance in your child's educational journey. The campaign reflects feedback from schools and local authorities. It aims to primarily reach those parents/carers whose children are taking preventable off days off absence – or "Avoidable absence" – rather than those who face greater barriers to attendance such as pupils with long term medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities.

Here at Westfield Infant School, the attendance target for each student is 96% and anything below this requires monitoring. Attendance at 90% or below is classed as persistent absenteeism. Procedures are followed in line with our school Attendance Policy. To view our Attendance Policy, please see our school website and look under 'Policies'.

Research reliably shows that consistent attendance positively impacts academic performance, social development, and future success. As partners in your child's attendance, we want to work together to ensure they don't miss out on valuable learning experiences.

Here are a few strategies to help improve your child's attendance:

- Establish a routine: Set a consistent daily routine that includes ample time for sleep, meals, and preparation for the school day.
- Open Communication: Keep the lines of communication open with your child about their experiences at school. Address any concerns or issues they may be facing that could contribute to absenteeism.
- Highlight the Value of Education: Reinforce the importance of education and how it shapes their future. Discuss their goals and aspirations, emphasizing how attendance plays a crucial role in achieving them.
- Celebrate Achievements: Acknowledge your child's achievements, both big and small. Positive reinforcement can motivate them to attend school regularly.
- Stay informed: Be aware of school events, projects, and activities. Engaging with the school community can foster a sense of belonging and enthusiasm for learning.
- Remember, every day of school missed is a missed opportunity for learning and growth.

We appreciate your commitment to your child's education and look forward to working together to ensure they have the best possible experience.

Core Values

Resilience, Responsibility, Respect, Relationships and Recognition.

Each month we will share some information about the core values and how children learn about them. This month it is Respect.



We treat others the way we would like to be treated. We always show good manners and we are honest and tell the truth.

We teach the children about respect during our assemblies and through conversations with have both in the classroom and around the school. Our weekly class circle time focuses on each of the core values and the stories we share in our love of reading time reflect our core values.

Respecting each other and celebrating difference and diversity forms a large part of our learning in RE. Every week, children have an RE lesson which focuses on the main religions of the world.

