



WESTFIELD NEWS

September 2017

Edition 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to inform you that the children have made a very positive start back to the new academic year. We have been extremely proud of how quickly the children have settled in to their new classes and demonstrated a positive attitude to their learning.

Thank you to those parents and carers who took time to attend our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday 6th September. If you weren't able to attend please look on our website at the classes/ curriculum pages where the power points and useful documents have been uploaded. We look forward to seeing ALL parents and carers at our forthcoming Parents' evening next month.

Outlined below are some of our September highlights ...

The main highlight this month must be welcoming our school dog, Milo to the Westfield team. We have been overwhelmed by the positive response we have had from the whole school community. A very BIG thank you to you all for making Milo feel so happy and welcome! The children have certainly enjoyed starting to get to know Milo. He has

joined them in whole school assemblies, where the children have discussed how to keep themselves and Milo safe. We are very proud of how the children have really risen to the responsibility of ensuring that they pick up litter, check their classroom floors are safe and there is nothing that he can chew or choke on! Every lunch time, the Key stage 2 children are enjoying having the opportunity to take turns in walking Milo with a member of staff. Again the children have shown how responsible they can be and have all had the opportunity to hold the lead and give him a treat! In addition to this, Milo has enjoyed visiting classes and joining classes to run the Daily Mile. Afterwards he enjoys a well-deserved rest in Mrs Stace's office before his next activity.



Thank you to the children and parents for your positive feedback

'I just enjoy having him in assembly and around school.'

'I really enjoyed stroking Milo he was so soft!'

'Dog walking was amazing because I got to stroke Milo!'

'I loved walking Milo and giving him a treat!'

'I am really happy about having a school dog.'

'Milo is the best! My daughter came out full of beans about her adventure at lunchtime with Milo, "I held the lead, even gave him a treat, and he licked my hand, which was weird and smooth, he sooooo cute!" From a girl who is very wary of dogs.Thanks for giving all the kids an opportunity to interact with Milo, for those who will never have a pet dog, it's the next best thing.'

To keep up to date with school life with Milo go on to our website and click on the School dog tab.

Dog Trust workshops

Thank you to Miss Branigan for organising for the Dog Trust to visit every class to deliver a workshop, where the children were taught about the invaluable work the Dog Trust does, how to read dog's behaviour, approach and stroke dogs safely and how to care for them and Milo. We received very positive feedback from the Dog Trust on how engaged and knowledgeable the children were during their visit.



Forest School Parent workshop

This year at Westfield we are very excited to have introduced Forest school sessions across the whole school. On Thursday 14th September, Mrs Lambert delivered our first Forest School Parent workshop. Thank you to those of you who attended this and for your positive feedback

'I think it is a wonderful opportunity.'

'I very much support the idea of Forest School – the more the better!'

'Love that the children are able to explore at their own leisure and learn through actually experiencing things.'

Thank you also to those of you who have very kindly offered to support Mrs Lambert regularly with Forest School sessions. If you weren't able to attend and would like to find out more about Forest schools visit our website and click on the forest school tab. Please inform the office if you would like to offer regular support and Mrs Arnold will discuss the process.

If anyone has any out grown 'wellies' all donations would be greatly received! Thank you



A trip to Tiggywinkles....

During Forest school sessions, a group of children discovered a baby hedgehog in our Wild wood which looked like it was trying to hibernate early. As it appeared quite weak, Mrs Lambert brought it inside and kept it safe in a cardboard box with some bedding while she contacted Tiggywinkles, the local animal rescue centre, to ask advice. Due to it being very young and weak she was advised to take it to their centre where they would look after it. Thank you to Mrs Lambert for rescuing this dear little hedgehog.

Sharing good practice ...

This month we were approached by Herts for Learning to share at a Head teacher's Well-being conference how we have introduced 'Mindfulness and meditation' at Westfield and the positive impact this has had for our children, staff and families. Thank you to Mr. Bethune for presenting at this conference and to Riley, Nadia and William in Year 5 who put themselves in the 'stretch zone' and talked about their own personal experiences and the positive impact it had had for them.

School Council

Also a very 'big well done' to all of the children who put themselves forward for School Council. Congratulations to the following children who will work with Miss Branigan during the year to share their ideas in finding further ways to improve school life:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Imogen Thomas	Zaki Harriet	Evie Harvey	Arin Tilly

Year 5	Year 6
Riley Suri	Ebony (<i>Chair</i>) Jamie (<i>Vice Chair</i>) Patrick and Olivia (<i>Secretaries</i>)



Day of Languages

European Languages Day has encouraged us to explore far and wide this year (including outside of Europe!) Across the school we have been to Greece, France, Germany and (taking some artistic licence in order to enhance our learning and explore the cultural heritage of our pupils) even Australia, the United Arab Emirates and Mexico! There's been learning of numbers, food, dances, vocabulary and national flags. All in all, a brilliant day of rich learning coming to life throughout Westfield Primary. Where will we go next year?!

Sporting updates this month ...

The children have quickly got back into running the Daily Mile where they are now aiming to impress their teachers with their effort so that they can run the mile with Milo!

PE and Sports Clubs

This month we are very excited to welcome two new clubs to Westfield; Hemel Storm Basketball and Challenge Tennis in addition to Sports Explorers, Netball, Yoga and Football.

Applications for Sports Leaders have been submitted and will be appointed shortly.

Pupils continue to enjoy using our outdoor adventure trail and gym and completing the Daily Mile. Please remember to ensure your child has appropriate footwear to access these activities.

Pupils from KS2 have been invited to compete in a Dacorum School Sports Network Cross Country event at Ashlyns School in October, good luck to those participating.

Regards

Suzanne Stace and the Westfield team

SEPTEMBER AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who have received awards this month.

Headteacher's Awards

Year 3	Year 5	Year 6
Alex.H. Harvey	Saffron Lexie Louie	Kaiser Reece Neve Leon Ella-Mae Luke

Values Awards

Responsibility

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 Nevelson	Year 6 Riley
Hector	Lucy	Anthony	Alexa	Sarah	Isaac	Neve	Lucy
	Imogen	Alice	Alfie	Elliott	Suri Riley	Olivia Jamie	Patrick Ebony

Friendship

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6 Nevelson	Year 6 Riley
Sophia	Mbali	Sonny	Renee	Ellie	Saffron	Joseph	Kaiser