



WESTFIELD NEWS

December 2017 & January 2018

Edition 4

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter, this month we will look back at the last events of December 2017 and then share our highlights so far of this New Year.

Child Shows parent

It was lovely to see so many of you at our last Child Shows parent and see how much the children enjoyed sharing their term's work with you. The teachers look forward to meeting you at our next Parents' evening on the 5th and 7th February where they will discuss your child's progress and how you can further support your child with their home learning.

Rocksteady Concert

On 8th December our Rocksteady Bands performed their 1st concert of the year to the whole school and their parents! Children from Year R to Year 6 formed the bands and each band comprised of two vocalists, two electric guitarists, drums and keyboard players. Everyone was wowed by how much they have learned since their last performance. We look forward to further concerts in the coming year. If your child would like the opportunity to join Rock Steady contact the school office for further details.



Thank you to all of the parents and carers who supported these events and supporting your child learn to play a musical instrument.

After our Christmas lunch, we were extremely lucky to be treated to the Rock Steady Band entertaining us, where the whole school community enjoyed singing and dancing to classic Christmas songs as well as some current pop ones— certainly one of our highlights at the end of term. Thank you Rocky Steady!



Vinīta Bhikkhu visits Westfield

On 14th December Vinīta Bhikkhu, a monk from the Amaravati Buddhist monastery near Great Gaddesden visited the school.

In a busy schedule, Vinīta Bhikkhu visited both the Year 6 classes and Year R in the morning and Year 5 in the afternoon. All of these classes were either currently studying Buddhism or will be studying it this year.

The rest of Key Stage 1 and 2 also got to learn about the life of a Buddhist monk as Vinīta Bhikkhu was our special guest at the morning assembly. He gave a wonderful insight into a life very different from that experienced by the children, many of whom were particularly shocked to learn that a Buddhist monk can only watch three films a year.

The children also learned about what it feels like to be dependent on others for your very food and many of the Year 6 children had brought in food for Vinīta Bhikkhu to take back to the monastery. The assembly ended with a period of meditation.

The whole school is very grateful to Vinīta Bhikkhu for providing us with such a rich learning experience. We hope to maintain and deepen our connection with the monastery in future.

Here is what Vinīta Bhikkhu said about his visit to Westfield:

"I utterly enjoyed the time that I spent with children of different age groups at your school. It's a very warm and friendly school. Thank you for inviting us too. The staff were very friendly and supportive. Please give my sincere thanks for all of them."



Key stage 1 Christmas Production



On Friday 15th December the children in Key Stage 1 performed to their parents and carers the Christmas production of Baubles!

Well done to all of the children who made us proud as they spoke so clearly, sang and danced and entertained their parents, carers and the school community. Well done Year 1 and Year 2!

Christmas celebration at St Mary's Church

Thank you to all who joined us for the Christmas service at St Mary's Church on our last day of term in 2017! Well done to all of the Year 4 readers who retold the Christmas story.

It was so lovely to see such a variety of Christmas music being sung and even rapped this year! Well done to all of the classes who entertained us with their beautiful singing voices. We would like to thank St Mary's Church for inviting us back again.



Year 6 do Westfield Proud in Ashlyns Maths Competition

Twelve of our year 6 children put themselves in the 'Stretch Zone' when they entered the Inter-school maths challenge at Ashlyns School on Thursday 18th January. We were extremely proud of the following children, Leon, Evie, Olivia, Luke JM, Luke G, Lucy R, Samuel, Calum, Eila, Emily G, Ella H, and Patrick where they took 2nd and 3rd place!

Year 6 Nevelson Talk Arctic on Face Time

Year 6 are studying 'Extreme Earth' and it has to be said; both the teachers and the children are loving it! There has been a particular focus on Antarctica and the Arctic.

On Thursday 25th January, Team Nevelson were lucky enough to Face Time with a scientist and a cameraman who explore and study polar regions, including Antarctica and the Arctic. Jeremy Wilkinson, a sea ice physicist who has been to the Arctic more than 20 times, was grilled by the children who questioned him about his favourite expeditions, his inspiration to do what he does, and what transportation he uses to travel across these amazing lands.

They also learnt about the World Economic Forum, that was being attended by world leaders as they spoke, and the need to spread the word about the effects of climate change and how we can all play a part in trying to

protect our planet. This unique opportunity left the class buzzing and only fuelled their wonder and fascination for the natural world.

A big thank you to Jack, his family, the school office and Mr Bray for helping to set this up.

Milo's first month back ...



This month Milo has really enjoyed returning to school after the Christmas break and is now very settled into his daily routine. Each morning he looks forward to being collected for his Daily Mile run with Reception class where he quickly runs to get his toy, wagging his tail behind him and off he goes to run with the children! Well done to the Reception children who run their first lap checking there aren't any balls or rubbish that Milo might decide to pick up and chew!

Milo continues to enjoy his daily lunchtime walk with children in Key stage 2, where they enjoy taking turns to hold the lead and feed Milo with a treat at the end of the walk. It is also a lovely opportunity to hear the children chat about their learning and how they are feeling while we walk. Thank you to the staff who give up some of their lunchtime to take the children out.

This term, Milo has also started to enjoy getting to know children on a 1:1 level by being read to and being stroked while children come and share their feelings. We are very proud of how Milo has settled quickly into his role at Westfield and to the staff and children who have really applied the strategies they have learnt from the Blue Cross and the Dog Trust so that everyone is interacting safely around him. We look forward to Milo's role continuing to develop and grow as he gets older.



The Blue Cross Returns to Westfield

On Tuesday 16th January, the Blue Cross returned to Westfield where the children in Years 5 and 6 had a workshop further developing their knowledge about how to safely interact around dogs. We received positive feedback from the trainer:

"It was an absolute pleasure talking to Years 5 and 6 today and I wanted to thank you for inviting Blue Cross into your school. We know that lots of charities want to get into schools so I would like to thank you for choosing Blue Cross on this occasion. I was very impressed with the children's existing knowledge. It was lovely to meet Milo too."

Continuing to keep our children safe

On Monday 22nd January, Year 5 and 6 received a follow up stranger danger assembly from PC Sue Desmond in light of the e-mail sent to parents last week's sharing the concern raised by a child that he felt he had been followed on the way to school.

We are very proud of the child for applying the skills he had learnt from previous talks and would like to thank the police for acting upon our concerns so quickly.

During the assembly the children were reminded of how to keep safe when walking to and from school. The children were encouraged to walk together in small groups, use their usual route and to inform an adult if they were concerned about anything on their journey to and from school. "Top tips to talk about stranger danger at an appropriate age level with your child." This communication was sent out this week via email.

This month's Sporting updates....

Football:

Unfortunately due to bad weather in December only the boys managed to play and were beaten by a very strong team from Bovingdon Academy. In our first week back they also lost to St Bartholomew's but were congratulated by the opposition for honest and fair play. Well done boys for modelling our school values in sport. The boys came back to win against Chaulden this week 4-3 great result Mr Bethune was very impressed with their performance. The girl's team played Hobletts Manor this week and came back from 2-0 to achieve a draw at 3-3 well done a fantastic result. We have several more games to play so fingers crossed for better weather.

Successes outside of school include Ellis in Year 3 who won a cup for his gymnastics and Ryan Year 3 who also won a cup for his success at Berkhamsted Tennis Club.

Several of our pupils recently competed in a Club Championship Gala at Berkhamsted Swimming Club. Well done to Lucy Year 6, William Year 5, Saffron Year 5 and Matilda Year 4.

On 26th January our Cross Country team will be running at Beechwood Park in Markyate and the following week at the Herts Schools Athletics Association Cross Country. Good luck runners.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Suzanne Stace and the Westfield team

DECEMBER & JANUARY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following children who have received awards.

Headteacher's Awards

| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 Nevelson | Year 6 Riley |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| Yann Dylan Max Amelia Caitie Kadin Ayla Bella Imogen Jack Emily Poppy Frankie | Megan Nina Oliver Sienna Yusuf Alice Molly Amelia Henry Anthony Evie | Alfie Eve Nicholas Poppy Alexi Saffia | Rebecca Holly Carmen Sophie Rosa Belle Sarah Phoebe Arin Ben Emma Chris Tilly Eloise William Charlotte Amelia Elliott Chloe Will William Zack Matilda | Daniel Felix Courtney Nicolas Nadia Lucy Suri Freddie Saffron Callum | Jacob Georgia Ella-Mae Daniel Olivia Evie George Jack Neve Kaitlin Lucy Leon Reece | Kaiser Shane Salvador Isabelle William Lauren Max Ryan Sumaiya Lucy Yasmin |

Values Awards

Understanding

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 Nevelson | Year 6 Riley |
|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------------|
| Lyla | Charlotte | Lola | Saffia | Phoebe | Ellie | Edward | Salvador |

Forgivness

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 Nevelson | Year 6 Riley |
|-----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------------|
| Josh | Charlie | Evie | Brooke | Amelia | Brandon | Daniel | Sarah |

Determination

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 Nevelson | Year 6 Riley |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Jayden | Dex | Ellie | Eve | William W | Skye | Lucy | Ruben |

Perseverance

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 Nevelson | Year 6 Riley |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Sian | Ayla | Amelia | Sophia | Lucas | Lexie | Georgia | Ryan |
| Olivia | | Zaki | | | Josie | Leon | Max |

Big Write:

Alfie F – Year 3

Olivia H, Sammy T, Bethany C, Annie C, Evie P, Jacob S, Georgia H, Maybelle B, Logan L, Jamie A, Isaac H – Year 6N