



WESTFIELD WEEKLY

8th September 2023

Edition 1

We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and we extend a warm welcome back to all of our returning children and their parents and a special welcome to all our new children and families.

We also extend a very warm welcome to our new staff – Mrs Trinder (Year 6 Teacher), Miss Abou-Haidar (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Plenderleith (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Rance (Year 2 Teacher), Mrs Sharman (Teaching Assistant), Mrs Spratley (Year 1 Teacher), Mrs Waheed (Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Hall (MSA) – welcome to the Westfield family!

Key Dates

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Clubs start next week as detailed below:

Tuesday 12th September

- Street Dance – Reception to Year 6
- Ross & Andy Football Club - Years 3 to 6
- Art Club – Years 1 to 6

Thursday 14th September

- Year 4 Swimming Lessons
- Basketball Club – Years 3 to 6

Friday 15th September

- Ross & Andy Football Club – Years 1 & 2

Advance Notice

Tuesday 19th September

- Early Years Phonics Coffee Morning – 9am

Autumn Term Diary Dates / Class Newsletters

A list of key dates for the Autumn term is being sent home today along with the Autumn term class newsletters.

RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) in school buildings

You may well have seen in the news that some schools have been affected by the presence of RAAC in their buildings. RAAC, or Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete, is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in schools and other building construction from the 1950's until the mid-1990s. After some time and in some circumstances this concrete can collapse.

However, we wanted to reassure you that the County Council had this school surveyed by properly qualified building surveyors in the last few years. We can confirm that there is no RAAC in this school, and no risk to pupils or staff.

Wedding Congratulations

Many congratulations to Miss Wynne, our new Year 6 Teacher, who got married over the summer holidays and is now Mrs Trinder. We wish Mr & Mrs Trinder every happiness for the future.

Start of Term Reminders

Below are a few key reminders as we start the new school year:

Snacks

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are given a snack each day and therefore we do not allow additional snacks to be brought in from home. In Years 3,4,5 and 6, children may bring in a fruit or vegetable snack only (fruit winders / strings are not allowed please). The only exception to this is if the children require additional and specialist foods to align with their medical needs / individual support plans. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child comes into school with a FULL water bottle containing fresh WATER only. We do not allow squash or other flavoured drinks in school which is in line with our "Healthy Schools" policy. Any water bottles containing flavoured or sugary drinks may be emptied and refilled with water. Thank you for your understanding.

Start and Finish Times

The children have been brilliant at finding their new classrooms and being on time this week. Just as a reminder in case your child has changed Key Stage and their timings are slightly different.

ALL CLASSES

Arrive from 08:35 and gates close promptly at 08:50

EYFS pick up at 15:00 from the classroom door

KS1 pick up at 15:10 from the KS1 garden area

Years 3 & 4 pick up at 15:20 from the main playground.

Any Year 5/ 6 children that are walking home will be dismissed at 15:20 – Year 5/6 children being collected from school will be dismissed from the 'meeting place' (playground at the front of the school).

Uniform & Personal Belongings

Please ensure that all personal items are named, including uniform (renaming of 2nd hand uniform), coats, shoes, PE kits, bags, lunch boxes and water bottles.

Headlice

Please check your child's hair on a regular basis for headlice, treat as required and inform the school office.

Jewellery

No jewellery is permitted in school except for small stud earrings provided they are removed or covered with surgical tape/plasters for PE lessons. Make-up, nail varnish, tattoos, shaved or braided hair are not permitted. Long hair should also be tied back with a suitable school uniform coloured hair band.

Parking

When parking on the roads near school please show consideration to local residents and do not obstruct driveways. Please do not park in Farm Place as this is private parking for residents only.

Reporting Absences (Illness)

If your child is ill with sickness or diarrhoea, they should remain absent from school for 48 hours after the last bout of illness. Please report all absences to the school office by 9am. Any absences that are not reported by parents will be recorded as unauthorised.

Contact Information

Please remember to tell us as soon as possible if you change any of your details, e.g. home address, telephone number, email address.

End of Day Collection Arrangements

It is essential that the school knows if there is any change in collection arrangements for your child. Please ring the office before 3pm if someone other than the person known to staff is to collect your child at the end of the day.

Playground Health & Safety

For health and safety reasons, the use of playground equipment is NOT allowed before or after school, even under parent supervision. Please ensure you supervise your children at all times when they are in your care and once you have collected your child at the end of the day, please leave the school grounds promptly. Children should not be hanging around the school grounds with parents or on their own as we have a number of after school clubs and childcare provision using the school premises. Thank you for your support.

EYFS Phonics Coffee Morning – Tuesday 19th September

We would like to invite all our Reception parents and carers to our Phonics Coffee Morning on Tuesday 19th September at 9am.

This is an informal event where we share details of our approach to reading and phonics plus the opportunity to meet other parents for a coffee and a chat. We look forward to seeing you there.

Secondary School Applications

For children in Year 6, you can now apply for a Secondary school place to start in September 2024. Parents/carers can apply online at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and the deadline date for applications is 31st October 2023.

Garden for Nature Competition



We are thrilled to announce that the judges from Berkhamsted Town Council have awarded our Platinum Jubilee Garden as one of two winners in the Gardens for Nature Competition in the Community Garden Category. The judges were really impressed with the use of space to engage our children (particularly the viewing logs in the playground which are great for insects), with a diverse range of plants for pollinators and several bug hotels and bird feeders.

We would like to send huge thanks to Mrs Stace for her original inspiration to transform the space, Mr Bray and a team of parent and community volunteers who worked tirelessly over weekends and school holidays to create the garden and a special mention to two of our parents, Mrs Ayles for continuing to care and maintain the garden for us and Ms Webster for entering us into the competition! Thank you

Dr Kathy Weston Newsletter

Dr Kathy Weston's Newsletter this week 'Blowing Trumpets' looks at all the work done 'behind the scenes' at Tooled Up Education to help and support parents and carers:

[Blowing Trumpets - Tooled Up Education](#)

Previous articles are also available via the tooled up website: <https://www.tooledupeducation.com/tooled-up/wednesday-wisdom/>

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals – ACTION REQUIRED

Did you know that by registering your child for free school meals, we can claim extra money to support your child's education? Plus, you can register even if your child has a home provided packed lunch. Registering for Free School Meals could mean an extra £1,345 to enhance your child's education. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a Universal Infant Free School Meal but unless you register with us, the school will not receive the funding.

We ask **ALL** families (irrespective of their income status) to register their child to receive a meal. It's quick and easy and only has to be done once and if all families register, the school will not miss out on additional funding entitlement. To register, please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals Thank you.

PONK – Parents of Neurodiverse Kids

Every second Wednesday of every month, Open Door in Berkhamsted run a parent group for parents of neurodiverse children, of any age, with or without a diagnosis. The group aims to provide a confidential and understanding environment for parents/carers to off load and share challenges. Their next meeting is due on Wednesday 13th September from 7-8:30pm. There is no need to book, however, if you would like further information, please contact: ponkgroup24@gmail.com

DSPL8 Parent/Carer Newsletter; Dacorum SEND courses, support & information for families

The latest 'DSPL8 Parent/Carer Newsletter: Autumn Term' & 'Dacorum Parent/Carers courses and support' newsletters are available to download from their website via the following link: <https://dacorumspl.org.uk/online-resources-for-parents-and-carers-2/>

This fortnights newsletter includes:

- Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) Coffee Morning: 26.09.2023
- Raise Resilience: Six-session course for Parents - Starting 02.10.2023
- Autumn Term DSPL8 Parent/Carer Support

Dacorum Parent/Carer courses and support from various local providers:

- Back to School Anxiety
- Services for Young People Consultation
- Hertfordshire Family Centre Consultation
- 'Introduction to the SEND Local Offer website' – webinar
- New Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) animations (all ages)
- Hertfordshire Family Centre Service SEND Chat and Play
- Health Hub Dacorum Newsletter
- DS Achieve Autumn Term training & Events
- Community Action Dacorum Training & Development
- SPACE Hertfordshire September & October Activities
- Families in Focus Autumn Term Courses
- Family Lives Autumn Term Groups
- Supporting links: Autumn Term courses & Workshops
- SEND Drop-in sessions
- Parenting Courses and Support in Dacorum Autumn Term 2023

Please also follow their social media pages for the most recent updates:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dspldacorum>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dspl_dacorum/

Local Events and Information

Storm Basketball – Hemel Storm's season restarts this weekend at Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre on Sunday 10th September vs Team USA Select at 6pm. Tickets available online at www.stormbasketball.net or from the ticket desk on the night.

Moor Park 10K Fun Run – The Moor Park 10k and fun runs take place on Sunday 24 September at Merchant Taylors School in Northwood. All profits raised will go towards supporting the amazing work undertaken by Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, including helping to fund the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre. To sign up or find out more please visit www.moorpark10k.org.uk

Free Taster Session: Girls Rugby – Fullarians Rugby Club is running a free taster session on Sunday 17 September for girls aged 10-18 years. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-taster-session-girls-rugby-tickets-708449520587?>

Letters/Flyers/Information sent home this week

- Autumn Term Diary Dates
- Class Newsletters
- Head Teacher Welcome Letter
- Year 6 – Height & Weight Programme and The Lancaster Model
- Year 6 – Secondary School Applications
- Clubs – Autumn Term
- Year 6 – Recommended Reading List

Copies of all letters sent home can be found in the letter rack outside the office and can also be accessed from our website within the '[Letters Home](#)' page

Our School Value for this term is Respect



Try Girls Rugby for free
on Sunday 17th Sept
1pm - 2:30pm

Open to all girls - 10yrs to 18yrs
 register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-taster-session-girls-rugby-tickets-708449520587?>

Fullerians RFC, Coningsby Drive, Watford, Herts, WD17 3BD

FIRST HOME GAME

HEMEL STORM

VS

TEAM USA SELECT
 (Friendly Match)

Sunday 10th September
6pm tip off
 Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre, HP1 1JS

Get your tickets online at www.stormbasketball.net
 or at the ticket desk on the night

Family:- £30 Mini Family:- £15
Adult: £10.50 u18: £6.00
Concessions: £8.00
** family ticket maximum 2 adults
 * mini family 1 adult & 1 u18

STORM BASKETBALL - FIRST HOME GAME

 

 www.stormbasketball.net
[hemelstorm](https://twitter.com/hemelstorm)

 Hemel Storm Basketball
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