



# WESTFIELD WEEKLY

17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Edition 10

## Key Dates

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

- INSET Day – School Closed

#### Advance Notice ....

#### **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

- INSET Day – School Closed

#### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

- W1SPA Dress Down Day
- Year 2 Class Assembly

## W1SPA News

### **W1SPA Events next week and beyond**

#### Christmas Fair Raffle Ticket Time!!

Please have a look in book bags, because raffle tickets will go home with children today!  
See the attached poster for details of our fabulous prizes!

Each child will get £10 worth of tickets (capped at £20 per family but just ask the office if you would like more!)  
Feel free to sell to Family! And Friends! And Neighbours!

Please return the money and stubs to the W1SPA Box in office (along with any unsold tickets) by drop off FRi 8th Dec.

In preparation for our Christmas Fair – please have a look at the donation schedule below for stalls and tombolas!

W/c 20th Nov	Toys & Teddies
W/c 27th Nov	Bottles (with Dress Down Friday on 1st Dec)
W/c 4th Dec	Xmas Jumpers and Cakes

**Friday 1st December** - Elfridges (Secret Present Room) – a chance for the children to get presents for loved ones.  
BOOK NOW - [www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa)

**Friday 8th December** - Christmas Fair, after school until 6pm - Food & Drink, Games & stalls, Stories with Santa!  
BOOKING & VOLUNTEER NOW <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa/>

**Saturday 9th December** - Santa Sleigh with Berkhamsted Rotary, 4 to 8pm - Volunteers needed to support this magical event that raises funds for Westfield.

VOLUNTEER NOW <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa/>

# Leadership corner

## A message from Mrs Williams



It has been a fantastic start to the year in our Early Years. We have been working closely with an Early Years advisor to further develop our practise and provide the continuous professional development that helps us to keep moving forward. You may have noticed that we have removed lots of our old information from the website and are gradually updating it with the new documents and overviews to ensure that you are able to check in with what the children are learning and plans we have for them over the year. We want to thank the parents of the EY children for working so closely with us to support their children.



## Forest School

We have learned about hedgehogs, squirrels, seasonal changes, pendulums (swings) among other things as well exploring and getting very muddy!!!

## Current priorities

Having already focused on the indoors, we are now working on the outdoors. BUT there is a lot of physical work to be done. If you can spare an hour the teachers would LOVE some help with some gardening. Also look out in in future newsletters for a wish list of helpful donations to add to our provision.

## Reminders

Please keep reading and practising phonics with your children.

Please avoid putting water bottles with books in book bags. We are having to throw lots of books away due to water damage.

## Get in touch

We always welcome suggestions and like to work in a solution focused way. Please get in touch!  
[admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk)

## A message from Miss Leach



This week we have been “Cool to be Kind”, which is Westfield's version of Anti-Bullying week. Research shows that if we talk about the behaviour that we want to see, we will get better outcomes. Thank you for continuing to support us with positive language and having positive conversations with your children, we have started to see a difference in the way children are responding to situations around school. Questions like “what's gone well today” are really helpful.

Alongside this, we've launched a new playground initiative called “positive paperchains” which all classes are involved in. Positive playground behaviour is rewarded instantly with a visual link to go on the chain for the class, and then the school chain - look out for it when you are next in school!

Thank you for continuing to support Westfield!

### The Big Ambition – Have Your Say!



The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

The Big Ambition is open to children and young people in England aged 0-18 years old. The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete and can be completed on mobile phones, tablets, laptops and computers.

The survey asks for information about the person responding, the child's age, and what school they attend. There is also an option to complete an easy-read version with larger text. The questions are slightly different depending on the age of the child answering, but, everyone is asked what they think the Government should do to make children's lives better.

The survey can be completed here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

## Attendance – Every day at school counts!

Attendance & Number of Late Arrivals: 6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2023						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96.88%	96.07%	96.07%	87.78%	89.66%	91.67%	94.37%
2	15	2	6	5	6	6

**Our target is 95%. Being in school each day, if well, gives your child the best chance of learning and making good progress both educationally and socially. Please support the school by ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives ready to learn and on time. Thank you**

## Punctuality Reminders

Thank you to everyone who arrives on time every day at school.

Unfortunately, we have a growing number of families arriving late at school. We appreciate 'one-offs' and exceptional circumstances do mean that occasionally children may be late into school. However, we have a growing number of children who are persistently late, meaning vital learning is being missed by some children.

Being late affects children negatively both socially and academically. It is really important that children arrive on time. It also means that both office and teaching staff time is taken up with ensuring children who are late get into school rather than focussing on their work, which staff should be at this time.

School gates close at 8:50am every morning. Please ensure that your child is in school by this time every day. Being on time creates positive, life long habits which are vitally important for children to develop.

**Please can we also remind you that if your child is absent for any reason, you MUST telephone or email the school office before 9am on each day of absence detailing the reason.**

If you are struggling with any aspect of attendance or punctuality, please do reach out to us. There are many ways that we can work together to improve the situation. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Primary Admissions – Applying for a Reception Place for September 2024

For children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, you can now apply for your child to start Reception in September 2024. An “Under 11s leaflet” from Herts County Council, giving details of how to apply will have been sent to all families of Nursery age children in Hertfordshire.

Parents/carers can apply online at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions) and the deadline date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

We are also delighted to be able to offer tours of our school throughout November and early January which can be booked by contacting the school office.

## Wellbeing and Parenting Information

### FACE Family Advice Understanding Anger

A 2-hour online talk for parents on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 6:30pm explaining what anger is, why we have it and how to manage it. To book online, please visit: [www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

### Dr Kathy Weston Newsletter

Dr Kathy Weston's Newsletter this week 'Making a Noise' looks at behaviour and the importance of being kind to others as part of the focus of Anti-Bullying week:

[Wednesday Wisdom | Making a Noise | Tooled Up Education](#)

### Family Lives Courses for Parents of Neurodiverse children

Family Lives are running some online courses for parents of neurodiverse children who are living together or apart. The courses are specifically tailored to help parents who are experiencing conflicts and challenges due to the neurodiversity of their child. For more information, please see the flyers below or visit: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)



## Local Events and Information

### Open Door's Community Christmas Pop Up Shop

Open Door is launching its very first **Community Christmas pop-up shop** on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, which will be open until the New Year.

Their café space will host a marketplace of locally sourced goods so that visitors can support local this Christmas whilst giving back to the community. There will also be a special Christmas shopping evening on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 6:30-8:30pm to which everyone is welcome.

The shop is hosted in Open Door's café where visitors can also stop for a bite to eat and a drink, in exchange for a donation which helps fund Open Door's running costs. The community café offers a warm welcome to all and during December will be decorated with festive decorations handmade by volunteers, which customers can enjoy whilst enjoying a toastie or perhaps a homemade cake or mince pie.

Alongside Open Door's usual offering of wellbeing and creative activities & classes, in December they are hosting three Christmas lunches for those who may need connection or community Tuesdays 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December find out more and book at [www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/community-food](http://www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/community-food). Also a reminder that the Community Pantry out the front of the building stores essentials for those in need to help themselves to, and the Community Fridge is open Tuesdays 10-12noon every week (apart from 26<sup>th</sup> Dec & 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan) to help fight food waste in Berkhamsted, whilst keeping people fed!

### Hemel Hempstead Christmas Light Switch On – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November

There will be a day of festive fun taking place in Hemel Hempstead Town Centre tomorrow with the Christmas lights being switched on and a firework display at 5pm. From 11am, there will be a selection of FREE activities including a Giant snow globe, face painting and a Land train plus a selection of Christmas stalls, food and drink, fairground rides and the chance to visit Santa's Grotto.

### Christmas Tech Camp

Next Thing Education will be running a Christmas Technology STEM Camp at **BERKHAMSTED PREP SCHOOL, HP4 3BG on 18<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> December and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> January**

They have put together an action-packed Activity Schedule which will include:

- ROCKING ROBOTS - Build, program and debug...bring robots to life with holiday cheer.
- CHRISTMAS INVENTIONS (ELF LAB) - Create holiday-themed electronic wonders
- 3D FESTIVE CREATIONS - Unlock your inner Tech Artist and craft stunning Christmas decorations with the magic of 3D pens.
- RUDOLF & SANTA CRACKERS - Design charming Christmas crackers that add joy to holiday gatherings.
- FESTIVE FILM MAKERS - Aspiring directors and actors will learn all about the art of film-making
- VIRTUAL REALITY - With the magic of VR, you can explore breath-taking virtual worlds and design your own adventures
- LIGHT-UP CIRCUIT CARDS - Become a card-making maestro!
- MAGICAL MINECRAFT -As a Minecraft engineer, you can build incredible structures, create ingenious Redstone contraptions, and bring your wildest dreams to life.

For more information check out their flyer attached or visit their website below

Their camps cater to **ages 5-12**. Spaces are limited, **so don't miss out** and book online at: <https://www.nextthing.education/product/berkhamsted-prep-school-christmas-camp/>

### Berkhamsted Guide Market

Girlguiding Berkhamsted District are holding a Christmas Market on Saturday 18 November, 10am-12pm at Berkhamsted Town Hall. There will be fun games, tombolas, kids crafts, cakes, refreshments and much more! Free entry; please bring cash for the stalls.

## Letters/Flyers/Information sent home this week

- Reception – Christmas Sing Along
- Flu Catch Up Clinic

**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 this half term is ..... Kindness**

WISPA PRESENTS:

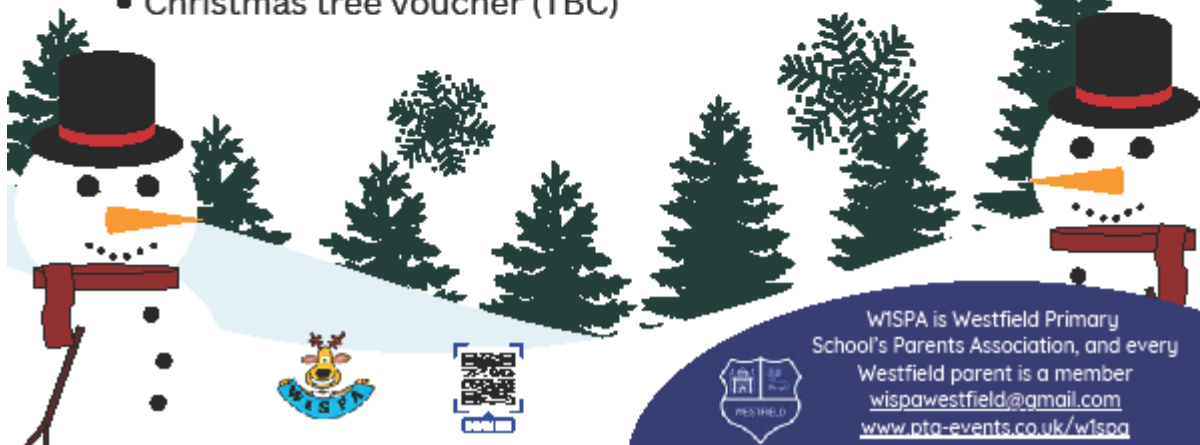
## Westfield's Christmas Fair



### Raffle prizes

- February Half Term swimming course at Everyone Active
- One month Everyone Active gym membership
- Oakman Group meal for two
- £20 DJ's soft play voucher
- £25 voucher for The Snow Centre
- Two tickets to Willows Activity Farm
- Milkshake for life at Cow Juice Café
- Game On holiday camp for two people
- Family season ticket to Bletchley Park
- R&A Soccer holiday camp voucher
- Large bar of Dairy Milk chocolate
- Two tickets to Bekonscot Model Village
- Two tickets to 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' Aylesbury Waterside Theatre
- Family ticket to 'The Nutcracker' Ashridge House
- Family ticket to Bucks Railway Centre
- 3 month subscription to Whizz Pop Bang magazine
- Party voucher from Sapphire Gymnastics, Pitstone (TBC)
- Family ticket to Odds Farm (TBC)
- Christmas tree voucher (TBC)

Tickets will be sent home in book bags - please return slips and cash to WISPA postbox in office by **Fri 8th** morning, thank you! Raffle will be drawn at the fair.



WISPA is Westfield Primary School's Parents Association, and every Westfield parent is a member  
[wispawestfield@gmail.com](mailto:wispawestfield@gmail.com)  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/wispa](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/wispa)

# CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON AND FIREWORKS SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER '23

11am-5:30pm

JOIN US IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD TOWN CENTRE  
FOR A DAY OF FESTIVE FUN!

Light Switch on and Fireworks at 5pm  
Rainbow Stage Entertainment 11am to 5pm

RIVERSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE - ALL ACTIVITIES FREE

Giant Snow Globe 11am to 3pm  
Face Painting 11am to 3pm  
Land Train 11am to 4pm

MARLOWES SHOPPING CENTRE

\*Santas Grotto 11am to 4pm  
FREE with a suggested donation  
to British Heart Foundation

PEDESTRIANISED AREA

11am to 5.30 pm  
Selection of Xmas stalls  
Food stalls/Bar - Mulled Wine  
Fairground rides

\*Pre-book available on [themarlowes.co.uk](http://themarlowes.co.uk)  
Limited walk in spaces available



Girlguiding Berkhamsted District

## Christmas Market

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023

10.00AM - 12.00 Noon

Berkhamsted Town Hall

**Stalls**

Cakes

Games

Tombola's

Hampers

Refreshments

And Many More!!

**Raffle!**

Tickets available  
from -

[Raffall.com](http://Raffall.com)

Raffle Prizes!

£50.00 CASH!

Gift Vouchers

Bath and Body Sets

And Lots More!!



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS POP-UP SHOP AT OPEN DOOR

A festive marketplace of locally sourced goods - support local this  
Christmas whilst giving back to your community!

Monday 27th Nov '23 - Saturday 6th Jan '24

Open Mon-Fri 10:30-3:30pm, Sat 10:30-1pm

Christmas shopping eve Weds 29th Nov 6:30-8:30pm

Cash and card accepted



Open Door, 360-364 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HU  
Community space, café and garden open to all





# Within my Reach

An online programme for parents of neurodiverse children who are living together or apart

This programme is designed specifically for parents living together or apart, who are facing conflicts and struggling to find common ground in raising their neurodiverse child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance relationships, strengthen parenting skills and create a more harmonious home environment.

## Who should attend?

- Parents who are experiencing conflicts and challenges due to the neurodiversity of their child
- Parents who want to improve communication and build stronger partnership in parenting and co-parenting their neurodiverse child.
- Parents seeking guidance, support, and practical strategies to navigate the unique challenges of raising a neurodiverse child.

These 2 courses will be delivered by MS Teams, over 8 sessions, on the following dates/times:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays from 27th February to 21 March 2024, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
- Wednesdays & Saturdays from 28th February to 23 March 2024, (Wednesday 7:00pm to 9:00pm & Saturday 10am -12pm)

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699



We build better family lives together

[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

@FamilyLivesHertsandBeds

Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 387762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5AZ.




## Parenting SEN children when separated online programme

A 6-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.

**Who should attend?**

- Separated parents raising children with SEND.
- Parents seeking guidance, support, and strategies for co-parenting SEN children more consistently.
- Parents wanting to create a positive and supportive environment for their child's development.

**Three courses will be delivered by MS Teams, from 7pm to 9pm, over 6 sessions, on the following dates:**

- Mondays: 4, 11 & 18 December 2023 and 8, 15 & 22 January 2024
- Thursdays: 11, 18 & 25 January and 1, 8 & 15 February 2024
- Mondays: 29 January, 5, 12 & 26 February and 4 & 11 March 2024

For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email [services@familylives.org.uk](mailto:services@familylives.org.uk) or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699



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# CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP

Next Thing



3D FESTIVE DECORATIONS  
VIRTUAL REALITY  
ENGINEERING  
ROCKING ROBOTS

SEE REVERSE FOR MORE ACTIVITIES

**BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL, HP4 3BG**  
18th - 22nd December and 2nd - 5th January

AGES 5-11 | ONLY £49 PER DAY  
9AM - 4PM DAILY

Find your nearest location on our website:  
[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

Ofsted Approved

CATERING AVAILABLE

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2023

What else is on?

Festive Filming  
Cosmic Crackers  
Ingenius Inventions  
Magical Minecraft  
Light-Up Cards

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities

**WHAT TO BRING...**

Packed Lunch and Snacks (NOT FREE)  
Water Bottle  
Medication If Required  
Weather Appropriate Clothing

**HOW TO BOOK**

CLICK HERE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

FIND YOUR LOCATION  
GET £5 OFF! USE CODE AT CHECKOUT  
**CC5**

**The BEST camp around!**

My daughter is fully inspired and will not stop talking about the amazing time she had. The Staff were experienced, welcoming and encouraging."  
- Happy Parent

[www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)  
E: [info@nextthing.education](mailto:info@nextthing.education)  
T: 01442873150