



# WESTFIELD WEEKLY

26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Edition 18

## Key Dates

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

- Football Match vs Tudor Primary School (Away)

#### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

- Year 6 Young Voices Concert
- Open Learning Morning – Parents Welcome

#### Advance Notice ....

#### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

- Feel Good Week

#### **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

- Nursery Parent Tour

#### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

- Safer Internet Day

#### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

- Football Match vs Broadfield Primary (Home)

#### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

- Year 6 Assembly
- Year 3 W1SPA Cake Sale

## A message from Miss Leach...



After several weeks of rain, it was a wonderful pleasure to finally see some sun peeking through today. As you can imagine, the weather has caused the roof project to run a bit behind schedule but we will know a little more about this next week when we receive an update on the plan.

At Westfield we are continually striving to improve our writing, and this academic year we are determined that our outcomes in all subjects, across the school, will be a marked improvement on the previous year's results in all areas.

You may remember that we have been accepted to be part of the HFL pilot for English, and as part of this we have been introduced to a range of new texts which have been specifically chosen to inspire our young writers. The children learn a range of different writing styles and genres across the year groups, and these are built upon year by year. These well-chosen texts provide our learners with good quality models for their writing, and they are exposed to rich language structures which show them how writing works and the effect that it can have on the reader. You can also help at home with this by encouraging the reading of different texts such as magazines and newspapers or listening to audiobooks.

Have a good weekend as always,

Miss Leach

# LEADERSHIP CORNER



## A message from .....

Hello! I'm Mrs Rance and I teach in Year 2 Thomas. As well as this, I also lead music across the whole school. This includes ensuring the curriculum is embedded and that children are making progress in this subject from EYFS up to Year 6.

I am delighted with the opportunities in music available to our pupils at Westfield. We have Rock Steady, instrument lessons, choir (KS2), Ukulele lessons (Y5) and Young Voices (Y6), year group productions, Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations and our weekly singing assembly.

Alongside these, we also teach music in each year group following a scheme of work. We look at appraising, composing, improvising and performing in each lesson with these skills being repeated and built upon each year.

## Topic 1

We have some exciting musical events happening soon.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February our Year 6 pupils and staff team are off to Wembley to join children from other schools across England to become part of one of the biggest choirs. They have been rehearsing songs for months ahead of this, with some difficult melodies and lyrics.

We will also be having a summer serenade next term. So if your child sings or plays an instrument and would like to showcase their talents – watch this space!

We run a choir for our Key Stage 2 pupils. It runs, currently on a Monday lunchtime. We would love for more children to join and grow this choir.

As a choir member you get the expertise of a singing teacher, and the opportunity to learn and perform a range of songs. If your child is interested please ask them to speak to me.

## Topic 2

Our Year 3 and 4 pupils are currently taking part in The Choral Project. This is an exciting opportunity that they have been given where they have a choral animateur in teaching them vocal warm ups and a wide range of songs from all around the world. This culminates with a performance at St Albans Abbey. We hope this it will encourage the children to enjoy singing.

## Get in Touch

We always welcome suggestions and work in a solution focused way.

Please get in touch:

[admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk)

## Attendance – Every day at school counts!

Attendance & Number of Late Arrivals: 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98.1%	95.12%	93.18%	95.02%	96.92%	90.13%	94.67%
5	17	2	7	4	7	14

**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**

## Reporting Absences

Please can we remind you that if your child will not be attending school you must inform us on the first day of absence by 8.30am and every day after, by calling the school office on 01442 862729 to either speak to a member of the office staff or leave a message. Alternatively you can email [admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk). When reporting your child's absence, please provide their name, year group and reason for absence. Thank you for your support.

## Respectful Behaviour

All staff at Westfield have a right to a safe and supportive work environment, and we expect that parents/carers and visitors behave in an appropriate and respectful manner at all times.

Should you ever have a reason to be unhappy with any aspect of school life, please arrange a time to speak to the relevant member of staff in confidence. We treat all visitors and parents with respect and we expect that this will be reciprocated. Thank you for your support with this matter.

## Open Learning Morning – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

We are looking forward to seeing everyone next Friday (2<sup>nd</sup> February) for our next Open Learning Morning where we will be focusing on maths.

Please drop your children off following our normal morning routine and then come into school via the hall. You will then be able to visit your children's classes where you will have the opportunity to engage with your child in some interactive teaching activities. If you have more than one child in the school, we suggest that you start by visiting your youngest child's class and then move from one class to the other within the time available.

We look forward to seeing you next Friday.

## Communications Survey

Analysis of the recent communications survey results are ongoing. Based on the feedback, the focus will be on streamlining the communications channels and providing the right information at the right time. Some improvements will be made quickly, some will take a bit longer or are ongoing. Please keep giving us feedback!

The following changes have been made so far:

- Year by year class meetings with slides provided for parents unable to attend (we recognise school time meetings are not available to all – we are always looking at finding better ways to communicate to more parents).
- 'A message from Miss Leach' in Westfield Weekly. Thank you for the positive feedback to date.
- Leadership Corner – again, thank you for the positive feedback.
- We are looking at moving Westfield Weekly to the website to avoid sending attachments, and to enable us to simplify the content and format.
- We are planning to update the website over the remainder of this academic year, ensuring it has useful information that is easy to access.

If anyone would like to see the full (anonymised) survey report, please request this at the office – we are not sending it out proactively due to the length of the document. Thank you.

### Dr Kathy Weston Newsletter

Dr Kathy Weston's Wednesday Wisdom this week, 'Strong Foundations' looks at early literacy skills and how we can support our children with learning to read and write:

[Wednesday Wisdom](#) | [Strong Foundations](#) | [Tooled Up Education](#)

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

### Families First Partnership – Parent Courses

Please see below details of forthcoming parent courses available from the Families First Partnership:

#### Parenting SEN Children When Separated

Spaces are still available on this 6 week course for parents who are preparing for, going through or have gone through a separation or divorce. Highlighting practical steps parents can take to help their children cope and thrive, as well as coping successfully themselves. Please see flyer below for more information and booking details.

#### Within My Reach

An online programme for parents of neurodiverse children who are living together or apart, who are facing conflicts and struggling to find common ground in raising their neurodiverse child. Please see flyer below for more information and booking details.

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

The latest 'DSPL8 Parent/Carer Newsletter: Spring 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/>

This fortnights newsletter includes:

- [DSPL8 EBSA Coffee Morning: 30.01.2024](#)
- [Anxiety Unravelling Course by Bounce Forward: 28.02.2024-13.03.2024](#)
- [DSPL7 & DSPL8 Emotional Based School Avoidance coffee mornings. For parents and carers with children \(Year 7 - 11\): 25.01.2024](#)
- [Spring Term DSPL8 Parent/Carer Support](#)

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

- [Hertfordshire Space February Activities](#)
- [NESSSle Webinars for Parent/Carers](#)
- [WithYouth Online Groups](#)
- [Diverse Families, Childrens Club](#)
- [Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshop: Spring 2024 Term](#)
- [Supporting Links Talking Families course](#)
- [Families Lives Courses](#)
- [Families in Focus February 2024 Courses](#)
- [Angels Autism & ADHD Support](#)
- [Family Centre Drop in Groups for Hertfordshire families \(ages 0-5\)](#)
- [SignVideo for Deaf Residents \(all ages\)](#)
- [Applications for supported internships with Mission EmployAble are open \(ages 19-25\)](#)
- [Over The Rainbow SEN Support](#)
- [New Herts Haven Café for young people's emotional wellbeing](#)
- [Neurodiversity Support Hub](#)
- [SEND Drop-in sessions](#)
- [Parenting Courses and Support in Dacorum Spring Term 2024](#)

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/](https://www.instagram.com/dspl_dacorum/)

### The Autism Training Network Parenting Workshops

New parenting workshops are available with The Autism Training Network, a Neurodiverse Training and Support organisation. The workshops are for parents who are currently awaiting a diagnosis for their child or who have recently received one and would like more information. The workshops will include:

#### Monday 5th February - An introduction to Autism

- An opportunity to explore what Autism is, the many strengths and the differences that make each child so wonderfully unique.

#### Monday 12th February - Communication

- Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.

#### Monday 19th February - Sensory Processing

- Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual's sensory needs.

#### Monday 26th February - Pathological Demand Avoidance

- A look into the interesting subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom and cost £25 per workshop for each family. To book, please email: [enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com](mailto:enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com)

### Local Events and Information

#### Cascade Camps Half Term Activity Camps at Westfield

Our wraparound care provider, Cascade Kids, will be running their Cascade Camps here at Westfield, starting February Half Term 2024!

Bookings are now open! BOOK NOW to receive a 20% discount on all bookings until 15th February. Simply enter the discount code: NEWYEAR24 when booking.

Cascade Camps runs Ofsted registered holiday camps for children aged 3-14. With Multi-Activity, Performing Arts, Theatre Workshop, Football, Artist's Studio and even the Cascade CUBS (3-4 year olds programme), there is something for everyone! At Cascade Camps, they strive to make camps fun, varied and safe for everyone!

For more information or to book online, visit their website at [www.cascadecamps.com](http://www.cascadecamps.com) or you can give them a call on 07395 087250. Please also see their flyer below for more information.

#### 2024 Dates:

February Half Term: 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2024

Easter: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April & 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays)

May Half Term: 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2024

#### Hemel Storm Basketball

Storm are on a great running streak at the moment and hope to continue this at home again this Saturday (27<sup>th</sup> January) vs Newcastle University at 7pm. Tickets available online at [www.stormbasketball.net](http://www.stormbasketball.net) or on the night.

### Letters/Flyers/Information sent home this week

- Year 3 Home Learning Resources
- Year 2 Whipsnade Zoo Trip
- Year 4 RE Lesson Photographs
- Meet the Teacher Presentations
- EYFS & KS1 Author Visit

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 ..... Courage**





**cascadecampsuk**

**cascadecamps**



**For Children Aged  
3-14 years old**

**Ofsted**  
raising standards  
improving lives

## Multi Activity Camps

# WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Where the FUN never stops!*



**Performing Arts**

**Zorbs**

**Giant Inflatables**

**Swimming**

**Assault  
Course**

**Football**

**Cascade Cubs**  
3-4 year olds

**Slip N Slide**

**Dance**

**Theatre  
Workshop**

**Archery Tag**

**Multi  
Activity**

**NEW YEAR OFFER!**  
**20% Discount**

**Artists  
Studio**

**Go Karts**

On all bookings made before 15th February  
(Enter Discount Code: NEWYEAR24 when booking!)

**Bushcraft**

**Tax Free Childcare & Childcare Vouchers accepted!**  
**Wrap Around Care Options from 8am to 6pm.**

[www.cascadecamps.com](http://www.cascadecamps.com)

07395 087250

[info@cascadecamps.com](mailto:info@cascadecamps.com)



## 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 M5 Teams, from 7pm to 9pm, over 6 sessions, on the following dates:

- Thursdays: 11, 18 & 25 January and 1, 8 & 15 February 2024
- Mondays: 29 January, 5, 12 & 26 February and 4 & 11 March 2024
- Mondays & Wednesday: 29, 31 January & 5, 7, 12, 14 February 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



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. 3817762. Registered charity No. 1077722. Registered address: 15-17 The Broadway, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL9 5H2.



## 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 M5 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



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## NEXT HOME GAME

STORM BASKETBALL - NEXT HOME GAME

# HEMEL STORM

VS

## NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

NBL Division One

### Saturday 27th January

7pm tip off

Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre, HP1 1JS

Get your tickets online at [www.stormbasketball.net](http://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



[www.stormbasketball.net](http://www.stormbasketball.net)

hemelstorm



Hemel Storm Basketball



hemelstorm