



WESTFIELD WEEKLY

6th October 2023

Edition 5

Key Dates

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 13th October

- Year 4 Class Assembly

Advance Notice

Tuesday 17th October

- Parents Evening (Late appointments)
- Year 4 Trip to Verulamium Museum

Wednesday 18th October

- Parents Evening (Early appointments)

Thursday 19th October

- Year 3 Trip to Celtic Harmony
- New to Reception September 2024 Parent Tour
- Harvest Celebrations

Friday 20th October

- Home Learning Celebration (for children in class)

W1SPA News

Events next week and beyond

Cake sales - every month or so a class holds a cake sale to raise money for their class - the first one is next **Friday 13th October** - Y6 to bring cakes before school, sale takes place at pickup for all to buy!

👤 Halloween Costume Swap - Any day **next week**, bring in unwanted Halloween costumes / fancy dress, and then on **Friday 13th October**, come to the swap at pickup to choose a new costume for your child(ren)! Save money and the planet.... (see poster attached for more info)

🎫 Buy tickets for the Halloween Disco, **Friday 3rd November** - now available at www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa - you can also sign up to volunteer whilst you're there! (see poster attached for more info)

👕 Next 'Bags to School' collection - **Friday 17th November** - where you can bring unwanted clothes / bags / shoes etc which raises money for W1SPA (more info at bag2school.com/what-we-collect)

✳️ Put the date in your diary for our Christmas Fair - **Friday 8th December** after school - more details to follow soon

🛷 **Saturday 9th December** (aft/evening) - Santa's Sleigh - we will be looking for helpers to support the rotary club & W1SPA to collect donations as Santa does his rounds - signup coming very soon

Thank you...

To all who supported the MacMillan coffee morning and AGM last week, together we raised £83.23 for this amazing charity (this is on top of what the children raised via their cakes in class)

Can you help?

😊 If you would like to help W1SPA raise money to support your child(ren), even in a very small way, please either sign up to volunteer at an event, speak to a W1SPA team member, or email us on wispawestfield@gmail.com - thank you!

You can also join our Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/wispawestfield or follow us on Instagram www.instagram.com/wispa_pta_group for updates

Attendance – Every day at school counts!

Attendance & Number of Late Arrivals: 25 th – 29 th September 2023						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
96.2%	92.94%	91.03%	91.4%	96.55%	88.45%	92.61%
0	4	0	4	1	1	2

Our target is 95%. Being in school each day, 91.03% 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 is going to be absent from school for any reason please make sure you:

- inform the school office as soon as possible
- inform the school on each day of the absence
- provide a reason for the absence rather than saying 'unwell/won't be in today'

Every half-day absence (known as a session) has to be classified by the school as either authorised or unauthorised. This is why a clear explanation about the reason for absence is always required. This also helps us to track and monitor any sickness patterns in classes. Thank you for your support.

Change to the lunch menu on Monday 9th October

On Monday 9th October, the red lunch choice has changed to 'Veggie meatballs in a bolognese sauce'. Please note this change of menu is for next week only.

Headlice

We have had a few cases of headlice in school over the last couple of weeks. Please can we ask that you check your child(ren)'s hair regularly and treat accordingly. If we notice live headlice on a child in school we will call you to come and collect them so that you can treat at home and your child can then return to school. Thank you for your support.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Our first Parents' Evening Consultations of the year take place on Tuesday 17th October (4pm – 7:10pm) and Wednesday 18th October (3:30pm – 5:30pm). The booking system via the Arbor Parent Portal will open on Monday 9th October at 6.00pm and will close on Monday 16th October at 9.00am. If you wish to make any changes after this date, please contact the school office.

Staff News

We are saying a sad goodbye, good luck and a huge thank you to Mrs Turner as she will be leaving us on Monday 16th October. We would like to say a huge thank you to her for all her incredible hard work, support and contribution to everyone at Westfield and wish her all the best in her new role.

We are also delighted to share that we have already successfully recruited a new Teaching Assistant, Mr Harry Ogden, who will be joining us before half term. We are sure you will join us in welcoming Mr Ogden to the Westfield family.

Harvest Donations – HOPE Food Bank

For our annual Harvest celebration we are supporting the HOPE Food Bank again this year and would be grateful to receive donations to help support them provide food parcels for local families. Please refer to the list below for suggested items and please send donations into the school office by 9am on Friday 20th October. Thank you for your support and generosity.

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://dacorumdspl.org.uk/online-resources-for-parents-and-carers-2/>

This fortnights newsletter includes:

- [DSPL7 & DSPL8 Emotional Based School Avoidance coffee mornings. For parents and carers with children \(Year 7 - 11\)](#)
- [ADD-vance Mini consultations: 09.11.2023](#)
- [SEND Surgery: 21.11.2023](#)
- [DSPL8 EBSA Coffee Morning: 23.11.2023](#)
- [Autumn Term DSPL8 Parent/Carer Support](#)

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

- [HPCI Parent/Carer Survey](#)
- [Children Wellbeing Practitioner Workshop: Autumn 2023](#)
- [Families Feeling Safe Online Courses](#)
- [Up on Downs Autumn 2023 Newsletter](#)
- [NESSie In Ed: Parent/Carer Chat & Connect Session & Free Online Parent/Carer Workshops](#)
- [Fit Fed, Read: Free Holiday Camp in October Half Term](#)
- [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/

Free Childcare Parental Survey

The government has recently announced that they intend to expand the offer of free childcare for working parents to children aged from 9 months to 3 years old.

The rollout of the offer will be phased over the next couple of years as follows:

April 2024 – 15 hours free childcare will be available to eligible working parents of two year old children from April 2024

September 2024 – 15 hours of free childcare will be available to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months

September 2025 – 30 hours of free childcare will be available to eligible working parents of children aged from 9 months

For more information please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

To be eligible parents/carers must meet the following criteria:

Both parents/carers are working (or the sole parent/carers is working in a lone parent family), and each parent/carers earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent of 16 hours at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage (£167 per week) and less than £100,000 per year. Working includes both employed and self-employed.

Every Local Authority has a duty to ensure there is enough childcare in their area to meet parental demand. This consultation will provide vital information to ensure that Hertfordshire has sufficient childcare options in place to be able to deliver the additional free childcare from April 2024.

This survey is aimed for expectant parents and parents with children under 3.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/DTDN3R/>

Face Family Advice: Understanding Anger and Anxiety Explained – Online Parent Talks

Understanding Anger

Are you trying to manage some angry behaviour?

What is anger? What makes us get angry? Anger is a strong emotion and it can both help and harm us. Face Family Advice are running a 2 hour talk for parents where they will take a look at anger and help you to understand: - The biological triggers that create an anger response - What anger is and why it happens - How we can use this knowledge to manage our own behaviour - How we can use this to understand and manage our children's behaviour. Session will be held on Monday 23rd October 2023 from 6:30-8:30pm at a cost of £24.

Anxiety Explained

This one off session explains what causes anxiety and how it affects our mind and body. Do you feel anxious and don't know why? Is your child showing signs of anxiety? Attend this session and understand the difference between stress and anxiety and learn effective techniques in managing both. Session will be held on Thursday 19th October 2023 from 6:30-8:30pm – cost £24.

For more information about either of these online parent talks or to book, please visit:

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Year 6: 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.

Transition to Secondary School – Support with the application process for Year 6 parents

Dacorum Family Services are offering support to families who may find the online application process to secondary school confusing and a bit overwhelming. They have provided a detailed vimeo below that explains the process from start to finish on how to apply for a secondary school place.

How and when to apply to Secondary School

<https://vimeo.com/731653452>

In addition to this they are offering a two-hour online session where they will help parents/carers step by step with the application process. The date and time of the session is **Thursday 12th October from 9.30am-11.30am**. Parents/carers can join the session online via MS Teams. Please email: Jan Nethercoat at jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk to request a place by Tuesday 10th October.

STOP MEANS STOP CAMPAIGN - 9th to 20th October 2023

Please find below a message from Hertfordshire County Council Active & Safer Travel Team about this year's Stop Means Stop Campaign:

Your lollipop man or woman will be wearing a bright 'stop means stop' tabard this October. The 'stop means stop' campaign is run to highlight the ongoing danger the school crossing patrols face every day when cars do not stop, even when they have stepped into the road.

Please show your support for them by stopping for your patrol.

Berkhamsted Fireworks – Saturday 4th November 2023



The Rotary firework display takes place on Saturday 4th November and discounted tickets are now on sale via the Arbor Parent Portal. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £6 for children and £23 for a family ticket.

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

Hertfordshire County Youth Training Choir

Hertfordshire Music Service would like to invite all aspiring singers, from Years 5 – 8, the chance to take part in their new training choir. If you would like to learn new music, make new friends, have fun singing and work with their enthusiastic principal director James Slimings, there are three rehearsals to attend:

- Wednesday 1 November 2023
- Wednesday 15 November 2023
- Wednesday 29 November 2023

Rehearsals take place from 5pm – 6pm at Mid Herts Music Centre, Hatfield.

You will also have the chance to perform in their next concert in the beautiful St Etheldreda's Church in Hatfield on Saturday 16 December 2023 alongside the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir! Please see the flyer below for more information or to book your place, please email: countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Local Events and Information

Little Gaddesden Brownies – Join us! Little Gaddesden Brownies has places available.

Contact jobushe@gmail.com for more info. Brownies welcomes all girls from 7 to 10 years old for nonstop fun, learning and adventure. It's full of firsts: she might grow her first plant, cook her first cake, put up (and take down) her first tent, light her first fire, go on her first fun-packed weekend away with guiding friends. With a helpful hand from our encouraging volunteers, she'll explore her creative side, get out into the great outdoors, and start learning to look after herself, others and the world we live in. There's something for every girl at Brownies, and plenty of moments she'll never forget.

Letters/Flyers/Information sent home this week

- Years 3 and 6 Cross Country
- Year 6 Young Voices Tickets, T-shirts and Music Room
- Wrap Around Care Survey
- Flu Vaccinations
- Berkhamsted Firework Tickets

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



WISPA PRESENTS:

HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

- **Mon 9th - Fri 13th Oct**
Bring your unwanted Halloween fancy dress / costumes to school and put in the box on the top playground
- **Fri 13th Oct at pickup**
Come along to find some new costumes for your kids - free of charge, or a donation to WISPA (there will also be a cake sale too!)



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

WISPA PRESENTS:

HALLOWEEN DISCO

Friday 3rd November

4:30-5:30pm - younger disco for Years R, 1 & 2

(parents/carers **MUST** stay with reception children)

- £5 per child (siblings £4)
- Pre-book face paint / glitter tattoos with ticket
- DJ & quiet crafts & sweet treat included
- Costumes welcome (age appropriate please!)
- Bring your own water bottle



5:45-7pm - older disco for Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

- £5 per child (siblings £4)
- Bring money for face paint / glitter tattoos / tuck shop
- DJ, quiet crafts included
- Costumes welcome (age appropriate please!)
- Bring your own water bottle



SCAN ME

Book at www.pta-events.co.uk/wispa or
scan the QR code



WISPA is Westfield Primary School's Parents Association, and every Westfield parent is a member
wispa@westfield@gmail.com
www.pta-events.co.uk/wispa



HEMEL STORM BASKETBALL CAMPS

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

John F Kennedy School, HPI 2PH

THIS YEAR'S CAMPS:

October Half-Term

Primary - Wednesday 25th

Secondary - Thursday 26th

February Half-Term

Primary - Wednesday 21st

Secondary - Thursday 22nd

Easter (April)

Primary - Wednesday 10th

Secondary - Thursday 11th

May Half-Term

Primary - Wednesday 29th

Secondary - Thursday 30th



All camps run from 9am - 3pm and cost £40 for the day.

Booking link: <https://stormbasketball.net/junior-camps>

For more info:
juniormcoaching@stormbasketball.net



Hertfordshire Music Service

Recorder Music Making Day

A chance for all recorder learners to come together, learn some new songs, skills and learn in an ensemble.

Dacorum Music School is very excited to welcome all primary recorder learners in Dacorum to attend our Recorder Music Making Day at St Johns Church, Hemel Hempstead.

Held on the 19th of October the day will run from 9.30-3.00pm with a concert of everything they have learnt at 2.45pm to parents and family.

For children aged 7+ (Year 3 and above)

Headteacher's permission will be needed from your child's school.

Please begin arriving from 9.15am (be aware parking is limited so allow some time)



Please sign up via the QR code opposite or follow the link below to complete application and questionnaire.

<https://tinyurl.com/mpa63ka>

Children are to bring a packed lunch, snacks and a drink for the day. School uniform not needed.

Day and time: 19th October 2023 9.30-3.00 (registration from 9.15, concert at 2.45)

Where: St Johns Church, Station Road, HH, HP11 1JY

Cost: £25

Contact us: dacorummusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk 01442 483400

For more up-to-date information and to find out about more events follow us on Twitter and Facebook - @HMSDacorum

Follow @HertsMusic



Hertfordshire Music Service

hertsmusicservice.org.uk




The Mud Pack Challenge

keep calm and mud pack on!

Sunday 15th October at Ashridge House

Go bigger. Go wetter. Go muddier. Get filthy for The Hospice of St Francis this October in the wonderful surroundings of Ashridge Estate.

7km or 14km packed with our renowned obstacles... May the mud be with you!

Special thanks to our event sponsors

British Gas

stfrancis.org.uk/mudpack

ASHRIDGE HOUSE

The Hospice of St Francis
100, 11th Floor, 200025



Hertfordshire Music Service

Making Music Improving Lives

Hertfordshire County Youth Training Choir

A pilot running in autumn term 2023



Hertfordshire County Training Choir is aimed for children in Years 6 to 8 who may have an interest in singing in a county choir!



Rehearsals
Wednesday 1st, 15th and 29th November
5.00pm - 6.00pm



Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts



Concert
Saturday 16th December
6.00pm (rehearsals from 1.00pm)



St Etheldreda's Church (Hatfield)



£60 (includes both events listed above)



To book your place, please email countymusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

hertsmusicservice.org.uk

Follow @hertsmusic

Supported by our partner funding by



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Anxiety Explained

Do you, or your children (especially your teens) suffer from anxiety?
Would you like to know what anxiety is and gain some understanding on how to manage it?



A two-hour online talk delivered by
Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE
on 19th October (6:30pm to 8:30pm) £24

Available to book now facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Are you trying to manage some
angry behaviour?



UNDERSTANDING ANGER

23rd October 2023. 6:30-8:30pm

Jane Keyworth, Lead Facilitator at FACE
giving a two hour talk to parents (and teachers), explaining
what anger is, why we have it and how to manage it.

Book online now £24 facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Kings Road Church, HOPE FOOD BANK – Harvest Donations

FOOD
Breakfast cereal
Longlife milk
Tinned potatoes
Mashed potato
Sweetcorn
Peas
Carrots
Tomatoes
Pasta sauce
Curry sauce
Tuna
Meatballs
Hotdogs
Chilli con carne
Chicken curry
Other tins of meat ‘meal’s’
Tinned ham
Corned beef
Gravy granules
Soup
Baked beans
Jam
Custard
Rice pudding
Fruit
Teabags
Coffee
Sugar
Squash
Biscuits
Pasta
Rice
HYGIENE PRODUCTS
Shampoo (adults/children)
Shower gel
Toothpaste (adults/children)
Toilet roll
Soap (bar or liquid)
Toothbrush (adults/children)
Deodorant
Shaving gel
HOUSEHOLD
Washing up liquid
Clothes washing powder/liquid/tablets



Applying for Secondary School (for Year 6 parents)

Date	Thursday 12 th October 2023
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Time	9.30-11.30 <i>Session will be held virtually via MS Teams</i>
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Are you applying for Secondary school this year?

Let us help with the worries of applying for a
secondary school place
We can offer a step by step guide to completing the
application form along with practical help and advice



For more details and to book, please email:

jnethercoat@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk

Please include contact details and
name of child's school when booking

Tel: 01442 401222 Ext: 5