



# WESTFIELD WEEKLY

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Edition 9

## Key Dates

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Cool to be Kind Week**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

- New to Reception September 2024 Parent Tour

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

- Children In Need – **Please see information below**
- Bags2School Collection
- Year 5 Cake Sale

### Advance Notice ....

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

- INSET Day – School Closed

## W1SPA News

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

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

We are collecting this week for the Secret Present Room, AKA Elfridges!

Please drop off your new items in good condition for children to choose and gift to the special people in their lives. You can sign up for Elfridges in PTA events from Mon 13th Nov for £3.50 per present. (See link below 😊)

W/C 13th Nov	New & Like New (Regift) Items for gifts - <b>Elfridges</b>
<b>17th November</b>	<b>BAGS TO SCHOOL</b>
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 17th November** - 'Bag2School' collection - have a half term sort out and bring unwanted clothes /bags / shoes etc to raise money for W1SPA - <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

**Friday 1st December** - Elfridges (Secret Present Room) – a chance for the children to get presents for parents/carers. Booking will open from Monday- [www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa)

**Friday 8th December** - Christmas Fair, after school until 6pm

We need your help with donations • Fun Games & stalls, Stories with Santa, Food & Drink

- Booking & Volunteer slots will open soon at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa/>

**Saturday 9th December** - Santa Sleigh with Berkhamsted Rotary, 4 – 8pm

- Adult volunteers needed to support this fun event
- Volunteer now at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/w1spa/>

Get in touch! Join our Facebook Group [www.facebook.com/groups/wispawestfield](http://www.facebook.com/groups/wispawestfield) or follow us on Instagram [www.instagram.com/wispa\\_pta\\_group](http://www.instagram.com/wispa_pta_group) for all the latest.

# Leadership corner

## A message from Miss Leach



It really was so great to see so many of you at our open learning morning, and the children have told me how much they enjoyed sharing their phonics, reading and spelling with you.

All schools have to use a systematic synthetic phonics teaching programmes (SSP), which must be on the government approved list - We use the Twinkl programme, and children have their books matched to the phonics level that they are on. You can find out more information on their website

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/twinkl-phonics/level-2-twinkl-phonics>.

## SEND update

Our SENDCO Mrs Slade had increased her time so is now available to contact Monday-Thursday. Drop her a line via the admin email address!

## Current priorities

Since the beginning of October, we have been part of an exciting pilot project alongside Herts for Learning to develop our Westfield English curriculum. We are using new books with language rich text and beautiful illustrations - ask your children about them!

## Reminders

A good way to improve writing is to read! Listening to your child read for an extra 10 minutes a week will make a huge difference, and they get to spend some time showing you how brilliant they are at reading!

## 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)

## Attendance – Every day at school counts!

Attendance & Number of Late Arrivals: 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023						
Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
97.5%	98.92%	97.18%	96.27%	97.59%	97.64%	98.61%
1	5	2	3	2	1	3

**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**

## Children In Need – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023



The School Council met this week to discuss how we could support Children in Need this year and decided that children may come to school on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November wearing something spotty in exchange for a suggested donation of £1 to the charity.

Please ensure clothing is appropriate as the children will still be taking part in their normal school day and will need warm clothes and footwear for outdoor play.

For fun, the children will also be taking part in the Pudsey Bearpees Challenge throughout next week.

Thank you for your support.

## Can you help our Early Years team?

Our Early Years team would welcome some gardening help with the Early Years raised beds - some digging and weeding is required ASAP. If you can spare an hour or two to help, please let the office know your availability. Thank you.

Also, if anyone has any lego sets with instructions that are no longer used, Reception would be very appreciative of any donations. Thank you



## Polite Reminder – Please drive and park responsibly

Please can we politely remind parents/carers to be mindful about where they park during school drop off/pick up times and to always drive safely, following the rules of the road to ensure everyone is safe. Thank you for your support.

## Eco Council Bulb Planting



This week, Berkhamsted Town Council very kindly donated to the school 100 daffodil and 100 crocus bulbs. Our Year 5 and 6 Eco team members were very busy on Wednesday getting their hands dirty and planting 124 bulbs around the school!

A big thank you to our Eco team members and to one of our parents, Mrs Ayles, who generously donated her time to help the children with the planting.

We look forward to seeing the bulbs in full bloom next Spring!





## 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.

## Dr Kathy Weston Newsletter

Dr Kathy Weston’s Newsletter this week ‘Raising Emotion Scientists’ looks at how we can help our children to understand their emotions and tips to help when emotions simply become overwhelming:

<https://members.tooledupeducation.com/wednesday-wisdom/raising-emotion-scientists>

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

## Parent Webinar: Creating a Safe Digital Playground for Your Child



The online playground can be a tough environment for primary-aged children. Inspired by World Mental Health Day and Anti-Bullying Week, Natterhub are running a free parent webinar to support parents in preparing children for the digital world. To register for the live webinar on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7pm, please visit: [Online Safety Webinar for Parents of Children Aged Five to Eleven Years \(natterhub.com\)](https://natterhub.com)

## DSPL8 Delivering Special Provision Locally



Delivering Special Provision Locally

We have been working on streamlining our DSPL8 Communications and going forward the parent/carer newsletters will now be distributed once per half term, with the next newsletter due on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

We will be using our social media pages more to share courses, workshops, events and support from DSPL8 and local services, so please make sure you like and follow our social media pages to be kept up to date with the most recent information via:

-  Facebook: [www.facebook.com/dspldacorum](https://www.facebook.com/dspldacorum)
-  Instagram: [www.instagram.com/dspl\\_dacorum/](https://www.instagram.com/dspl_dacorum/)
-  Eventbrite: [www.dspl8.eventbrite.com](https://www.dspl8.eventbrite.com)

Please also share this post to help us spread the word, thank you 

## Free ASD and ADHD Parent Workshops with Supporting Links

Supporting Links are pleased to be offering the following **3** workshops this coming **Spring Term**. These are open to parents and carers of children with ASD and/or ADHD across Hertfordshire, funded by the Local Authority.

**Talking ASD/ADHD: The Teenage Years - Tuesday 23rd January 2024**

**Talking ASD/ADHD: Tech Use – Wednesday 28th February 2024**

**Talking ASD/ADHD: Sibling Struggles – Monday 25th March 2024**

For more information, please see the flyer below or visit: [www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)

## Herts Music Service – Berkhamsted and Tring Orchestral Music Making Day

Dacorum Music School is really excited to announce their Tring and Berkhamsted Music Making Day to be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November at their music centre in Hemel Hempstead. The event is open to all musicians who learn through the music service whatever the instrument. It will run between 9.30am -3.00pm with a concert at 2.45pm for parents. Please see the flyer below for more information and booking details.

## Local Events and Information

### Storm Basketball Home Match

Storm are back at home this Sunday (12<sup>th</sup> November 5:30pm tip off) versus Teeside Lions. Tickets available online at [www.stormbasketball.net](http://www.stormbasketball.net) or from the ticket desk on the night.

## Letters/Flyers/Information sent home this week

- Letter from Miss Leach
- Letter from Chair of Governors

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**

# Parent & Carer Support TALKING ASD & ADHD FREE Workshops



## Spring Term 2024

For parents and carers of children aged 2-25yrs with suspected or diagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

### Tech Use



- What you can do to keep your child safe online.
- Why it is so hard for them to switch off and what you can do to help.
- What you can do to support any difficulties with behaviour when your child is playing.
- The effect of using their devices as a reward or consequence.
- Managing difficult conversations with confidence.
- Teaching your child to develop their own methods of regulating device use and staying safe.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

**7.30 to 9.15pm**

**Workshop 630**

**Book via Eventbrite Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-tech-use-630-for-parentscarers-in-herts-registration-749092675357>

### Sibling Struggles



- What to do if your children are fighting or arguing
- Dealing with jealousy and unfairness
- Recognising the pressures & worries on siblings of a child with ASD/ADHD
- Helping your children develop a network of support
- Helping your children to communicate with each other without conflict
- Managing your own difficult feelings and helping your children to manage theirs
- Where to access further help and support.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**7.30 to 9.15pm**

**Workshop 629**

**Book via Eventbrite Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-sibling-struggles-for-parentscarers-in-herts-629-registration-749126606847>

### The Teenage Years

For parents and carers of children aged 11-25yrs



- Teenage brain development and how it affects a child with ASD/ADHD.
- Reducing conflict by learning how to respond effectively to difficult situations.
- Strengthening your parent/child relationship.
- How to agree appropriate boundaries and teach risk assessment.
- Adapting our parenting approach to help our teens become independent adults.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

**7.30 to 9.15pm**

**Workshop 631**

**Book via Eventbrite Link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/talking-asd-and-adhd-the-teenage-years-for-parentscarers-in-herts-631-registration-749070348577>

Funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Parenting Fund



**Workshops are FREE to parents and carers living in Hertfordshire**

[info@supportinglinks.co.uk](mailto:info@supportinglinks.co.uk) [www.supportinglinks.co.uk](http://www.supportinglinks.co.uk)







**Hertfordshire  
Music Service**

## **Berkhamsted and Tring Orchestral Music Making Day**

**An opportunity for our Berkhamsted and Tring Musicians to  
come together.**

We are excited to announce our **FIRST** Berkhamsted and Tring music making day to all instrumental learners in Berkhamsted. Focussing on orchestral instruments, we look forward to welcoming as many students as possible to the centre.

Even if you have never played an 'orchestral' instrument before, just contact us and we can advise further. All are welcome to try something **NEW!**

There are a limited amount of spaces available on each instrument so it is first come first served.

Registration at 9.30am. Concert at 2.45pm. 3.00pm finish.

Sign up via the QR code or follow the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/BerkhamstedMMD>

Headteachers permission needed if a school day.  
Please bring a packed lunch and drinks/snacks. Uniform  
not necessary.



**Day and time: 24th November 2023 9.30am-3.00pm**

**Cost: £25.00**

**Where: Dacorum Music School, North Block, The Hemel Hempstead School,  
HP11TX**

**Contact us: 01442 453400      [dacorummusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dacorummusicenquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk)**

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](http://hertsmusicservice.org.uk)

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