

Dear Westvale Families,



As we reach the end of another short but very busy term, it feels right to pause and reflect on all that has been achieved, despite the near constant rain and the many wet playtimes that have tested everyone's patience and creativity.

Behind the scenes, we continue to be extremely proud of the school's achievements and the outward facing work we are involved in to support other schools and wider county projects. This reflects the high standards we maintain at Westvale and the strength of our work in teaching and learning, safeguarding, behaviour and SEND. Much of what we do is increasingly seen as worthy of replication. Sometimes we do not shout loudly enough about the truly excellent provision our children benefit from each day. It has become the normal for us, but it is something of which we should all feel very proud.

This term, Year 2 and 4 have particularly enjoyed working with visiting artists and have produced two wonderful permanent displays linked to key texts. The Rainbow Fish celebrates our value of Diversity and reminds us that we are all unique. The Colour Monster supports our children in recognising emotions and developing the language to communicate how they are feeling. These displays now form part of our learning environment and will continue to support children for years to come.

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Mrs Mitchinson today. She has been a valued member of our team and we will miss her greatly. We know, however, that she will remain a frequent visitor to Westvale. We are also pleased to reassure families that the school office is in very capable hands with Mrs Burdfield, our new Office Manager, alongside Mrs Lovegrove, who continues to provide such strong support.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. Your encouragement makes a genuine difference to the children's experience of school.

Have a lovely half term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Kelly



Our core values are:
Family Gratitude Responsibility Diversity Excellence
In term 3 we have looked at the value of Responsibility

Early Years News

This half term in reception, the children have been learning all about space. They explored how life has changed since the 1960s and learned that we can find out about the past using sources such as photographs, film footage, books, the internet and talking to people. The children discovered that the Moon landing happened over 50 years ago, discussed why humans went to the Moon and how space technology has changed, as well as the role astronauts play in society.

The children learned that we live on Earth and developed their understanding of scale by recognising where we are in relation to space. They enjoyed sharing ideas about what life might be like for astronauts in zero gravity, making comparisons to life on Earth.

We read *Aliens Love Underpants* and were inspired to create our own artwork, with a focus on printing, exploring patterns and textures through fun activities, including printing pants.

They also learned about transport, exploring different vehicles, how we travel to school and how our choices can affect the environment. The children investigated speed using vehicles, explored local maps and discussed ways we can reduce our carbon footprint.



Happy Bunnies Half Term Highlights

The Happy Bunnies have been extremely busy this half term, and the fun has certainly continued throughout.

We began by exploring different types of transport, with particular excitement around space travel, rocket ships and even journeys to the moon. However, our most popular activity by far has been our wonderful train journeys.

The classroom was transformed into our very own train, and the children thoroughly enjoyed presenting their tickets to the ticket collector before boarding. Once everyone was on board, tickets were carefully stamped and the children enjoyed a healthy fruit snack and milk during the journey.

Our train adventure took us all the way to London, where the children experienced a virtual tour of Buckingham Palace. After our visit, we returned to the station and boarded the train home.

It has been a fantastic and enjoyable half term, and the Happy Bunnies have engaged with great enthusiasm, learning through play, role play and imagination.



Forest School News

The children have been busy learning about garden birds at Forest School, thinking about their appearance, diet and habitat. We began by making various types of bird feeder to attract different species of bird and then choosing where to hang them to lure feathered friends into our school grounds. This gave us the opportunity to think about repeating patterns and use fine motor skills.

We observed closely using binoculars and finally, Year 3 took part in a nationwide survey called the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch. Most excitingly for the children, a buzzard was spotted by one group and also caught on our wildlife camera, landing at Forest School. Predictably, it chose a quiet day when there was no Forest School. We will be uploading our survey results to the RSPB website in the weeks to come so that our data can be included in the national count.

50 more baby trees have been planted and our Eco Committee have been busy planning Actions for Nature in anticipation of warmer weather and the new growing season.



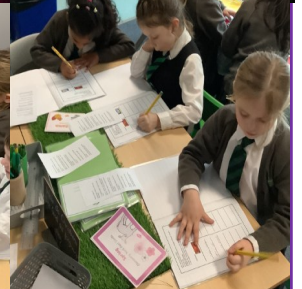
Year 1 News

This term, we have immersed ourselves in our topic 'Amazing Discoveries!'.

We have become explorers and astronauts, travelling by sea and space. The children have loved learning about and comparing the voyages of Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. We started the topic by pretending to be in space.

In Science, we have compared the different seasons. We looked at the change in weather during these times and how the weather affects the plants and wildlife. We all decided we prefer the summer to the winter.

We have become future textile artists in Art while looking at the work of William Morris. We have created our own wallpaper using repeating patterns, while also learning about what the perfect amount of paint is for printing. We put our computing skills to work by creating a repeating pattern on the Chromebooks.



Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fabulous half-term learning about important nurses from history, such as Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell. Children even learned why Cavell Way in Westvale Park is called that. As an end of topic celebration, children dressed up as a member of the medical profession or a soldier from the Crimean or First World War. Children reenacted a battle from the First World War and learned how to carry out a range of historical field dressings. In Art, children created amazing litter flowers in the style of sculptor Michelle Reader. We loved inviting parents in for our exhibition in the Forest School area to see the children's amazing flower creations.



Year 3 News

This half term, Year 3 have been busy observing, sculpting and exploring. In Science, the children have grown their knowledge of plants, learning about different parts, life cycles and the important role insects play in pollination. In History, they have travelled back in time to Roman Britain, investigating the impact the Roman invasion had in Britain. "What did the Romans ever do for us?" Alongside this, they have been getting hands on with clay in Art. Inspired by the work of Antony Gormley, they created their own models to build an installation, which they loved sharing with their adults.

Stoats and Owls have been organising information using spreadsheets in Computing and lifting the roof with their enthusiastic singing of Speed Bonnie Boat in Music. Our English lessons have been brought to life through The Pied Piper and Escape from Pompeii, supporting reading, writing and thoughtful discussion. In Wellbeing, the children explored how to look after themselves by learning about hygiene in a very memorable way, comparing clean and unwashed hands by pressing them onto bread and observing how mould developed over time, helping them understand how bacteria can spread. Lovely.



Year 4 News

Year 4 have made a strong start to 2026, engaging enthusiastically with a wide and varied curriculum. In Science, pupils have enjoyed building electrical circuits and investigating conductors and insulators through fair testing. In History, they explored the everyday lives of Saxons and Vikings, using evidence from historical sources to understand how we know the Vikings lived in Britain.

In Art, pupils studied landscape paintings by Claude Monet and Laura Elliot and experimented with watercolour techniques to create their own landscapes, which we look forward to sharing after half term. In English, the children used *Winter's Child* to explore grammar and write sequels, and are now learning about personification through *The Selfish Giant*. In Maths, they have been developing formal methods for multiplication and division and continue daily times tables practice in preparation for the Year 4 assessment in June. Regular practice at home will support rapid recall.

In Wellbeing and RE, pupils explored managing feelings, supporting others and what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. In Computing, they are practicing times tables and learning about audiobooks, with plans to create one of their own.



Year 5

It has been a busy and exciting half term for our Year 5 pupils in Roe Deer and Wildcats. In Maths, the children have shown fantastic perseverance as they tackled multiplication and division, moving on to apply these skills to fractions. They confidently explored long multiplication, multiplying up to four digit numbers by two digit numbers, as well as developing their accuracy with short division. In English, we were inspired by the beautiful text *Children of the Benin Kingdom*. The children wrote thoughtful diary entries from the perspective of one of the main characters, showing great empathy and imagination. They also produced clear and informative explanation texts about butterflies, taking pride in publishing and illustrating their final pieces. Our Reading sessions took us on a journey through a non fiction text all about space and the wonders of night time, sparking curiosity and lots of excellent discussion.

In History, we delved into the fascinating world of the Ancient Maya civilisation, learning about their achievements and exploring theories around their eventual downfall. This linked perfectly with Art, where pupils studied ancient Mayan patterns, experimenting with geometric and organic shapes to create striking designs. Finally, in Music, Year 5 have been hard at work learning songs for the Young Voices concert. There is a lot to remember, but their enthusiasm has shone through when they proudly performed their songs to the rest of the school.



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

We love to celebrate achievements beyond school

Please remember that we love to celebrate pupils' achievements outside of school. These successes reflect children's wider development, commitment and confidence, and we value recognising them as part of our school community.

This might include achievements such as winning a football match with a local team, passing a Grade 2 piano exam, achieving Level 5 in swimming, taking on a volunteering role, raising money for a good cause, or developing a Young Enterprise idea. Every effort and accomplishment is worth celebrating.

If your child has an achievement you would like us to recognise, please email the school office with a brief description and, where appropriate, a photograph. This allows us to share and celebrate successes in assemblies and newsletters.



Congratulations to our Accelerated Reader Millionaire readers!

Since Christmas, the following pupils have been newly awarded for reading over one million words on Accelerated Reader. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects their dedication, developing love of reading and growing confidence as readers.

Reaching this milestone requires sustained effort over time and demonstrates strong engagement with reading both in school and at home. It also shows positive reading habits that will continue to support progress across the curriculum.

Charlie (yr5) - 4 times millionaire
Ibrahim (yr 3) - 2 times millionaire
Theo S (yr5) - 1 time millionaire
Iris (yr4) - 1 time millionaire



Did you know we open early to support learning

Our school opens its doors to pupils ten minutes before registers are taken each morning. This may seem like a small window of time, but across a full school year, it equates to **1,900 minutes of additional learning** and support for our children.

This early opening is not incidental. Teachers and support staff offer this time deliberately to provide extra support before the school day and its busy timetable begin. Mornings can be a particularly valuable opportunity to settle children into learning, greet them warmly and ensure they feel ready and confident for the day ahead. This calm and positive start has a noticeable impact on pupils' wellbeing and readiness to learn. Early morning activities are carefully planned and bespoke to pupils' individual needs and gaps in learning. These may include additional speech and language support, extra times table practice, focused reading sessions or targeted spelling work. For some children, this quiet and supportive start helps to build confidence, reinforce key skills and reduce barriers to learning later in the day.

We encourage families to take advantage of this early opening where possible. Regular attendance at these sessions can make a meaningful difference over time, supporting both academic progress and positive attitudes to learning.



Spring Term - Dates

| | |
|--|--|
| Tuesday 24th February (3:30pm for parents) | Year 4 Watercolour Exhibition |
| Wednesday 25th February | Year 5 Young Voice 02 arena |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day |
| Thursday 12th March 8:50am | Stoats Class Assembly – parents welcome |
| Thursday 12th March 2pm | SEND coffee afternoon—Autism |
| Friday 13th March | INSET DAY |
| Wednesday 18th March | Class photos |
| Monday 23rd March 3:40pm—5:40pm | Parent teacher consultations |
| Tuesday 24th March 4:30pm –7:30pm | Parent teacher consultations |
| Friday 27th March | Winning house non uniform day |
| Friday 27th March 8:45am | Easter Bonnet Parade—all parents welcome |

Important Information: Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Pupil Absence

For the past three years, Westvale Park has consistently followed national guidance and local authority procedures by issuing penalty notices for term time holidays where there are no exceptional circumstances. This approach has been applied fairly and consistently to all families.

To ensure fairness and transparency, this practice will continue to apply to all future requests for term time leave. Holidays taken during term time, without exceptional circumstances, will therefore continue to be recorded as unauthorised absence and may result in a penalty notice being issued. We have a duty to promote good attendance and to ensure that all children benefit fully from their excellent education offer.

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. **If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.**
2. **If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/ children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.**
3. **If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/ children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s444 Education Act 1996.**

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.



UPDATES

FROM



A huge thank you to everyone who took part in Wear Something You Love Day today – we've raised an amazing £240 and counting! It's not too late to contribute if you haven't already; donations can still be made via the SumUp links previously shared.

There's plenty to look forward to after half term. In the first week back, we'll be holding a preloved shop on Friday 27th February, where you'll be able to buy preloved costumes for World Book Day, along with preloved school uniform. Over the break, please have a sort through any outgrown costumes and consider donating them – donations welcome during the first week after half term (see attached flyer for details).

Looking further ahead, we'll be holding a Mothers Day shop and a chocolate tombola for Easter - dates and more info to follow.

We're also delighted to share that POW funds have been used to purchase a much-needed additional hen house for our school chickens. Keep an eye out for it arriving in the coop soon!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT US ALL YEAR!

easyfundraising

Doing your weekly food shop online or ordering a take out? Taking out insurance or booking flights? If you haven't already signed up to a cash back site then shop for your usual purchases via <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/parentsofwestvalepark>. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising at no extra cost to yourself!



Start playing Your School Lottery to help raise funds for our school. Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week and there is a guaranteed winner for each school every Saturday which is drawn on a raffle basis. There is also a national jackpot drawn weekly with a top prize of £25,000! Sign up and buy your tickets here - <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/westvale-park-primary-academy-and-nursery>



We have our very own clothes recycling bin located on the school premises. Place tied big bags of pre-loved wearable clothing, good quality paired shoes and household textiles outside reception (under cover) and they will be placed in the clothing bin ready for collection.

Name Labels and Stamps

Fed up of lost uniform? POW have teamed up with the following labelling companies who will make a donation to POW every time you make a purchase by adding in our school code or using our dedicated link.

STIKINS®

Multipurpose name labels for clothes, shoes, lunch boxes and all school items. To order visit www.stikins.co.uk and use our fundraising number 36187.



Colourful personalised name labels for all of your children's possessions. Use our school ID 109470 at checkout.



Earn 15% commission for POW when you buy any product via our link <http://bit.ly/STAMPRIH68SU>. Plus you get a £4.99 discount when ordering a deluxe bundle using our code RH68SU

Contact Us



WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME SHOP

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Do you have any children's costumes at home
that are no longer needed?

We are creating a **World Book Day Costume Shop**
to help every child celebrate in style!

★ We're Looking For ★

★ Book character costumes

★ Superheroes

★ Princes, princesses
& fairy tale characters

★ Animals

All children's sizes welcome

CLOTHING DONATION BOX

Costumes

📍 Outside the Main Office

📅 From Monday 23rd February

🕒 Anytime

Your donation will help make World Book Day
fun, inclusive and affordable for everyone! ❤️

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! 🌈