

# Westvale Park Primary Academy and Nursery News

## Term 4 2026

Dear Westvale Families,



As we reach the end of what has been a short but fantastic half term, I am delighted to reflect on the many successes across our school. Our children have demonstrated excellent academic progress, particularly evident in the recent quizzes during our assessment week. Their commitment to learning and determination to succeed continue to make us incredibly proud.



We were also pleased to welcome our annual external quality assurance reviewer, formerly one of Her Majesty's Inspectors. Their feedback confirmed that we remain an exceptional school, characterised by robust teaching and consistently high expectations of behaviour. Our provision for SEND was highlighted as a particular strength, with recognition given to our Forest (internal alternative provision), the high quality adaptations seen across all classes, and the rich outdoor education opportunities we provide. Underpinning all of this was the acknowledgement of stable and highly effective leadership. We are immensely proud of these comments.



However, what truly makes our school special is our community. This has been evident in so many ways this term. Thank you to our wonderful group of parents who led engaging Eid workshops and supported POW events, and to everyone who joined us for the joyful end of term Easter bonnet parade. Your involvement and support make a real difference to the life of our school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership.

Have a love easter break.

Warm regards,

Mrs Kelly

Our ducks are settling in happily at St Joan's Farm. Do pop by and take a look at their lovely farm shop too!



2025/2026	Phoenix	Dragon	Pegasus	Griffin
Autumn	1089	1263	970	1087
Spring	635	723	609	639

**Our core values are:**  
**Family Gratitude Responsibility Diversity Excellence**  
*In term 4 we have looked at the value of Curiosity*

**Early Years News**

This half term has been full of adventure, imagination and celebration across our Early Years classes. Our main focus text, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, inspired the children to become explorers as we worked together to follow a map and take part in our very own real-life bear hunt. We journeyed through different "terrains," bringing the story to life with lots of excitement along the way.

In Nursery, the children enjoyed reading *The Gruffalo*, while Reception explored *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. These stories sparked wonderful discussions, role play and creative activities. A highlight for everyone was our teddy bear picnic, where we shared delicious treats including "Gruffalo crumble" and porridge—just like in the stories!

We also spent time learning about and celebrating Eid. The children discovered why this special festival is important to many families, tasted dates, and had great fun making and decorating their own Eid biscuits.

It has been a joyful and enriching half term, full of storytelling, exploration and cultural celebration. We are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and curiosity, and we look forward to more exciting learning next term.



## Forest School News

The children have been enjoying the first signs of Spring at Forest School; using magnifying glasses to look for buds appearing on plants in our hedgerows and spotting daffodils blooming in the school grounds. They have been identifying insects and mammals emerging from hibernation including queen bees and ladybirds.

The sunshine has been so welcome and has encouraged everyone to use their creative and problem-solving skills in the loose parts play area; building giant birds' nests, slides and obstacle courses using sticks, tyres, pipes and planks.

We've also been using saws to make 'log dogs' and baking bread over the fire with our Year 3 children.

With the better weather, we are starting to implement more ways to carry on improving our school grounds for nature. It is the third year of our Wilder Schools project with Surrey Wildlife Trust and we shall be creating a sensory garden area, starting to grow some strawberries and salad vegetables in our new raised beds and continuing to take care of our new trees.

The Eco Committee have just taken part in The Great Big School Clean again, collecting litter in our school grounds, as well as re-sowing our wild flower area.

**We are always keen to encourage parents and carers to come and help out at Forest School and now that we have newly laid gravel paths, our Forest School is really accessible, so do get in touch with the school office or Mrs von Speyr if you would like to help out at your child's session.**



## Year 1 News

This half term, our learning has been centred around our exciting topic, 'Amazing Discoveries'. We've explored the world by learning about the seven continents and the oceans that surround them. If you're not quite sure of all their names, ask your child — they'll likely be eager to show off what they know (and may even sing them for you!).

In Maths, we have been learning about measuring and have enjoyed taking our learning outside to measure different objects using a range of equipment.

In Science, we have been developing our enquiry skills by making predictions, carrying out investigations, and evaluating the performance of boats and paper aeroplanes. During our Design and Technology lessons, we stepped into the role of engineers, designing and building mechanisms using levers and sliders.

In Computing, we have been collecting and inputting data to create pictograms, helping us to present information clearly and understand it more easily.

We are looking forward to introducing our next topic, 'Who's the King of the Castle?', which will begin with an exciting trip to Hever Castle.



## Year 2 News

What an incredible term of learning and excitement we've had in Year 2. The first major highlight was watching ducklings hatch as part of our 'lifecycle' topic in science. The children loved seeing the ducklings hatch, grow and swim with each other. The Kidd family have kindly now adopted the ducks to live a happy, free-range life on their farm. The term finished with an exciting Rio de Janeiro Carnival Day. Children learned to Samba, created bright carnival masks, and learned about the history of the carnival. We hope you all have a great Easter break and can't wait for all the exciting learning and experiences lined up for the Summer Term.



## Year 3 News

Year 3 have had an incredibly busy and enriching half term. They began their learning journey as Chief Tea Tasters, inspired by our class text *Cloud Tea Monkeys*. The children sampled a variety of teas from around the world, which supported them in producing some excellent non chronological reports about tea. You may already have enjoyed reading these in their published writing folders. In Food Technology, pupils have explored different ingredients and flavours, tasting and combining foods in preparation for designing and recommending sandwiches to staff. After Easter, they will have the opportunity to make their final creations.

Mathematics has included a range of practical and hands on experiences. The children have developed their understanding of fractions, reading scales, capacity, and adding and subtracting mass. It has also been fantastic to see many pupils beginning to reach 'Go Green' on their Times Table Rockstars heatmaps. Please continue to encourage regular practice at home.

We have also seen strong progress in Accelerated Reader. Continued reading and quizzing at home is invaluable, as reading underpins all areas of learning.

In Science, pupils investigated the question 'Why does your shadow change length during the day?' Through both indoor and outdoor activities, including our Maypole investigation on the playground, they explored how light affects shadows.

In Geography, the children travelled virtually to southern Europe, focusing on Italy. They examined both human and physical features of the country and considered what it might be like to visit.

It has been a full and exciting half term, and we are very much



## Year 4 News

In our Money Heroes lesson, the children explored the difference between needs and wants, developing an understanding of how thoughtful spending can support saving over time. In RE, they have been learning about the significance of Holy Week for Christians as we approach Easter. Our wellbeing sessions have encouraged reflection on the impact of our choices on the planet, with particular concern shown when considering pollution in our oceans. In English, we have been studying *The Baker by the Sea*, using it as inspiration to write persuasive brochures that bring the village to life through rich and appealing language. In geography, the children have used atlases to investigate Sweden and compare life there with the UK. Science learning has focused on sound, including how vibrations travel, and how pitch and volume can be changed. The children also enjoyed measuring sound using a decibel recorder and exploring materials for soundproofing. In mathematics, we have continued developing our understanding of fractions, particularly those greater than one whole. Our DT work has centred on bulbs and circuits, with the children designing and creating their own torches, complete with homemade switches. It has been wonderful to see such creativity, with recycled materials put to excellent use. As we approach the final half term before the national Year 4 multiplication check, we would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging regular practice on TTRockstars over the holiday, along with sound checks to build fluency within the six



## Year 5

It has been a fantastic and action packed half term for our Year 5 classes, Wildcats and Roe Deer. The children have shown great enthusiasm, determination and maturity across all areas of their learning, and we are incredibly proud of them.

A real highlight was attending the Young Voices concert, which we had been preparing for since September. Being part of the largest choir in the world was an unforgettable experience, and the children performed brilliantly. Thank you to all the parents who came to support us.

In Maths, the children have worked hard to understand fractions, decimals and percentages, showing excellent resilience with this challenging topic. In English, they explored *The Whale* through thoughtful discussion and creative writing, producing some fantastic film pitches.

In Design and Technology, the children designed and made vegetable pies, developing their cooking skills with delicious results. They have also shown great maturity in Wellbeing lessons when learning about puberty, approaching the topic with sensitivity and respect.

In Computing, the children have developed their data analysis skills, learning how to calculate averages and present information using line graphs.



## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Blake in Year 5 recently set himself an impressive swimming challenge, aiming to complete five lengths within five minutes. Not only did he meet his goal, but he exceeded it by finishing in an incredible four minutes and eleven seconds.

Blake took on this challenge to raise money for a Polar Bear charity, showing both determination and a strong sense of purpose. We are very proud of his achievement and the enthusiasm he has shown throughout.

I'm raising £100 to Donate to the Polar Bear International Charity by swimming at my local leisure centre. 5x25m lengths in 5 minutes. (Blake Smith aged 9)

Organised by Amy Smith

240% £240 raised of £100 target by 19 supporters

## Accelerated Reader Millionaires

Congratulations to our Accelerated Reader Millionaire readers this term.

Pheobe in Year 3 has achieved Millionaire status, and Iris in Year 4 has reached the fantastic milestone of Double Millionaire.

We are incredibly proud of their commitment to reading and this wonderful achievement.



## Summer Term 5 Dates

Monday 13th April	Inset Day—No Pupils
Friday 17th April	Year 2 Battle of Hastings workshop (dress up optional)
Tuesday 21st April	Year 1 Trip to Hever Castle
Monday 20th April (2 week block)	Year 5 swimming lessons
Thursday 23rd April 8:50am	Squirrels Class Assembly—parents welcome
Wednesday 29th April	Reception Trip to St Joans Farm
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 6th May	Year 3 Victorian workshop
Friday 8th May 12:30pm—3pm	May Day Celebration/Volunteer thank you
Tuesday 19th May 9am	SEND coffee morning—neurodiversity
Wednesday 20th May	World Bee Day—EYFS Dress up day
Thursday 21st May 8:50am	Ducks Class Assembly - parents welcome
Thursday 21st May 3:30pm	Year 1 Art Gallery Walk
Monday 25th May—Fri 29th May	Half term

UPDATES

FROM



### PTA Update - March

It's been a busy and successful few weeks for the POW team, and we really appreciate all your continued support.

Since our last update, we've held our Mother's Day Gift Shop, which was a great success. The children loved choosing a gift for someone special, and we sold over 266 gifts.

Our Chocolate Tombola was also a highlight, bringing lots of excitement (and chocolate!) to the school. We are very grateful for all the generous donations.

We're pleased to share that the new chicken coop is now in place and already being well used. In addition, the drum kit is now up and running, with Sussex Music delivering lessons, and the iPads purchased last year continue to support learning across the school.

Thanks to your support, we have raised an incredible £1250 this quarter. We could not do this without you.

We've noticed many children have grown since September, so a uniform sale will be held in the first week of term. If you need uniform before then, please do get in touch via email.

Please keep an eye out for the return of Frozen Fridays, our upcoming Whisky Tasting Night, and a one-off hip hop dance class fundraiser - more details coming soon.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at [info@parentsofwestboughacademy.org](mailto:info@parentsofwestboughacademy.org)

Wishing you all a lovely Easter



### 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](http://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/STAMPRH685U>. Plus you get a £4.99 discount when ordering a deluxe bundle using our code RH685U.

### Contact Us



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