



Dear Westvale Families,

At the end of term 3, we want to take a moment to celebrate the resilience and enthusiasm of our wonderful children. Despite the dark mornings, wet playtimes, and the occasional bitter chill, they have been fantastic—embracing every opportunity to learn, grow, and support one another.

It has also been a busy and productive term for our staff. We've welcomed external visitors for teaching and learning reviews, as well as safeguarding reviews. Time and again, their reports highlight the outstanding work happening at Westvale, with many saying it is worthy of replication elsewhere. What truly stands out is how confidently and articulately our children speak about their learning and well-being. Their pride in their school shines through, making it clear to anyone who visits just how special our Westvale community is.

A particular highlight for many has been the return of my pop-up lunchtime discos—always a hit! Hopefully, with drier days ahead, there will be plenty more opportunities for music, dancing, and fun in the sunshine.

Hoping you all had well-earned rest over the break. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter updates, and we look forward to another successful spring term!

Best wishes,

Mrs Kelly

Headteacher



Ever wondered why the same children often appear in our newsletters?

Rest assured, we strive to ensure fair representation of all our students. However, some families have **declined consent**, while others have **pending consent settings in Arbor**.

To allow your child to be included in future newsletters and school highlights, please **check and update your consent preferences on Arbor**.

Our core values are:
Family Gratitude Responsibility Diversity Excellence
In term1 we have looked at the value of Gratitude

EYFS News

This half term started with the arrival of a mysterious egg, we investigated the egg and predicted what we thought might have been inside. We then had Jam the dinosaur visit us. Jam and Victoria taught us all about dinosaurs. This inspired our learning throughout the half term. We have learnt about different types of dinosaurs, their diets, fossils and their habitats. Reception then used this knowledge to create their own non-fiction book. At Westvale, our Happy Bunnies delve into the same themes as our Reception children, so that we can experience shared learning experiences across the village. However, the opportunities within the Nursery classroom are also inspired by the Prime Learning Areas. These prime areas of development and learning lay vital foundations in the early years. The three Prime areas, Personal, social and emotional development (PSED), Communication and language (CL), and Physical development (PD), describe universal core aspects of early child development. You will find these areas highlighted on your child's Tapestry journal. We hope that you are all enjoying seeing what they have been up to each week. Remember, you can always add pictures or videos from home, as well as comments on our posts, as we love hearing what they have been up to away from Nursery too.



Chicken Update

We have 3 new chicken names:

Maggie Hatcher—as voted by the parent volunteers

Dolly Part-hen —as voted by the staff

Sparkles —as voted by the children

Don't forget to pop into the office if you ever want to see if there are some fresh eggs!



Absence Reminder

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.



Year 1 News

In term 3, we emerged ourselves in our topic 'Amazing Discoveries!'.

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

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

We also became future textile artists in Art while looking at the work of William Morris. We created our own repeating patterns, while also learning about what the perfect amount of paint is for printing!



Year 2 News

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to 2025. In History, we have been learning about significant nurses from the past. We learned about Florence Nightingale and her impact on hygiene in hospitals, Edith Cavell and her care for soldiers in World War One, regardless of their nationality, and Mary Seacole, who helped treat soldiers on the battle fields of the Crimean War. In Science, we learned about mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds, and how to classify each. In Art, we created our own flower sculptures made from household rubbish in the style of Micheller Reader. This culminated in an exhibition for parents. In Computing, we have learned to use spreadsheets and stay safe online. The half-term has been rounded off by a special Nurse Celebration Day, where children dressed as a nurse, doctor or soldier. We recreated a battlefield hospital, learnt to use splints, apply bandages to wounds, and keep everything hygienic. What an exciting term!



Year 3 News

Last term, Owls and Stoats enjoyed developing both their non-fiction and creative writing skills, using *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* as inspiration. We wrote non-chronological reports about rats and created our own stories about invasive species—featuring frogs, bats, and foxes galore! These creatures were stopped in their tracks by violins, guitars, and ukuleles, making for some very imaginative storytelling.

In art, we explored the work of Antony Gormley and his sculptures. We began by investigating 2D shapes and 3D forms before using clay to create our own sculptures inspired by his work. We were excited to put together and share our very own art installation!

Our science learning focused on understanding why animals and insects are so important to plants—we discovered so many fascinating reasons!

As historians, we investigated the impact of the Roman invasion on British lives. We particularly enjoyed learning about Boudicca, the fierce Queen of the Iceni tribe, and exploring all the things the Romans brought to Britain.

In Wellbeing, we learned about staying safe at home and in the wider environment. One of the highlights was getting to go up onto the school roof to assess the building works from above as part of a risk assessment—an unforgettable experience!



Year 4 News

Year 4 have been shockingly good at their work this half term, proving what livewires and bright sparks they are! In science, we've been learning all about electricity (yes, all bad puns intended!), as Swan Class parents saw in their assembly. We've experimented with different materials to determine which are electrical conductors and insulators through fair tests, helping us understand why certain materials are used for specific components. We've also had a lot of fun connecting circuits and making bulbs, buzzers, and motors work!

In English, we've been reading *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde, exploring personification and bringing our writing to life. History lessons on Raiders and Traders have focused on the daily lives of the Saxons and Vikings, comparing their similarities and differences. We were especially surprised to learn that many of our days of the week are named after Saxon and Viking gods!

In RE, we've returned to our study of Hinduism, exploring what it's like to be a Hindu in Britain today. Meanwhile, in Wellbeing, we've been reflecting on our emotions surrounding grief and loss.

In maths, we've been tackling multiplication and division, as well as working out the perimeter of irregular shapes—even when not all the information is given!

A highlight of the week was a visit from Anna at SES Water. She gave us an informative talk about how rainwater from rivers is transformed into the clean drinking water that flows from our taps. The process is truly fascinating!



Forest School

We have been busy learning about garden birds at Forest School, thinking about their appearance, diet and habitat. The children began by making various types of bird feeder and choosing where to hang them to attract 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, took part in a nationwide survey called the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch, spotting two birds of prey – Red Kites – amongst many others species. The children 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.

SES Water also visited our Eco Committee to talk about saving water at school and at home. The Eco Committee proudly explained that we use stored rainwater to water our trees in the Summer at Forest School. Their favourite fact was that a shower should take just 4 minutes.!



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS COORDINATOR UPDATE



Understanding Support for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Receiving a diagnosis for a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) does not automatically guarantee an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). Support in school is based on the individual needs of the child, and schools are expected to meet these needs using their existing resources.

However, if a school finds that it can no longer support a child's needs within its available resources, it may seek additional support from external services. This could potentially lead to an EHCP being requested, providing a more formalised and specific approach to meeting the child's needs.

Please note that our provision is based on a child's educational needs as identified within the school setting, and we do not alter our support provision solely based on a private diagnosis.

For more information about the EHCP application process, please visit: [Education, Health and Care \(EHC\) plans | Surrey Local Offer](#).

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's needs, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Anica De Sa Pereira (SENCO)

Spring - Term 4 Dates

Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February	Half Term
Wednesday 26 th February	Class Photos
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day – whole school dress up
Thursday 6 th March	Parenting Workshop – Challenging Behaviour
Thursday 13 th March 8:45am	Hedgehogs Class Assembly – parents welcome
Friday 14 th March	INSET DAY
Monday 31 st March 3:30pm – 5:30pm	Parents' Evening – all year groups
Tuesday 1 st April 4:30pm – 7:30pm	Parents' Evening – all year groups
Thursday 3 rd April	POW Quiz Night
Friday 4 th April	Spring Term Winning House Mufti Day
Friday 4 th April	RED TED Picnic for all with an invite (100 reads)
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term – finish at normal time

Reminders:

Stay Updated – Please **subscribe to our school calendar** to ensure you're always informed of any date changes.

Weekly Bulletin – Keep an eye out for our **weekly bulletin via email**, which also includes important dates and updates.

No Dogs on School Grounds – Dogs are **not permitted past the black fencing** on the school site. We have received complaints from parents of children who are scared of dogs, so please be mindful of where they are tied up, ensuring they do not block pavements.

Respect for Local Residents – Please continue to be **considerate when parking** near the school.

Questions About Your Child's Progress? – You can arrange a meeting with the class teacher via the **school office**. For smaller queries that don't require a meeting, you may request an **email or call back** if you're unable to ask in person at collection.

Helping Your Child Thrive

While it may not always feel like it, children spend only a small percentage of their time in the classroom before the age of 18. The home environment plays a crucial role in shaping their skills, values, and independence.

In recent years, the teaching profession have observed a decline in some of these essential life skills, which can impact children's confidence, independence, and overall development. By focusing on these key areas at home, you can help children build the foundations they need to thrive:

- **Moral values & family traditions** – Teaching kindness, honesty, and respect for cultural or family beliefs.
- **Following instructions & understanding consequences** – Encouraging self-discipline and responsibility.
- **Resilience & mental well-being** – Helping children develop problem-solving skills and emotional regulation.
- **Personal care & hygiene** – Supporting independence in toileting, handwashing, and self-care habits.
- **Organisation & tidiness** – Encouraging responsibility for their belongings and cleaning up after themselves.
- **Time management** – Teaching them how to tell time and follow routines.
- **Money skills** – Developing budgeting, saving, and responsible spending habits.
- **Manners & respect** – Reinforcing politeness, gratitude, and empathy toward others.
- **Independence in dressing** – Helping them learn to tie shoelaces and dress themselves.
- **Work ethic & perseverance** – Emphasising that practice leads to improvement and success.
- **Basic life skills** – Introducing simple cooking, DIY tasks, and household responsibilities.
- **Academic foundations** – Supporting their **reading fluency** and **times tables fluency** to boost confidence in learning.
- **Bedtime & quality sleep** – Ensuring children get enough rest to support their concentration, mood, and overall well-being. Establishing consistent bedtime routines helps children feel well-rested and ready to learn.
- **Limiting screen time** – Encouraging a healthy balance between technology use and other activities to support social skills, creativity, and overall health.

By prioritising these skills at home, we can work together to ensure children develop the independence, resilience, and personal responsibility needed for lifelong success.

Please share your child's successes with the school so that we can celebrate their individual achievements together!



Thinking about getting your child a phone in the future?

Phones are **not recommended** until a child is **old enough** and has a genuine need—such as **parental separation** or **walking to school independently**.

If you're considering a phone for your child, take a look at this website: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>.

It lists **safer phone options** without harmful access to the internet and social media—perfect for children and even for parents looking to disconnect!



WESTVALE QUIZ NIGHT

PRIZES | FUN GAMES | DRINK
TEAMS UP TO 6 | £20 PER TEAM

03
APRIL

6.30pm for 7pm start

Westvale Park School Hall

Email westvaleppaquiznight@gmail.com to register.

Limited tables available. Adults only.

Only one representative for each team need email to register