Westvale Park Primary Academy and Nursery News

Autumn Term 1 2026



Dear Westvale families,

We have made such a wonderful start to this academic year, and I would like to thank you all for the support, enthusiasm and sense of community you continue to bring to Westvale.

This year marks a particularly special milestone for our school. We now have our very first Year 6 cohort and, for the first time, Westvale has all year groups. As we enter our seventh year together, it is hard to believe how far we have come since opening our doors. Seeing our founding pupils take on their responsibilities as Year 6 role models is something that makes us incredibly proud.

The strength of our community was so clearly reflected in our amazing Halloween discos and pumpkin picking event. It was wonderful to see these so well attended and to watch the children enjoying themselves with their friends and families. These shared experiences create those lasting childhood memories that matter so much. Thank you to everyone who helped organise, volunteered at or supported these events. They are only possible because of the time, care and energy our community gives so generously.

Some of you may notice that I am occasionally away from school. Alongside my role at Westvale, I am fortunate to visit and support other schools through my work as a Consultant Headteacher and Ofsted Inspector. It is a real privilege to work with other school communities, share ideas and bring valuable learning back to Westvale.

However, returning to Westvale always feels like a warm hug. The welcome, kindness and sense of belonging that fill our school are very special, and our children, staff and families are at the heart of that. Thank you for making Westvale such a wonderful place to return to and such a special place for our children to grow.

Warm regards,

Mrs Kelly
Headteacher







Our core values are:

Family Gratitude Responsibility Curiosity Diversity Excellence

In term 1 we have looked at the value of ***Family***

Early Years News

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year here in The Earl Years Village, and we are incredibly proud of how well all of our children have settled into their new classrooms. Our transitions have been smooth, and it has been lovely to see so many happy, confident faces arriving each morning ready to learn, play and explore!

Our Happy Bunnies (Nursery) have been working incredibly hard to build their new routines and are becoming more confident with each day. They have particularly enjoyed their carpet sessions and have shown some fantastic listening skills during story time. We have also been so impressed with how enthusiastically they have joined in with our games, songs and activities, showing us what brilliant little learners they are already becoming!

Our Reception children have also made a fantastic start and are already demonstrating so many of our Westvale Values. They have been taking great pride in looking after their classrooms and resources and are becoming wonderfully independent learners. We are especially proud of how they have already become such fantastic mini teachers to our Happy Bunnies, helping and supporting our younger children as they settle into life in The Village.

This half term, we have loved exploring The Colour Monster. The children have become fantastic at recognising different emotions and identifying which colour represents each feeling. It has been wonderful to hear them talking about their own emotions and beginning to recognise how others might be feeling too.

We have also had lots of fun with Supertato! The children have enjoyed learning about superheroes



Eco Schools Round-Up

Autumn has arrived and the weather is decidedly cooler, with leaves starting to turn and hedgerows bursting with berries. Here's a round-up of our Forest School sessions this half term;

Year 1 have met Green Dragon (our Forest School mascot) and have been learning our Forest School rules so that they can play and learn safely. This is especially important in the coming weeks as we introduce campfires to Forest School, with marshmallows and hot chocolate to look forward to. We have also been using bow saws and hand drills to make two Victorian toys (a spinner and a whizzer!) building on the children's classroom topic 'A Toy Story'.

Year 2 have been using blackberries as natural paint to make art, as well as learning how to whittle using peelers. They have used palm drills to make conker streamers, as well as woodworking using balsa wood to create their own models.

Year 3 have also been accessing our woodworking 'tinker table.' Those that have chosen the activity have also been creating their own woodworked models, some abstract and some more concrete. They've been exploring the use of pull saws, hammers, screwdrivers and hand drills with an open outcome. They've also been making stick charcoal from scratch, in tins over a campfire, to use in their Changing Ages topic and artwork back in the classroom. Seasonal apple and blackberry crumble was a treat which we enjoyed together.



Year 1 News

Year 1 have been diving into our topic, 'A Toy Story', discovering how toys have changed over time. The children have explored the similarities and differences between toys from the past and those we play with today. They have also enjoyed designing and creating their own toys, inspired by both eras.

In Science, the children have been busy investigating everyday materials. They have shown great enthusiasm when identifying different materials and exploring their properties. They are becoming increasingly confident in using scientific vocabulary to describe and compare materials.

In Computing, the children have begun developing their skills using Chromebooks during our computing lessons. They are learning how to navigate the devices, use different tools and follow instructions carefully. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they become more familiar with using technology independently.

Over in Art and Design, our focus has been 'Textures'. The children have enjoyed experimenting hands-on with a range of materials and applying their learning from Science to explore the work of artist Robert Rauschenberg. They paid close attention to the different textures and surfaces he used. To bring all of their learning together, the children created a final piece inspired by Rauschenberg, making a collage of a toy using a variety of materials.



Year 2 News

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the year, with plenty of exciting learning! Our Great Fire of London topic came to life during our visit to the Tower of London. We spotted houses that stood at the time of the fire and met a character playing one of Samuel Pepys' friends, who transported us back to the night of 2nd September 1666. In art, we have experimented with tints and shades to change the tone of colours, creating paintings inspired by Turner and Griffier. We also launched Times Tables Rock Stars in style, dressing up as rock stars and bringing plenty of enthusiasm to our maths! Our budding scientists have been investigating materials, testing whether they float or sink and exploring which are waterproof to help us decide what would make the best boat.
Well done, Hares and Otter. Keep up the brilliant work!











Year 3 News

What a brilliant first term Year 3 have had! We began with ten days of swimming, where the children impressed us with their determination and perseverance, embracing new challenges as they developed their confidence and practised different strokes. Our Changing Ages topic has taken us back to the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages. The children have loved learning about the Stone Age, particularly creating cave paintings using natural tools. Although our Stone Age Day had to be rescheduled, we're excited to enjoy this experience next term! In English, the magical story Leon and the Place Between has inspired us to develop a range of writing skills and use these to create our own exciting versions of the story. In science, we've been investigating rocks and sorting them by their properties. In computing, we've been learning how to send emails and recognise spam.








Year 4 News

We have enjoyed a fabulous start to Year 4! Inspired by The Dot, we created growth mindset trees using pointillism to remind us to persevere and always try our best.

In English, we have written film scripts based on Tar Beach. In science, we have explored the digestive system, even pretending to be a piece of bread travelling through digestion! Our Ancient Egyptian history topic has introduced us to pharaohs and mummification. The wonderful costumes on our history day certainly inspired us to Walk Like an Egyptian!

In maths, we have developed our understanding of place value with four digit numbers and are now exploring formal column addition and subtraction. Wellbeing lessons have celebrated the skills, talents and personal qualities that make us special, while RE has focused on Hindu worship and shrines in the home.

In art, we have explored patterns and printmaking and look forward to creating our own cartouche prints. Exciting times ahead!



Year 5

It has been a busy and exciting half term for our Year 5 Wildcats and Roe Deer classes, with plenty of fantastic learning taking place across the curriculum.

In Maths, the children have developed their understanding of place value with numbers up to one million. They have also investigated multiples, common multiples, factors and prime numbers, approaching these new concepts with determination and confidence.

In English, the children used Robot Girl as inspiration for creating their own science fiction narratives. They worked hard to improve the flow of their writing by linking ideas using conjunctions and a variety of adverbials. Alongside this, they produced informative reports based on Hidden Figures, learning about the remarkable women whose contributions helped shape NASA's history.

Spanish lessons this half term have focused on the home. The children can now confidently name different rooms in a house and have been learning how to use the negative form to explain what is not in a room. They have enjoyed applying this language in both speaking and written activities.

In Science, we explored the properties of materials and how materials can change. Through a range of investigations, the children learned to identify and explain reversible and irreversible changes.

Our History learning has centred on World War II, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed discovering what life was like during this period.

In Wellbeing, we have been celebrating individuality and thinking about the qualities that make each of us unique. Using Rain Before Rainbows as a starting point, the children discussed resilience and perseverance, learning that challenges can be overcome when we support one another and keep trying.

In addition, we have recently begun practising our songs for Young Voices, and the excitement around school has been wonderful to see. The children have shown great enthusiasm during rehearsals and are already looking forward to taking part in this special musical experience.



Year 6 News

What a fantastic start to Year 6 it has been for Kingfishers and Kestrels! The children have thrown themselves into their learning with enthusiasm, creativity and determination, and what a busy first term we've had! Our budding authors have been captivated by Shaun Tan's wordless picture book *The Arrival*, using their detective-like inference skills and wonderful imaginations to create incredible narratives about immigrants arriving in strange and unfamiliar worlds. Meanwhile, our mathematical masterminds have been tackling numbers up to a whopping 10,000,000 before putting their brains to the test with long multiplication and long division, showing fantastic perseverance along the way! In Art, we've been channeling our inner Andy Warhol, exploring positive shapes and negative space, designing our own stencils and experimenting with screen printing to create some bold and brilliant Pop Art-inspired masterpieces. Our wellbeing lessons have encouraged the children to become increasingly independent, exploring how to make responsible choices to keep themselves happy, healthy and safe, both in the real world and online.

Finally, it's been all Greek to us in History! We've loved travelling back in time to discover the fascinating world of the Ancient Greeks, with our Ancient Greek dress-up day proving a definite highlight! From fearsome weapons and marvellous myths and legends to some surprisingly brain-boggling ancient games and puzzles, the children certainly embraced the experience! What an action-packed first term it's been – we're incredibly proud of everything Kingfishers and Kestrels have achieved and can't wait to see what the rest of Year 6 has in store!



Every day counts: improving attendance

One of our school improvement priorities this year is to reduce absence, with a particular focus on holidays taken during term time. These absences mean children miss valuable teaching, shared experiences and opportunities to build on their previous learning.

We recognise that family holidays are important and that travelling during school holidays can be more expensive. However, leave during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Family holidays would not normally meet this requirement. Requests must be submitted in advance and will be considered individually.

Parents should be aware that taking children out of school without authorisation may result in a penalty notice from Surrey County Council. The national threshold for consideration is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks. This is equivalent to five school days, which do not need to be consecutive.

A first penalty notice is £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. A second notice for the same parent and child within three years is £160, payable within 28 days. Further offences within this period may lead to prosecution rather than another penalty notice.

Please support us by booking holidays during school holiday periods. If your child is experiencing difficulties with attendance, please contact us so that we can work together to provide support.

Thank you for helping us protect every child's learning.



Home learning at Westvale Park

What to do, why it matters and how we celebrate success

Homework practises skills already taught in class. Revisiting learning helps children remember more, become more independent and feel confident when tackling new work.
Parents are not expected to teach new content.

READING

Reading Eggs

Engaging reading games and activities. Achievements are celebrated with weekly assembly certificates. Login details are usually in Reading Records; ask the class teacher if needed.

RED TED

Read Every Day, Talk Every Day. For EYFS and Year 1, read the school reading book and ask an adult to sign the Reading Record. Reads are tracked on the class reading race display.

RED TED rewards



20 reads: bronze certificate
30 reads: pencil
40 reads: bookmark
50 reads: silver certificate
60 reads: Red Ted teddy
75 reads: gold certificate
100 reads: teddy bears picnic at the end of term
150 reads: a book from Red Ted's shelf

A further book is awarded for each additional 100 reads.

Accelerated Reader, Year 2

Children have individual logins. A certificate is awarded for every 6 quizzes passed. The annual target is 24 quizzes. Passed quizzes also contribute to a whole class reward.

Accelerated Reader, Years 3 to 6

Books carry points. A certificate is awarded for every 5 points. The termly target is 10 to 15 points, depending on year group. Points also contribute to a whole class reward. Reading displays track progress.

Class reading rewards

Class reading rewards can include a teddy day, mufti day or pyjama day.

MATHS

Numbots: Reception onwards

Use Numbots regularly to practise number skills.

One Minute Maths

A free app, also available on desktop, supporting fluency alongside White Rose maths.

Times Tables Rock Stars

Daily times table practice from Year 2.
Ask the class teacher for replacement login details.
We celebrate participation through competitions, Gone Green badges and our annual TTRS dress up day.

Years 2 and 3

White Rose Practice Journals are provided at the start of the year. Complete the pages set each week to consolidate that week's class learning.

Years 4 and 5

Whizz Maths logins are provided at the start of the year. Its personalised online tutoring helps address gaps and offers challenge. Use it regularly; teachers monitor progress.

Year 6

Children use CGP SATs revision books for homework. Complete the tasks set by the class teacher.

SPELLINGS



From Year 1, weekly words are recorded in spelling journals. Practise in the journal and test your child during the week. Children are tested in class the following week. Full marks earn a spelling sticker; scores are recorded in the journal. The number and difficulty of words reflect each child's age and stage.

Your support makes a difference

We regularly recognise homework with certificates and other class rewards. We see strong engagement with home learning among many of our highest achieving pupils. Practice helps skills become more secure, so children can focus on new learning with greater confidence.

We understand the view that school is for learning and home is for rest. Both rest and practice matter. Without enough practice, familiar skills can remain effortful, making lessons harder and less enjoyable. Short, regular sessions can help while leaving time for play, hobbies and family life.

Build a **manageable** routine, praise effort and contact the class teacher if your child needs help or cannot access a resource. You do not need to be an expert: your encouragement matters.

Full guidance and links: westvaleparkprimaryacademy.org/home-learning

Westvale Park Primary Academy

Sensory support: purposeful and personal

Helping children feel comfortable, take part and learn



What does the evidence tell us?

Children respond differently. Some benefit from ear defenders. Some fidget devices can distract rather than improve attention. No single tool suits every child.

Our approach

Ear defenders and fidget tools will be used for an identified need, with a clear purpose and an agreed school plan.



Use will be agreed with the class teacher and SENCO, informed by specialist advice where needed.

We will record when the tool helps and review its impact on comfort, participation and learning.

Ear defenders



We will consider sound sensitivity, the situation and access to spoken instructions. Use will be tailored to the child.

Fidget tools



We will choose a suitable tool and check whether it supports regulation and engagement or becomes a distraction.



Existing support will be reviewed individually with families. A child does not need an external expert report before helpful support can be considered.

Working together



Please do not send ear defenders, fidget toys or other sensory items into school from home.
School will provide any agreed resources. Please share information about your child's needs and any professional advice with the class teacher or SENCO.

The right support, for the right child, reviewed together.

Evidence: NICE CG170; Pfeiffer et al. (2019); Graziano et al. (2020).



A Busy Summer Term for POW!

We kicked things off with our Father's Day Gift Shop, before meeting lots of our new Reception families at the school's New Parents' Evening, where our pre-loved uniform sale raised funds for POW.

Next came the Horley Carnival, one of the highlights of the year. Following Big Art Day, where the children created the artwork with the help of parent volunteers, the POW team brought everything together at St Joan's Farm to create our Frozen 2 float, inspired by this year's Land, Sea and Air theme. We were thrilled to be awarded 3rd place!

We also enjoyed our Hip Hop Evening, before hosting our Summer Discos, which were another huge success. Although the Summer Fair had to be postponed due to the heatwave, it was well worth the wait. With glorious weather, a record number of volunteers and so many families staying to enjoy the day, it was one of our best fairs yet.

We rounded off the term with our Whisky Tasting Evening

Thanks to your incredible support we've been able to purchase new picnic benches, giving the children a lovely space to enjoy lunch outdoors along with 2 more Gazebos to help provide shade for the children.

Here's what we raised this summer term:
Summer Fair £1,693
School Disco £678
Your School Lottery £577
Father's Day Gift Shop £396
Uniform Sales £132
Whisky Tasting Evening £108
Bank Interest £43
Hip Hop Event £34
Total Raised £3,661

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported POW by volunteering, donating or attending our events. Every pound raised goes straight back into enriching our children's school experience, and we simply couldn't do it without you.

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

We hope you all have a wonderful summer
The POW Team

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!

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

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

KIDS JUST RECYCLE

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://bitly/STAMPRH68SU. Plus you get a £4.99 discount when ordering a deluxe bundle using our code RH68SU

Contact Us

facebook.com/parentsofwestvale info@parentsofwestvaleacademy.org @powparentsofwvp



Westvale Park Primary Academy

Dates for your diary

October to Christmas 2026

OCTOBER

Mon 19 to Fri 30 Oct	Half term	

NOVEMBER

Mon 2 Nov	First day back after half term	
Mon 16 Nov	Odd Sock Day: Anti Bullying Week	All day
Thu 19 Nov	Owls class assembly	8:50am to 9:15am
Wed 25 Nov	Flu immunisations: Reception to Year 6; height and weight checks: Reception and Year 6	During school day
Thu 26 Nov	Hares class assembly	8:50am to 9:15am
Thu 26 Nov	POW Festive Afternoon	3:30pm to 6:00pm
Fri 27 Nov	INSET day: school closed to pupils	

DECEMBER

Thu 3 Dec	Festive disco: Reception and KS1	4:30pm to 5:30pm
Thu 3 Dec	Festive disco: KS2	5:45pm to 6:45pm
Tue 8 Dec	EYFS Nativity	9:15am to 10:00am
Wed 9 Dec	Year 2 Sparkfish Christmas Journey, St Bartholomew's Church	12:45pm to 3:00pm
Wed 9 Dec	Year 4 Mallards DT hot pot tasting: parents invited	2:30pm to 3:00pm
Thu 10 Dec	Year 3 Stone Age workshop	All day
Thu 10 Dec	Year 4 Swans DT hot pot tasting: parents invited	2:30pm to 3:00pm
Fri 11 Dec	Red Ted picnic	2:15pm to 2:45pm
Mon 14 Dec	Staff panto for the children	During school day
Tue 15 Dec	KS1 Nativity: Years 1 and 2	2:15pm to 3:00pm
Tue 15 Dec	KS2 Carols by Candlelight	6:00pm to 6:30pm
Wed 16 Dec	KS1 Nativity: Years 1 and 2	9:00am to 9:45am
Thu 17 Dec	Year 3 DT exhibition: parents invited	3:30pm to 4:00pm
Fri 18 Dec	Pantomime in school; Winning House Mufti Day	During school day
Mon 21 Dec	Christmas holidays begin	

Please check the school website calendar for updates.