



Dear Westvale Families,

What a wonderful end to the spring term! Our recent parents' evening was a great success, and it was truly heart-warming to share the progress and achievements of your amazing children. We always cherish these opportunities to connect with you and celebrate how far the pupils have come.

A special thank you goes out to our fantastic Parents of the School (POW) members for their tremendous fundraising efforts this term. Your support has made such a difference, and we especially enjoyed our first ever Quiz Night, which was not only great fun but also a brilliant success. Your continued involvement and enthusiasm mean the world to us.

Our commitment to professional development remains strong, and this term, our staff have benefited from excellent continuing professional development opportunities. We are proud to be a school that stays up to date with the latest educational research, ensuring that we provide the very best targeted support for our pupils. Investing in our teachers' development ultimately benefits the children, and we are always striving to improve and innovate.

We are also thrilled to announce the introduction of a brand new AI maths tutor for Year 4 pupils. This innovative tool provides bespoke learning opportunities tailored to each child's individual needs, allowing them to progress at their own pace and build strong mathematical foundations. We are committed to embracing new technologies that enhance our teaching and support children's learning, and we are excited to see the positive impact this resource will have.

Looking ahead, we hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. Please remember that on the first day of the new term, we will be hosting our much-loved Easter Bonnet Parade. It has always been part of our vision to ensure that while children make significant academic strides, they also experience joyful rites of passage and create wonderful lifelong memories of their school journey to share with their families.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. Have a lovely Easter, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holidays.

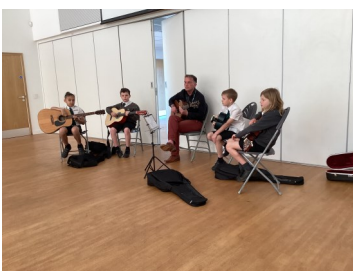
Warm wishes,

Mrs Kelly

Headteacher



Our amazing 'millionaire readers'!



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

Happy Bunnies News

As Happy Bunnies started this half term, you could hear the phrase "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!" echoing across the Early Years village. If they didn't already know this tale, they certainly do now, thanks to their immersive experiences during our Once Upon a Time theme. The Three Little Pigs were closely followed by Jack climbing up the beanstalk, The Little Red Hen trying to get the farm animals to help her bake bread, and that cheeky Goldilocks visiting the house of the three bears. It was wonderful to see the children retelling the stories, using familiar phrases and enthusiastically acting out scenes. We take pride in sparking their imagination, and they all thrived as the stories came to life – especially with our real-life hens in the garden!

We then leapt into spring by drawing flowers and walking together to search for signs of the new season. We ended the term by thinking about Easter and reflecting on what this time of new life brings. As ever, it's been a joy to learn with your little bunnies, and we are looking forward to more exciting adventures next term!



Reception News

This half term, our topic in Early Years is *Once Upon a Time*.

We began the half term with a surprise! The children returned from the holidays to find a crime scene in our Early Years garden. We had to use our investigative skills to work out what had happened, thinking carefully about the clues. The children concluded that the Big Bad Wolf must have been responsible – as everything pointed towards the story of *The Three Little Pigs*.

Throughout the remainder of the half term, we focused on a different fairy tale each week, thinking about our favourite tales, key characters, settings, and plot. We then finished this topic with a wonderful fairy tale ball. It was wonderful to see everyone dressed up and dancing.

The children thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in these stories, and it was a truly magical experience for all!



Celebrating Personal Achievements!

At our school, we love celebrating the wonderful achievements of our pupils, both in and out of the classroom. Whether it's a new hobby, a performance, or a personal milestone, we are always proud to hear about and share these special moments.

This week, we are celebrating Tommy, Josh and Naomi from Year 4, who recently performed in a dance showcase with Starsteppers. They were part of an all-boy group performing a boyband-themed dance, and we couldn't be prouder of them! They had a fantastic time showcasing their talent and confidence on stage. Well done, boys!

We would love to hear more of your home news stories, just like this one! If your child has taken part in something special, achieved a new goal, or done something that makes you proud, please do share it with us. You can send your stories to the school office, and we will be delighted to include them in our next newsletter. Let's keep celebrating the amazing achievements of our pupils!



Year 1 News

This half term, we have deepened our understanding of explorers and have 'travelled' all over the world. We visited each of the seven continents and created a lovely working wall display featuring crafts and writing. Ask your children to sing the continents song to you – it'll soon be stuck in your heads too!

We have been budding scientists this half term and have conducted a variety of investigations. Using our scientific skills, we explored whether the size of sails on a boat or the shape of an aeroplane affects the distance they travel. The children have been busy building and creating mechanisms during Design and Technology this term. They designed sliders and levers, allowing a character to move around a page, including jaguars roaming the jungle and rockets flying through space!



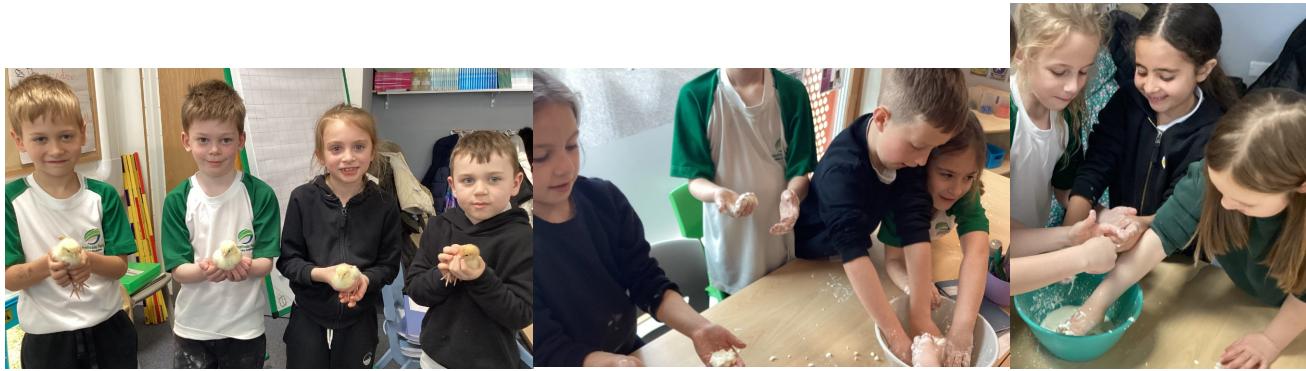
Year 2 News

Year 2 have had an exciting and enriching half-term filled with hands-on learning experiences. During Science Week, we explored the fascinating properties of oobleck (a mixture of water and cornflour), discovering that it isn't quite a solid or a liquid, but rather a 'non-Newtonian' substance – one that changes its state when force is applied. The children were captivated by how oobleck behaves differently from typical liquids and solids.

In Geography, we delved into the wonders of Peru and the city of Cusco. We compared the human and physical features of Cusco with those of our hometown, Horley, and even examined their contrasting climates. By the end of the unit, most children agreed that although Cusco is beautiful, they are very happy living in Horley.

One of the highlights of the half-term was watching chicks hatch and grow over a two-week period, which generated a lot of excitement and provided a valuable learning experience for the whole Year 2 cohort. This also tied in perfectly with our Science topic on life cycles.

It's been a fantastic half-term, filled with exploration and discovery, and we're already looking forward to the next one!



Year 3 News

We have had a fantastic half term in Year 3, filled with engaging learning experiences.

In maths, the Stoats and Owls explored mass and capacity through hands-on activities using scales and measuring jugs. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they applied their understanding to solve real-world problems.

In English, we were inspired by the beautiful story Cinderella of the Nile. The children wrote imaginative retellings, explored character perspectives, and expanded their descriptive vocabulary.

Geography lessons took us on a virtual journey to Italy. Using atlases, the children located key landmarks and regions, learning about mountains, volcanoes, lakes, rivers, and iconic buildings. This hands-on map work helped deepen their understanding of both human and physical geography.

In design and technology, we focused on designing products that meet the needs of the user. The children began by making bread and then explored different taste combinations. They proudly served their delicious creations to the office staff as part of an afternoon tea.

Our Spanish lessons have been full of enthusiasm as the children practised saying 'I know how to' when performing activities like jumping, swimming, and drawing. Their growing confidence as young linguists has been delightful!

In computing, the children learned how to compose emails, attach files, and practise staying safe when receiving emails. These essential digital skills will benefit them greatly.

Science brought light to our learning – quite literally! The children observed how our maypole's shadow changed throughout the day, reinforcing their understanding of how light and shadows interact.



Year 4 News

My! How time flies! Are we really coming to the end of yet another term in Year 4? The children are certainly growing taller as well as more intelligent! And what a busy time we have had – learning never stops in our quest for knowledge.

In geography, our minds have been focused on the country of Sweden. We have explored its major biome and trade links with other countries, as well as learning a little about the Arctic Circle.

In science, we have been answering the question "How do we hear?" We have not only been learning about the ear but also discovering how sound is produced and how to change the pitch and volume of a note. We even experimented by banging drums (you're probably glad you didn't hear that one!) to explore sound waves.

In English, we have continued learning how to make our writing more interesting by using a range of noun phrases. Our books are always thoughtful, and we still enjoy the illustrations as much as the writing. Naturally, we all enjoyed dressing up on World Book Day – can you even recognise us in the photo below?

In maths, we have extended our understanding of place value to include two decimal places, learning how to convert between simple fractions and decimals. We are still busily practising our times tables, and with our Year 4 assessment now only three months away, it would be really helpful if you could make sure we are playing TTRockstars regularly. Maybe you could even test us on our times tables as we travel in the car or walk down the street? Every little helps (where have we heard that before...?).

Our well-being lessons have focused on how our everyday choices impact the environment, so hopefully, we are remembering to turn off lights and avoid leaving the tap running while brushing our teeth.



Forest School

The children have been enjoying the first signs of spring at Forest School, looking 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, ladybirds, and frogs – the latter perhaps being disturbed slightly before they were ready!

The sunshine has been hugely welcome and has encouraged everyone to use their creative and problem-solving skills in the loose parts play area – a space where children can build and explore using natural and recycled materials. They have been building slides, cars, bird-watching platforms, and places to sunbathe using sticks, tyres, pipes, and planks.

With the better weather, we are starting to think about ways to continue improving our school grounds for nature. It is Year 2 of our Wilder Schools project with Surrey Wildlife Trust, and we will be planting more wildflower areas, digging a larger pond, and continuing to take care of our new trees, amongst other things.

The Eco Committee have just taken part in The Great Big School Clean, collecting litter in our school grounds, as well as sowing sunflower seeds, which will add a splash of colour in a few weeks' time.

We are always keen to encourage parents and carers to come and help out at Forest School, so please get in touch with the school office or Mrs von Speyr if you would like to help out at your child's session.



Millionaire Readers in Year 4!

We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate an incredible achievement by four of our Year 4 pupils who have reached the impressive milestone of becoming *Millionaire Readers* through the Accelerated Reader programme!

Congratulations to **Evie, Charlie, Emma and [Child 4]** for their hard work, dedication, and love of reading. Each of these pupils has read over one million words, an accomplishment that reflects their commitment to developing their reading skills and immersing themselves in a wide range of books.

We couldn't be prouder of their efforts and the enthusiasm they have shown for reading. Becoming a Millionaire Reader is no small feat, and these four have truly set an example for their peers.

Well done to our Year 4 Millionaire Readers – keep up the fantastic work! We can't wait to see who will join the Millionaire Readers' club next!

Summer Term Dates

Tuesday 22nd April 8:50am	Whole School Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 25th April	Year 2 Battle of Hastings Work Shop
Tuesday 29th April	Year 1 Hever Castle Trip
Tuesday 29th April	Reception Buckland Park Trip
Thursday 1st May 8:50am	Squirrels class assembly—parents welcome
Friday 2nd May	INSET DAY (no pupils)
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday (no pupils)
Tuesday 6th May 8:45am	Year 1 parent talk for Phonics Screening Information
Thursday 8th May 8:50am	Hares class assembly—parents welcome
Friday 9th May	Whole school May Day (volunteers welcome)
Tuesday 13th May	Year 3 Victorian Workshop
Tuesday 20th May	EYFS World Bumble Bee Day (dress up)
Thursday 22nd May	Stoats class assembly—parents welcome
Monday 26th May—Friday 30th May	Half Term
WC 2nd June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Saturday 7th June	POW Summer Fair
WC 9th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
Thursday 12th June—Friday 13th June	Year 2 High Ashurst Residential
Monday 16th June	Big Art Day for Horley Carnival (volunteers welcome)
Tuesday 17th June 2pm	EYFS Sports Day
Thursday 19th June 8:50am	Ravens class assembly—parents welcome
Friday 20th June	Children's Transition Day—Meet their new teacher
Saturday 21st June	Horley Carnival
Tuesday 24th June 10am	KS1 Sports Day
Tuesday 24th June 1:30pm	KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 26th June 10am	Nursery Teddy Bear's Picnic
Thursday 26th June	Summer Disco
Friday 27th June	INSET DAY (no pupils)
Monday 30th June	Year 3 Nower Wood Trip
Tuesday 1st July—Wednesday 2nd July	Year 2 Feet First Walking Safety Training
Tuesday 8th July	Year 1 Teach Rex Workshop
Thursday 10th July	Nursery Talent Show and Whole School Music Concert and Family Picnic
Friday 11th July 9am	Reception Graduation
Monday 14th July	Winning House Mufti
Tuesday 15th July—Thursday 17th July	Year 4 Residential Trip Thames Young Mariner
Thursday 17th July	Parent Celebration Evening
Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July	INSET DAYS (no pupils)
3rd and 4th September	INSET DAYS (no pupils)
Friday 5th September	First Day for children

Safeguarding Update: Keeping Our Children Safe Online

At our school, safeguarding is always a top priority, and we are committed to working together to keep our children safe both in and out of school. As part of this commitment, we would like to share some helpful advice to support parents and carers with online safety at home.

With children spending more time online for learning, socialising, and entertainment, it's important to ensure they are using the internet safely and responsibly. Here are a few key tips to help keep your child safe online:

1. Monitor Online Activity:

Regularly check the apps, games, and websites your child is using. Setting parental controls can help manage what they can access.

2. Talk About Online Safety:

Have open conversations about what your child does online and encourage them to talk to you if they encounter anything that makes them uncomfortable.

3. Be Mindful of Screen Time:

Experts recommend that primary-aged children should have no more than 1 to 2 hours of recreational screen time per day. Encouraging regular breaks and balancing screen use with outdoor and physical activities can help support your child's physical and mental well-being.

4. Age-Appropriate Content:

It is important to be aware of the age ratings on games and apps. Many popular games, such as *Fortnite* and *Call of Duty*, are rated 12+ or 18+, meaning they are not suitable for younger children. Please ensure that your child is only accessing content appropriate for their age.

5. Privacy Matters:

Remind your child not to share personal information, such as their full name, address, or school, with people they meet online.

6. Know Who They Are Talking To:

Discuss the importance of only chatting with people they know in real life and being cautious of anyone who asks personal questions.

7. Report Concerns:

Make sure your child knows how to block and report inappropriate content or behaviour, and encourage them to tell a trusted adult if something worries them.

For more support and guidance on online safety, visit **CEOP**.



As always, if you have any concerns or need further advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Working together, we can help keep our children safe.

UPDATES

FROM



The Parents of Westvale PTA (POW) is run by a core group of 11 parents, including 3 Committee members who are all volunteers.

POW's primary purpose is to support Westvale Park Primary Academy by organising events and fundraising for the school. In doing so, we are able to give children the opportunity to experience extraordinary provision that might otherwise be outside the schools budget.

We are always on the look out for more members to join our core group and help planning and putting on events - get in touch to find out more!

SAVE THE DATE!
POW are already planning our main event of the year; our Summer Fair will be on Saturday 7 June
Please email if you can help us with planning for the fair.



Recent Fundraising



Thank you to everyone who supported our first 2025 event - "Wear what you love" day on the 14th February. We raised £176.

Our Mothers Day shop was also a great success - the children loved picking gifts, and we raised £384.

Last night saw the first ever POW quiz night which was great fun, with some brilliant prizes from local businesses. The quiz raised £140.



POW are working with the school to spend some of our hard earned funds on items to support the children's learning, including new aprons for art, more books, and some additional iPads for use in classrooms.

HOW CAN YOU START HELPING US TODAY?



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/parents-of-westvalepark>. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use easyfundraising at no extra cost to yourself!



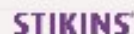
Start playing Your School Lottery to help raise funds for our school. Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week and there is a guaranteed winner for each school every Saturday which is drawn on a raffle basis. There is also a national jackpot drawn weekly with a top prize of £25,000! Sign up and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



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/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



[@powparentsofwp](https://instagram.com/powparentsofwp)