



West Green Primary School Newsletter

**July 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers

What a term we've had here at West Green Primary! We are saying goodbye to our Year 6 class, and we wish them all the best on their transition to secondary school.

We are also saying goodbye to a few valued members of staff, who will be missed by both children and workmates. Although we are saying farewell to our Headteacher, he is leaving the school in the very capable hands of Mrs Chapman who will be acting Headteacher for the interim. If you have any questions at all, please ask at the school office and they will be happy to help you.

There have been a lot of exciting trips this term, which you can read about in this newsletter. You will be able to see how much fun Reception and Year 1 had on their trip to Washbrooks Family Farm at the end of last term. Year 2 have had a trip to Fishers Farm. We had a flight simulator experience which most of the children, and a few parents, experienced. We've had a junk percussion workshop, a boys & girls football tournament, and of course sports day.

We wish you all a lovely Summer holiday and we will see you again in September (school starts for pupils on Tuesday, 5th September 2023).

*West Green Primary School*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you all at the end of my time at West Green to say thank you. During my eight years as Headteacher here it has been an absolute pleasure to work with so many wonderful children and supportive families. When I look back at what we have achieved I know that it's been truly a team effort. The staff, children and parents (and grandparents, uncles and aunts etc...) have worked together to make West Green Primary School a place to be proud of.

During my time we have achieved our Ofsted 'Good' rating and some outstanding SATs results, but the things that really matter are all the happy memories that I will take away with me. Things like the school trips I've been on, sharing moments of wonder and amazement at Bodiam Castle or Herstmonceux Science centre. Or chatting to children about their interests and admiring the skills they have developed – rubik's cube, bottle flipping, chess, drawing, origami, singing, skipping, dance, comedy routines and playing guitar, ukulele and djembe to name just a few. I'm always amazed by the level of skill that children can develop in something that they choose to pursue, and if I have any one piece of advice to leave you all with, it's this:

Never give up on your dreams, never stop going for your goals. Even if you don't quite get there, the journey will have been worthwhile, and will take you places you could never have imagined.

That's from me; the little boy who lived on a council estate in Edinburgh, had holes in the knees of his school trousers and ate free school meals, and went on to become the Headteacher of what I think is the best school in Crawley.

Best wishes to you all,

Andrew Hodgson  
**Headteacher**



## RECEPTION AND YEAR 1 TRIP TO WASHBROOKS FAMILY FARM

Reception and Year 1 had a school trip to visit Washbrooks Family Farm in Hurstpierpoint. The children were so well behaved, and there was a lot of excitement as for many of the children it was their first school trip. The class teachers had this to say about the day...

*"The Reception and Year 1 children visited Washbrooks Family Farm as part of our topic called 'Creatures Great and Small'. All of our children had the most fantastic day! For some it was their first experience of visiting a farm and they thoroughly enjoyed seeing and handling the animals, learning all about farm life and travelling on the tractor. With lots of traditional farm animals, outdoor adventure and a beautiful Brook walk giving us the chance to spot wildlife in its natural habitat and see the South Downs, there was loads to see, climb, jump and bounce on. All the children were incredible and were a credit to West Green Primary School."*

**Miss Delgado - Reception Teacher & Miss Millar- Year 1 Teacher**





## YEAR 2 FISHERS FARM TRIP

Year 2 had a lovely time when they visited Fishers Farm. It was not too far for them to travel by coach, and they all behaved really well throughout the day. The Year 2 teacher had this to say about the day...

*"Year 2 had an amazing day at Fishers Farm. We learnt lots of new facts about animals, as well as some really funny jokes. During our animal encounter we were able to stroke and feed some farm animals that included goats, a pony and even some cows."*

*In the afternoon we explored the outdoor environment and enjoyed using the merry-go-round, Fishers Express, large castle with slides and play sand, as well as barrel bug and tractor and trailer rides.*

*The highlight of the children's day was the bouncy pillow where we tried to jump higher and higher each time."*

**Mrs E Marshall - Year 2 Teacher**





## FLIGHT SIMULATOR

Crawley Baptist Church very kindly arranged for the Mission Aviation Fellowship to visit our school. They are a Christian organisation who provide aviation services to remote areas of the world taking aid, medical supplies and other services to those in need.

They assembled a light aircraft on the school grounds so that all the children could have an opportunity to sit in it, and there was also a flight simulator in another part of the school that the children and parents had the chance to 'fly'.

We are so grateful to both Crawley Baptist Church and the Mission Aviation Fellowship for allowing the children in our school to experience something so wonderful. The children had so much fun and it has sparked an interest in aviation in a fair number of our students. Thank you from everyone at West Green Primary School.





# Goodbye Year 6

## A NEW BEGINNING

It is time for Year 6 to leave us and move to their new schools. They have had a busy year and so we are sure they will enjoy a bit of a rest before they start secondary school in September. They have taken part in some fun activities in the last few weeks such as a residential trip to Gaveston Hall, a trip to the Hawth Cinema where they had the entire cinema to themselves, they went on a railway workshop trip, took part in a junk percussion workshop and of course showed off their amazing talents in their end of term performance of The Island That Rocks.

We hope you have enjoyed your last year with us. **Good luck Year 6!**

Year 6 Report Card	
Attendance	B
Willingness to learn	B+
Tidiness	E
Fun Factor	A*
Effort made in PE lessons	B+
Effort made in swimming lessons	B
Being kind to each other	A
How much we will miss them when they go	A**
How much they will miss us when they go.	D (probably)
The likelihood they will realise how easy they had it at primary school after one week of secondary school.	A***
Noise level created by Year 6 class	Not able to allocate a grade due to the increased noise level.



## GIRL'S & BOY'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS

The girls and boys in Year 5 & 6 attended OLQOH football tournament run by Chelsea Foundation PE, and they represented our school fantastically. There was exemplary sportsmanship demonstrated by our girls football team, and the boys, who had not played together before, were a credit to the school.

Well done to Francesca, Nitha, Dolly, Lucy, Ella, Zoe, Chloe and Emaan. Special mention for Nitha for the improvement she has made and the courage she has shown, as well as Chloe for absolutely fantastic goal keeping.

Also a big cheer for Ilyas, Houssam, Ismalia, Hayden, Alex, Abraham and Ismail. Another special mention for Hayden for his expert defending skills, as well as Ilyas for saving an impressive number of goals!

**Mrs Moore, Mrs Farley and Miss Jeffery were all very proud of the children!**

# Summer Fair Update

As you will be aware from the many e-mails/texts/notes we sent to you, we had our Summer Fair on 6th July. It was an outstanding success, and the turnout and support we had was brilliant.

**We made a total profit of £1,739.50.** This is the most profit we have ever made from the summer fair. With all the help we received from some of the children's parents, this has honestly been the most successful summer fair to date.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and once again thank you to the families who helped us set up/clear away, and run some of the stalls.



# Rags2Riches Update

Thank you to everyone who donated clothing for our Rags2Riches fundraising scheme. We are very pleased to let you know that we raised £189.85 in total. We had a lot of donations, which is what made it such a success. This could not have been achieved without your support.



## **STAFFING UPDATES**

At the end of every summer term it is not unusual that this is the time when staff members move on to new opportunities. We are saying farewell to a number of staff this term, and we will miss each and every one of them. Good luck to all of you in your next venture.



Mr Hodgson has been Headteacher at West Green Primary School for 8 years. The school has flourished under his guidance and, although we are very sad he is leaving, his hard work over the years means that the school will continue to run efficiently with the procedures he has put in place. He really has been an incredible Headteacher, his door has always been open for parents, staff and children to discuss any concerns, or even share good news. We wish him all the best in his new school, who are lucky to have him join them.



Mrs Upton officially started working at the school in 2017, however she volunteered for many things prior to 2017. She has taken on many roles from librarian to Teaching Assistant, and a lot of other tasks in between like volunteering to run clubs, or go on school trips (the list is endless). However, she has taken the decision to retire and travel the world. It is a well deserved reward for the many years she has dedicated to the school, and the care she has taken when doing so. Mrs Upton is another one who will be greatly missed, but we can't deny that she deserves a few travel adventures, and some lazy mornings. Good luck in your retirement Mrs Upton.



Miss Sinfield has worked at the school for 5 years as a Learning Support Assistant. The children adore her, and the work she has done with the children over the years has been outstanding. She has a natural ability to get the best out of all the children she has taught over the years. We will be so sorry to see her go, but also very happy for Miss Sinfield as she has decided that now is the right time to go to university to train to be a fully qualified teacher. We wish her all the best, and hope that one day she will join us again!



Mrs Simmonds has worked at West Green Primary School for just over a year. She has made a huge impact on the school since she has been here. She is one of the funniest, kindest and hard working people we have ever met. The children and staff love coming to chat to her in the school office, and she will be missed by all. However, she is moving abroad and by the time you read this newsletter she will be settled in her new home in Dubai. If you are ever back this way Mrs Simmonds, please come and visit. We miss you!



Finally we say goodbye to Mr Parry, our Year 6 teacher. Mr Parry is so kind, patient and (very) funny, and has been so easy to work with. The children have loved having him as their teacher, as he managed to get their best work out of them in a fun way so that most of the time they didn't even know they were working hard. He is an inspiration to the children as someone they could aspire to be. We are only losing Mr Parry as he is now living in London and so has decided to work closer to home. Good luck in your new job Mr Parry.



Thankfully, Miss Webb is not leaving us permanently. She is going on maternity leave. Baby Webb is due sometime in September and we will let you know when the new arrival is here. Miss Webb will be joining us again after her maternity leave. Good luck with your new arrival, and we hope you get some sleep (best to brush up on your napping skills before the new addition arrives!).

## **IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE**

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. As parents, it is our responsibility to make sure we try to monitor what our children are viewing on the internet. Here are some things to consider:-

### **Social Media**

The dangers of having a social media account when under age – the risks are very real. Example: If a child is 7 but says they are 14 when they sign up for an account the potential dangers now are:

- They get used to lying when signing up to other apps and websites.
- They may get friend requests from older children.

However, in 4 years time when the child becomes 11, the social media computer will believe that they are 18, an adult. At that time the potential dangers are:

- They will get friend requests from adults.
- They will see adverts targeted at adults.
- They will see content for 18+.
- Children safety settings will not work.

### **Online Influencers**

An online influencer is a person who has a large number of people following them online through gaming and social media. You may hear an online influencer commonly referred to as either a YouTuber, social influencer, streamer or gamer. Subscribe, follow, share, like are just some of the ways online influencers build their fan base. They can influence their audiences behaviour by being entertaining, and offering advice and guidance. The more views they get, the more popular they become.

### **However...**

- Online influencers are not regulated and for many their aim is to grow an audience that they can then sell products to and make money from.
- Brands will pay online influencers to promote, advertise and recommend their products.
- Children can easily be convinced and persuaded by friendly engaging content to give money or subscribe to join a community for a fee.
- Some influencers can be poor role models who show children negative behaviours such as drugs, alcohol, bad language, fake news, violence and dangerous pranks.
- It can be very easy to influence children to get them to act differently. We need to be mindful, whilst young people spend much more time online, they are very likely to come across many different types of influencers.

### **What you can do to keep your child safe online...**

- Always discuss regularly with your child what they watch and follow online.
- If your child follows an online influencer then, if you do the same, you will be able receive the content as well and be better prepared in helping to advise your child.
- Discuss regularly the positive and negative elements of online influencers.
- Always let your child know that they should never purchase anything online without gaining your permission first.
- Always let your child know that they should always say if they see or hear anything online that makes them feel scared or uncomfortable and to never arrange to meet someone who they have met online.
- Let them know that they do not have to feel as though they have done something wrong, nobody is going to get cross and it is not their fault.

This information was provided by the Skips Educational website. For more information visit:

**[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)**





## **COST OF LIVING CRISIS — WHERE TO FIND HELP IF YOU NEED IT**

### **turn2us**

This website is designed to help you find out if you are able to get help with your energy bills. There are many grants out there you may not know about. Some energy suppliers have their own grant scheme in place. You can ask your supplier if they have a scheme, and what the criteria is for claiming a grant. Turn2us also has other useful links in relation to other household bills e.g. water bills. To search for grants that you may be eligible for, you can use an easy tool on <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>. Tel: 0808 802 2000

### **StepChange Debt Charity**

If you are worried about any debt, you can contact the StepChange Debt Charity for free advice on <https://www.stepchange.org>. Tel: 0800 138 1111

### **Food Banks in Crawley**

There are a number of food banks in Crawley, if you do a web search you should be able to find some details. Listed below are some contact details to help get you started:

Freeshop - [info@freeshopcrawley.com](mailto:info@freeshopcrawley.com) - Tel: 07861 907133

Crawley Food Bank Partnership (they are The Easter Team and also Crawley Open House who are working together)

Tel The Easter Team: 07940 900948/Tel Crawley Open House: 01293 447702

### **Government and Local Council Resources**

The government have an online tool to help people check the benefits and financial support they might be able to apply for. You can check at:

[www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support](http://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support) you can also find help at:

[www.crawley.gov.uk/moneyworries](http://www.crawley.gov.uk/moneyworries)

Your local council may be able to help you pay for things like:

- Energy and water bills;
- Food;
- Essential items such as clothes or even an oven.

This help is known as Welfare Assistance or the Household Support Fund. Each council runs its own scheme. The help they offer, and who can get it, varies. Ask your local council if they run one of these schemes. You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from your local council. If you are in receipt of benefits, they will not be affected if you get help from one of these schemes. See below for information on the WSCC Community Hub.

### **COMMUNITY HUB**

WSCC have a community hub for anyone who may need help. You can request support from the Hub, including accessing the Household Support Fund, and where to get advice.

WSCC are focused on making sure they continue to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

If your request is urgent, for example, you are going to run out of food within the next two days, please phone [033 022 27980](tel:03302227980) so that they can make sure you get the help you need as quickly as possible.





#### **CHANGE OF DETAILS**

If any of your contact details change (address, home phone, mobile etc), please inform the school office so they can update the school records accordingly.

#### **MEDICATION**

From time to time we will sometimes administer paracetamol to a child if they are feeling unwell, but it is not necessary to send them home. The brand we use is either Calpol paracetamol 6+ sachets or meltlets (so cannot be administered to anyone under 6 years old). For this to be administered to your child you will have needed to have signed a form giving your permission. We will always telephone you to get your permission before we administer any paracetamol, but without the signed consent form we cannot administer it in any event. If you have already signed a permission slip you do not need to do anything else. The above is also relevant for antihistamine's. We use Piriton, but only if the parent has provided written consent and also verbal consent just before it is administered.

#### **TRIM TRAIL AND TYRE TRAIL**

At the end of the school day it has been noted that parents are allowing their children to play on the trim trail outside the classrooms. If you do allow your child to use the trim trail (or tyres) at drop off/collection time it is **your responsibility** to ensure they use it safely. Please keep an eye on your children at all times during drop off/collection to/from school to ensure their safety.

#### **UNIFORM**

We no longer take school uniform orders via the school office. When you require new uniform for your child you can order it from: [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

Tel: 0800 069 9949

#### **MOBILE PHONES**

Please can you remind your child that if they bring a mobile phone to school with them, they must **not** use the phone whilst on the school premises. All phones must be turned off when your child has arrived at school, and handed to their class teacher. All phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

#### **BIRTHDAYS AND TREATS**

We love birthdays, and we love celebrating them even more! If you provide sweets for a class in order to celebrate your child's birthday, we would ask that you ensure they are individually wrapped, nut free and, if possible, vegetarian. This will mean all of your child's classmates can celebrate their birthday with them. We are not able to hand out any cakes or sweets that are homemade.

Also, from time to time throughout the school year, we will give out sweet treats to children. We will ensure we always meet a child's dietary requirements. **Please inform the school if you do not want your child to be given any sweet treats.**

#### **ASTHMA INHALERS/AUTO INJECTORS**

If we hold an asthma inhaler or auto injector for your child, please be aware that we need two, one in the classroom, and one in our medical room. When that item is out of date we will contact you and ask you to provide us ones that are in date. **Please make sure that you provide us in date items as a matter of priority. It is for your child's safety and must be acted upon immediately.**

#### **FILMS AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER (AND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR)**

Mainly at Christmas and Easter time we will sometimes arrange for the children to watch a film as an end of term treat. The films will either be a 'U' or 'PG' certificate. We would never show a film that we judged to be inappropriate. **However, if you do not wish your child to watch a 'PG' certificate film then please let the school office know so that a different film can be chosen for your child's class to watch.**

#### **NO NUTS REMINDER**

Please remember that we are a 'No Nuts' school. This means that no food brought into school by either children or staff should contain nuts. This includes Nutella (there are other alternative chocolate spreads available that do not contain nuts).