



February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break. The children seemed to have enjoyed their time off, and they returned to school with a lot of enthusiasm.

Although this term has not been quite as busy as last term there has still been a lot of activity within the school with some Year 6 children taking part in the Bikeability week, and a girls and boys football tournament. Unfortunately we had to postpone our Come and Share our learning morning but we have rearranged it for Wednesday, 8 March 2023, between 9:00-10:00a.m., and we really hope that parents and carers will be able to attend.

If your child is in Year 6 then you will be aware that they will undertake their SATs exams the w/c 8 May 2023. The SATs exams usually run Monday-Thursday. However, as the Monday of that week is an extra bank holiday due to the King's coronation, the SATs will run Tuesday-Friday that week. Apart from the Monday, please ensure that your child is in school all that week (unless they are ill). Children with a mild illness can come in to take their tests and then go home.

We hope you have a lovely break over half term, and we look forward to seeing all the children in school again on Tuesday, 21 February 2023.

West Green Primary School

YEAR 5

This term Year 5 have embraced their creative skills and made the beautiful sculptures below. You can see some of them in our display case by the school office. Their teachers say...

"This term we have been learning about the Shang Dynasty, and the importance of dragons to Chinese art. The children designed their own dragons, made their own salt dough, sculpted and painted their own dragons.

We think they look great!"

**Miss Jeffery and Mrs Brotherton
Year 5 Teachers**



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

As you will know from the last newsletter the children on the school council raised a large sum of money to go towards wet play equipment. We have bought numerous games for the classrooms and hopefully it will be a way of keeping the children more entertained when they cannot go out to play on rainy days. It is time for the current school council leaders to step down so that a new group of children can have an opportunity to serve on the school council. Therefore we would like to say a very big thank you to Freddy, Hollie, Phoebe, Eesa, Lily, Salaar, Mario, Emily, Florence and Jenson who all did a great job representing their classes.



New school council members have been elected and they are Chloe, Michael, Leah, Ismalia, Noah, Bella, Olivia, Oliver, Jacek and Sophia. We are sure they will bring the same enthusiasm to the school council as their predecessors, and we can't wait to see what ideas they come up with for the school.



UKULELES

Following on from the djembe drums which Year 3 and Year 5 were learning last term, Year 2 and Year 4 are now learning to play the ukuleles. The children loved playing the drums last term, but they seem just as enthusiastic with the ukuleles. They are starting to sound quite tuneful, and you never know there may be a performance in the near future that we can invite parents and carers to.

GIRL'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

We are so proud of the Year 5 and Year 6 girls that took part in the football tournament held at Ifield Community College in January. Although they did not win the tournament they played exceptionally well, and their positivity was infectious. They won one of their matches and they displayed such good manners and represented the school magnificently. We are so proud of them, and a big congratulations for taking part to Francesca, Leah, Nitha, Lucy, Dolly-Rae, Jasmine, Chloe, Zoe and Ella. Also thank you to Miss Jeffery, Mrs Moore and Mrs Newnham who gave up their time so the girls could attend. The team were fortunate to have their very own cheerleader. Well done Queenie for cheering the girl's on.



BOY'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Year 5 and Year 6 Boys did equally as well at their football tournament at K2 3G. They played with real gusto and amazed us with their skills. We are very impressed with the effort they put in. Congratulations to Jack, Zac, Ismalia, Alex, Mario, Jenson, Abinash, Rayan, Aser, Ilyas, Houssam, Abu, and Mertcan for not only playing so well, but also for the outstanding behaviour you showed on and off the pitch. Another thank you to Miss Jeffery and Mr Parry for giving up their time so that the boys could attend this tournament.





SCHOOL START/FINISH TIMES

We have noticed that a number of students are continuing to arrive late into school. Although it may seem only a few minutes of lateness a day to a parent, when each day of lateness is added up per child it is surprising how much learning a child can miss out on. For example, if a child is 10 minutes late every day for half a term, that means they would miss out on nearly 5 hours of learning over half a term. Also when a child is late, and arrives into their classroom late, it not only disrupts the other children who arrived at school on time ready to learn, it also unintentionally singles out the child that has arrived late as they have to make their way into their classroom when the rest of their class are already sat at their desks. If your child is consistently late to school, please make an extra effort to help your child arrive at school on time. **School starts at 8:50a.m. and finishes at 3:20p.m. The classroom doors open at 8:40a.m.**

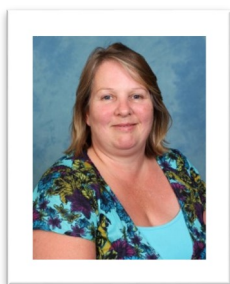


THE YEAR 6 ART GALLERY

Year 6 have been very artistic during this academic year. Here are some samples of their work...



STAFFING UPDATES



Mrs Dallaston has made the decision to leave West Green Primary School. She has worked as a Teaching Assistant for WSCC for 27 years, and for the last 15 years she has worked at our school. She has helped many children along the way, and has also run some after school clubs, and a lunchtime games club, which benefited many of the students. She will be missed by staff and students alike, and we wish her all the best in the future.

We will keep you updated on our new starters as and when they arrive. You can find information on school jobs that are currently available by visiting: www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/
You can then type in the location where you are searching for jobs, i.e. Crawley, Horsham etc.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

There were 2 million video game consoles sold in the UK in 2022. A lot of children would have been brought one for Christmas. If you're a parent who doesn't like to play video games it is very tempting to set it up and leave the children to it, but ideally parents should be involved from the start. If you can stick around and help set up any new gaming console, please do.

If your children are under 13, you should set yourself up as the key account holder and add them as minors. You can also set up parental controls which restrict their access to mature content. The website Ask About Games has [a helpful guide](#) to setting up these controls on each console.

The Ask About Games website has been created to answer questions parents and players have about video game age ratings, provide advice on how to play games safely and responsibly, and offer families helpful tips to ensure they get the most out of the games they enjoy together. Ask About Games is a joint venture between the VSC Rating Board and games trade body Ukie, run with input and advice from across the games industry.

It's worth remembering that games have official age ratings, just like movies. An 18-rated game may contain graphic depictions of sex, violence and/or drug use so it's worth visiting [the Video Standards Council website](#) for information on what these ratings mean. Another reason to get involved is that the console-owner will need to enter credit or debit card details to buy games online or pay for subscription services.

We know how busy parents are, but if you can find time you might enjoy playing a game together as a family. Also, it is beneficial if you can keep the games console somewhere central like a living room (rather than a bedroom) so that you can monitor how much time your child is spending playing video games.

A reminder that if your child is online for any reason it is important to have regular conversations with them about staying safe online. Parents and carers should encourage their children to tell them about anything they have seen or heard that has made them feel uncomfortable or scared. Parents and carers should report incidents to their internet service provider and in instances of sexual contact to the [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre](#) (CEOP) using their report abuse button.

Please do not be alarmed by the above advice, it is provided to help you protect your child (not scare you).



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 - 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 you can also find help at:

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

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).