



## Easter 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has gone very quickly for us here at school as there have been a lot of different activities such as parent evenings, class trips, visits from the local fire station, our successful Come & Share Our Learning morning, World Book Day, Red Nose Day and of course our ukulele performances by Year 2 and Year 4.

The children (and staff) are embracing the slightly nicer weather we have been having. Seeing a bit of sunshine has given us all a boost, although the recent snowfall was a surprise!

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Monday, 17 April 2023.

*West Green Primary School*



### **WEST GREEN SUMMER FAIR - PARENT HELP NEEDED**

The West Green Primary School summer fair last year was very successful, it was a lovely surprise to see how many parents and carers came to support us. It was a relief to be able to finally have a summer fair again after being so limited on what we could and could not do when we had restrictions in place due to the global pandemic.

We are really looking forward to holding our summer fair again this year on Friday, 7 July 2023 (weather permitting), but in order to make it as successful as last year we will need some parent volunteers.

Please don't be shy in offering your help, we would rather have too many helpers than none at all. The classes will run their own stalls once again as they did such a great job last year.

However, we will definitely need parent volunteers to organise and run the following:

- ◇ A raffle stall;
- ◇ A food & drink stall;
- ◇ If you would like to run an alternative stall please contact the school office.

If you are willing to volunteer please let the school office know. Thank you!

### **A TIME OF CHANGE**

One of our parents who has been great at fundraising over the years has decided it is time to step down from being the lead in organising the West Green Summer Fair. We would like to pass on our thanks to Jodie Williams who has given such great support over the years for various fundraising events. Thank you for all your help, the funds you have raised over the years have made a huge difference to the school.

We will update you in the next newsletter with details of an overall lead/contact for parent helpers.

## **WEST SUSSEX FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

Children in Reception, Year 2 and Year 5 classes were very lucky to be able to take part in the visit from the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. They were given a talk on fire safety, and then were able to see how the fire appliance was equipped for emergencies, and were even shown how the fire hose worked which caused a lot of excitement!

Here are some pictures of the day...



## **CONSTRUCTION SKILLS**

One of the children in our Year 5 class showed us the results of his construction skills. He brought in a big wheel that he had spent 3 days making. It was a working mechanical model and it rotated when it was switched on.

It really was remarkable and Mason should be extremely proud of his achievement.





## RECEPTION CLASS

Before we had our visit from the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, our Reception children had already made these amazing fire engines. They are brilliant, and we really wanted to share them with you. Our Reception teacher says...

*"As part of our People Who Help Us topic the children in Reception have been showing an interest and learning about different occupations and ways of life. Together they have learnt about different professions and how they help. The children had great fun learning about emergency service vehicles and worked very hard to create their own using junk modelling materials. The Reception team have all been super impressed with the children's enthusiasm, perseverance and creativity and we think you will agree their homemade vehicles are fantastic!"*

**Miss Delgado - Reception Teacher**



## YEAR 2 AND YEAR 4 UKULELE CONCERT

Parents of children in Year 2 and Year 4 were invited to join us for a ukulele concert. Both performances were great. The children were able to show their parents what they have achieved in such a short space of time. Well done to all the children who took part, you made so much effort and we are very proud of your achievement.





## WORLD BOOK DAY

One of our favourite days at West Green Primary is World Book Day. The imagination of the children (and the parents/carers) surprises us every year. We have all sorts from princesses to superheroes, and this year we even had a dictionary which was a simple concept but a genius idea which we hadn't seen before. It was lovely to see the effort every child in the school made. Well done everyone, here are some pictures of the day...





## COME & SHARE OUR LEARNING

Thank you to all the parents and carers who visited the Come & Share Our Learning morning. We had over 100 parents/carers join us! We know that unfortunately some parents could not take the time off work but hopefully you will be able to join us next time.

The children loved being able to share with their parents/carers what they are learning in school. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.



### **RAMADAN**

Ramadan was expected to commence on 23rd March 2023, with the last day likely being 21st April 2023. This will then be followed by the celebration of Eid. To join in the celebration of Eid we are having a 'dress to impress' day on Friday, 28th April 2023. Children can come into school in non-uniform clothes. They can dress up in their finest if they want to. All we ask is that if they have PE on that day that their shoes/clothes are suitable for a PE lesson.

### **RED NOSE DAY**

We had another non-uniform day this term when we joined in Red Nose Day. We did not ask for donations at school. Instead we ask that if parents and carers do wish to make a donation that they do so via official donation points.

### **CHARTWELLS NEW ORDERING SYSTEM**

Chartwells are introducing a new payment and ordering system. **All** parents and carers of children who have a hot school dinner (even if it's just once a week/month/year) will need to make themselves familiar with ParentPay as even if your child is eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) you will still need to order your child their choice of meals on the days they want a hot school dinner. **If you do not order your child a meal of their choosing then they will be served a plain jacket potato.** This is not normally a welcome choice for a child (especially if they see their friends being served pizza or pasta). You can order the meals up to 10 weeks in advance so you can order for nearly the whole term at once. If your child is entitled to FSM or UIFSM, and you are having trouble accessing the system, then please ask at the school office as they will be able to help you place your orders.

We would prefer not to see any of our children end up with a plain jacket potato as it really isn't necessary (unless that is what they want to eat). You should by now have received a letter inviting you to register/sign up. If you have not received an invite letter, and your child has a hot school dinner, please speak to the school office as soon as possible.

### **PARENTS EVENING**

Our parents evening online booking system was up and running again, and most parents were able to book online successfully. If you ever have any problems booking an online appointment for parent evenings, please do not hesitate to contact the school office as they can book an appointment on your behalf.

### **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

We try very hard to communicate to all parents the schools forthcoming events. However, we still get a few parents who tell us they were not aware of events happening in school, and their child came to school in uniform on a non-uniform day for example. We inform all parents of events...

- we send out e-mails;
- we send out hard copies of e-mails to parents who for technical reasons do not receive our e-mails;
- we put posters up in classroom windows;
- we send out updated lists of dates for your diary throughout the academic year;
- we upload all our letters, and list of dates for your diary, onto the school website.
- we even have a big board at the front of the school that we update regularly.

**It is a parents responsibility to work out which method works best for them in keeping up to date with important school dates/events.** If none of the above methods work for you, please contact the school office so that we can try to work out a way of helping you be aware of events at school you may want to know about in advance.



## A note from... The Governors

The Governors have suggested that we share some of the praise for the school that we regularly receive. It makes us proud when parents, visitors and outside partners let us know we are doing well. It is recognition of all the hard work our staff, and the children who attend our school, put in to make West Green Primary such a lovely place to be. Here are some things recent visitors have said...

*"I recently visited your lovely school to take class photos in a contemporary style. Can I say what a pleasure it was. The staff are so friendly and the children are an absolute pleasure to photograph. They followed guidelines perfectly and were very quiet which makes better photographs, and so smiley."*

*Another colleague visited last year and also remarked on the fantastic behaviour of the children and how much she enjoyed visiting.*

**Debbie - Principal Photographer for Yellow**

*"The staff have been very helpful and understanding during a time when mum was in hospital. Thank you."*

**ANON**

*"The children are so lovely and well behaved."*

**Supply Teacher**

*"I was very impressed with the children's behaviour."*

**Laura Morton - Locality Maths Hub**

### EASTER ACTIVITIES AT THE CHARIS CENTRE

Some of our classes were invited to the Charis Centre to join in with some Easter celebrations. They took part in some workshops and learned about the meaning of Easter. The children were so well behaved, and seemed to immerse themselves into the experience.



## **IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE**

We apologise in advance as this will be an uncomfortable topic for most parents/carers reading this. However, with so much information available on the internet and social media that children are able to access, it is a good idea for parents/carers to be informed, and for signs to look out for, if you suspect your child (or a child you know) may be self-harming.

Self-harm is when someone hurts themselves on purpose as a way of trying to manage distressing or overwhelming feelings and experiences. Someone who is self-harming might be dealing with lots of intense thoughts and feelings, and hurting themselves may feel like the only way to cope. Or, they might feel numb and hurt themselves in order to feel something.

If your child is self-harming, or you're concerned they might be, it can be incredibly worrying and upsetting for you as their parent/carer. The important thing to remember is that you and your child are not alone - lots of young people go through this and come out the other side with different ways of coping with their feelings. There are a lot of websites dedicated to helping families dealing with someone they love who is self-harming. You might want to try looking at the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) (and then search self harm), or the YoungMinds website as starting points: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

If you are worried your child may be self-harming, please check the websites mentioned above as they can identify signs to look out for. We purposefully have not listed them here as it is not our intention to cause distress to anyone, but it is our duty to make you aware of what many young people are experiencing. If you are aware of the problem then you would be in a position to get your child help if they needed it.

It can be difficult for you to speak to your child about this subject, but it is important to be open with them. It will never be an easy subject to speak about, after all it is our job to protect our children and when we feel we can't it can be completely overwhelming for a parent/carer. Always remember, you are not alone. There is help out there. You can also speak to your GP who will be able to refer you on, and please remember that you can always speak to someone at the school. You don't have to ask for anyone in particular at the school, just speak to whoever you feel most comfortable with and they can find the right person to give you advice.

Self-harm is nothing to be ashamed of, it is a cry for help - and there is help if you ask for it.

## **STAFFING UPDATES**

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/](http://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.





## **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).