



West Green Primary School Newsletter

February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break. The children were excited about returning to school in the New Year, and settled quickly back into their learning.

This has been a shorter term than the last one, but we have still managed to fit in the Year 4 class assembly, Bikeability for the Year 6 students that signed up to it, a trip for our choir to go to the O2 to be a part of the Young Voices event, and the Year 5 trip to Herstmonceux Observatory Science Centre, details of which will follow in the next newsletter.

The children are still very much enjoying their revamped playtimes, and we would like to thank all of those who were able to donate some toys or equipment to the school to enhance the children's play experience. A reminder to parents/carers to send your child into school with some wellington boots and a change of clothes (if they have wellies in school).

We hope you all enjoy the half term break, and we will see you back in school on Monday, 24th February 2025

West Green Team

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

This year we raised some funds for the school by selling Christmas tree ornaments for the children to decorate. It proved to be very popular, and we loved how it made our school Christmas tree look, it really made it very special for our school.

We also held a raffle to win some Christmas chocolate, and in total we made a profit of £300.00.

We will put this money towards a storage shed for our new play equipment.

Also, for those of you who signed up to the ASDA reward scheme and put our school as your chosen school cashpot, we raised £374.19 from that scheme. With the monies raised from the ASDA cashpot we have purchased a storage shed and some scooter helmets so that the children will be able to use the scooters, that have previously been donated to us, safely at playtimes. We will update you again regarding the scooters later on this year.

Thank you for the support you have given us in our fundraising efforts. We do appreciate it and would like to take the opportunity to say thank you.

If you would like to have some input on our fundraising ideas please send us an e-mail or speak to one of the staff who can pass your ideas on.

Also, we are still looking for parent volunteers to help with a parent fundraising group. We have had some interest, but we are still looking for volunteers to be able to make up a group. If you are interested please let the school office know, or speak with Mrs Chapman.

YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

Our school choir attended the Young Voices event at the O2 on 5th February 2025. The children who went really enjoyed themselves, although it was a long and eventful day. The event itself is amazing. Over 8000 children attended and the sound of thousands of children singing is incredible. It is a memory that the people who attend will never forget. Well done to our school choir. You behaved beautifully, and you sang with so much enthusiasm we are very proud of all of you. Here are some pictures of the day.



YEAR 4 CLASS ASSEMBLY

Year 4 gave a wonderful class assembly, to which parents & carers were invited to attend. It was clear that Year 4 worked really hard in preparing for their assembly. Well done Year 4, you did a great job! This is what their teacher had to say...

"As well as our action packed class assembly, Year 4 have enjoyed our Design and Technology topic this half term. We have learnt about electrical items and how circuits work. We designed our own switches and finally created our own torches for a target customer group - policemen, archaeologists, dentists to name a few people who might use a torch! We absolutely loved discovering how to adapt our torches to make them brighter and even how we could conduct electricity with tin foil wrapped around our fingers too!"

Miss Jeffery - Year 4 teacher



OUTSTANDING EFFORT

Our students have continued to produce some brilliant work. We are very impressed. Keep it up, you are all doing so well. Here are some of our most recent efforts.





HALF TERMLY ATTENDANCE CLASS WINNERS

There has been some friendly class rivalry in school this half of the term for the class who has the best attendance each week. Here is the list of weekly winners:

Week 1: Year 3 & Year 4 - 97.78%

Week 2: Year 5 - 98.33%

Week 3: Year 4 - 97.92%

Week 4: Year 5 - 98.71%

Week 5: Year 3 - 94.63%

Week 6: Year 4 - 97.08%

The overall winner for this half term is: Year 4 with an average attendance of 96.25%.

We are very pleased with the effort the children have made with their attendance this term, and well done to their parents too!

As you are likely aware, one of the education areas that the government is focusing on is school attendance. This is due to an increase in poor attendance since the pandemic. The following is an exert from 'working together to improve school attendance' DFE 2024

The law on school attendance and right to a full-time education

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.

Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

Mental Health & Parenting

Managing stresses and illness alongside being a parent or carer is a complicated part of life for many. If you're managing mental health issues you might find you have mood swings or struggle with keeping routines such as mealtimes, bedtimes and taking your children to school.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling, there are steps you can take. If you have coping strategies that work well for you already, keep doing them. That might be using mindfulness techniques, taking five minutes for yourself, or talking to a friend.

Choosing one or a couple of things from the list below to focus on could give your mental health a boost.

- Maintaining good sleep might feel impossible, but the NHS has tips and advice to help.
- Keep in touch with family and friends on the phone or try a video call. If you're struggling to find someone to talk to about what you're going through, Mind has helplines and you can speak to your GP to see what counselling provision might be available in your area. You can also call or email the NSPCC Helpline with any parenting concerns or worries.
- Write down your feelings in a notepad. This can help you reflect, understand, and let go of emotions.
- Join a support group or network online. **"Talking to others who get it makes such a difference - you know you're not alone and you get to experience the light of something that feels very overwhelming when faced alone" - Amy Wellings, Mum to a 3 year old boy**
- Try to have some time for yourself, whether that's at home or by going for a walk.
- Physical activity is really helpful for some people. You could try walking, going for a jog, swimming or doing an online class. If these don't suit you, you could try a gentler activity like gardening, sitting next to an open window to get some fresh air, or doing a crossword.
- Eating well isn't easy or accessible to everyone. If you need help with getting essentials you can contact your local food bank.
- Planning things to do by yourself or with your child can help create structure and a routine for the day. Try starting your day with a short list of 4 small, achievable things you'd like to do.
- If there's another adult in your house or older children, ask them to play an active part too.
- If finances are causing additional stress, Money Saving Expert has lots of information and Citizens Advice can offer help and support.

If you're struggling, it's OK to reach out for support from friends, families and organisations that are here to help. Changes in a parent's mental health can sometimes affect children. They may pick up on your anxiety, low mood or stress.

This doesn't mean you should hide or minimise your feelings. You can try to explain what you're experiencing using phrases like, "It's OK to get big feelings, everyone gets big feelings but it's still the grown-up's job to look after the children" or "If grown-ups get big feelings, it's not your fault – we can ask other grown-ups for help with our feelings."

It's important to give children reassurance and support. Looking after your own mental health is vital to their well-being so don't be afraid to try new things together.

Reach out if you need help. The NSPCC Helpline team are there for you, whatever your worry. You can call them on 0808 800 5000 or email help@nspcc.org.uk

STAFFING UPDATES



Mr Lang joined us at the start of term in January as our new Premises Officer. He is so helpful, and has already made a lot of improvements to the school. You have probably seen him about in the morning, opening the gate and ensuring that school is ready for the day, but please do say hello when you see him. We are so glad he is a part of our school!

VISITORS COMMENTS

“In Year 6 this week we have enjoyed the company of some Year 6 students for Bikeability. They have shown resilience, respect and lots of skills! We have been impressed with how much they learned in the 2 hours out on the road, often coping with the best of British weather too! Well done all!”

Debbie, Paul & Ben - Bikeability

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.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

CRAWLEY SIGNAL BOX (BRIGHTON ROAD)

Many of you may have noticed the old railway signal box by the railway crossing at the end of Brighton Road. They often have open days where you can have a look around the signal box. It really is an interesting piece of our Crawley history and is well worth a look. It is a great experience for children (especially if you happen to be in the signal box when a train is going past). Their next open days will be on **Saturday, 15th March 2025, between 12:00 midday – 4:00p.m.** The signal box is only kept open and in such good condition due to the volunteers who give up their time to preserve it's history, so your support would be greatly appreciated. It's a lovely opportunity to make a memory with your child.



TEN LITTLE TOES BABY BANK

We try to support Ten Little Toes Baby Bank when we can. They work very hard to make sure every growing family gets off to a good start. The support they give parents, carers and children is invaluable. If you are ever in a position to make a donation to them you can find out what donations would be of use by having a look on their website.

If you are ever in need and would like to ask Ten Little Toes Baby Bank for help, you can contact them in one of the following ways:-

Website: www.tenlittletoesbabybank.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tenlittletoesbabybank

Instagram: [@tenlittletoes_babybank](https://www.instagram.com/tenlittletoes_babybank)

TikTok: [@tenlittletoes_babybank](https://www.tiktok.com/@tenlittletoes_babybank)

JUNIOR PARK RUN AT TILGATE

Tilgate junior parkrun is a FREE 2km event for juniors of all standards, which takes place every Sunday at 9:00am in Tilgate Park,

It offers an opportunity for all the family to get involved and come together on a regular basis to enjoy Tilgate Park. They want to encourage people to run, walk, volunteer and be together irrespective of their ability.

Taking part is easy – just register in advance before your first ever parkrun. Your individual barcode can then be used for this weekly 2k event, or on any of the weekly 5k parkruns around the country.

It is a free event but Park Run ask you to please register at <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/tilgate-juniors/> before you first come along. You only need to register with Park Run once.



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 Calpol paracetamol 6+ (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. This 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

You can order uniform with the school logo from: www.myclothing.com or buy it without a logo from a local supermarket/shop.

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, 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).

FIRST AID

We have trained First Aid staff at our school setting. If you do not wish for your child to receive First Aid (non emergency) then the onus is on you as a parent/carer to inform the school of your decision.



Parent Group Fundraising Team

We are looking for parent volunteers who would like to be part of a parent fundraising team on behalf of West Green Primary School.

Being part of the Parent Group Fundraising Team you would be helping with things like:

- Organising the annual Summer Fair.
- Possibly organising a Christmas Fair or Secret Santa shop etc.
- Movie night.
- School disco
- Selling refreshments at sports day etc.
- Running a stall in the warmer months after school on a Friday for "Ice cream Fridays".
- Organising and running a Second Hand Uniform Shop once a month.
- Any other events that you as part of the Parent Group Fundraising Team are happy to organise.

If you are interested in helping your child's school by being part of the Parent Group Fundraising Team then please let the school office know. We would be very grateful for any help you can offer.

Thank you!

**Non-Uniform Day on
Friday, 28th February 2025
in aid of**

Ten Little Toes

B A B Y B A N K

On this occasion we are asking for donations of any of the following so that we can help support our local Baby Bank.

- Baby wipes
- Baby "Top to Toe wash"
- Toothpaste for 0-2 years
- Nappy cream
- Nappies (size 4, 5 and 6)
- Brand new Tommee Tippee bottles
- Children's toothpaste
- Children's toiletries
- Adult shampoo & conditioner
- Adult shower gel
- Adult deodorant
- Adult toothpaste
- Children's socks, underwear and pyjamas, baby sleepsuits and vests.

If your child has PE on non-uniform day they do not need to wear their PE kit, but their clothes do need to be suitable for a PE lesson.

We have been informed by our local PCSO's that parking fines have been issued to people parking illegally outside our school. They will be making repeat visits. You have been warned!

RESPECT OUR SCHOOL

THINK BEFORE YOU PARK!

Safety tips for parking outside schools

When picking up or dropping off children at school, you should do the following:



Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.



Do not park on zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.



Please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.



Walk your child to school whenever possible and then go home and collect your car for your onward journey.

The menu is set against a pink background with a white curved band at the bottom. It features several colorful Easter eggs: a yellow one at the top left, a white one below it, a purple one at the bottom left, a tan one at the top right, a dark purple one to its right, and a light purple one at the bottom right. A white rabbit is positioned above the word 'EASTER'.

EASTER TREATS

Thursday 3rd April 2025

MAINS

Beef Burger
Chilli No Carne
Jacket Potato & Beans

SIDES

Spring Vegetables
Seasonal Salad

DESSERT

Lemon Easter Cupcake

Order via [ParentPay](#) no later than
Thursday 20th March 2025



Please Note: Special diets will remain in place.



Family Day



Saturday 1st March
Crawley Library



ART TABLE



BOOKSHOP



FIVE AUTHORS!

**STORY
TIME**

Sue Hendra
Jack Meggitt - Phillips
Momoko Abe
Cath Howe
Lindsay Galvin

**STORY
MAGIC**

DRAMA WORKSHOP

Kat Merrick

SIGNED STORY TIME

Makaton Maria

PREBOOKING AT
WORDFESTCRAWLEY.ORG



CALLING ALL BUDDING YOUNG DESIGNERS AND CONSTRUCTION MAD KIDS THIS HALF-TERM!

Design a house for the
future & travel back in
time with our
new town gallery trail

Sat 15th Feb, Tues 18th Feb,
Wed 19th Feb, Thurs 20th Feb
& Fri 21st Feb 2025
10.30 - 16.00

For more information visit
crawleymuseums.org
Future Dwellings



CRAWLEY
MUSEUM

This project received funding
from Ignite & IAA AHRC



£3 per child
Accompanying adults free

Citizens Advice is here to support you

We care, we listen and we want to help make a difference by offering advice about debt, benefits, employment, housing, and more.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Contact us:

Free Adviceline:

0808 278 7969
(Monday to Friday, 9am - 4:30pm)

For other ways to contact such as Email and Webchat, visit:

advicewestsussex.org.uk/contact-us/

Visit your local office to arrange to speak to an advisor or book an appointment.

All our services are free, independent and confidential.

Our debt advice is regulated by the FCA and we are registered with the OISC and AQS.

Other helplines:

For help claiming Universal Credit:

0800 144 8 444

Debt helpline:

0800 2404420

For Relay: 18001 followed by

0800 2404420

Consumer Helpline:

0808 2231133

For Relay: 18001 followed by

0808 2231133

For self-help, visit:

citizensadvice.org.uk

For local advice:

advicewestsussex.org.uk

citizensadvice.org.uk



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Keep your home warm for less

Our team will be at Crawley Hospital to give free independent information and advice with:

- Energy efficiency
- How to maximise your income
- Signing up to Priority Services Register
- Checking you are on the best tariff
- Referrals to advice services including emergency fuel or food vouchers



When: Every Wednesday 10am - 1pm
(until 26th March)

**Where: The restaurant at
Crawley Hospital,
West Green Drive
Crawley, RH11 7DH**

Check our website for more information



**citizens
advice**

in West Sussex
North South East

advicewestsussex.org.uk 0800 145 6879