



West Green Primary School Newsletter

May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very busy term (compared to the last couple of years)!

Some of our students visited the O2 for the Young Voices concert; we have hatched some chicks in Reception class; we have dressed up to celebrate Eid; Year 6 and Year 2 have completed their SATS tests; Year 4 and Year 5 have been able to have their parents evening with their class teachers that were postponed last term; the Year 6 children that chose to take part enjoyed Bikeability week; Year 4 visited Crawley College for a STEM session; Year 6 have commenced their swimming lessons for the last part of the Summer term; we have been visited by Huxley's Birds of Prey Centre where we got to see some birds of prey close up; a few children represented the school at a cricket festival; we have celebrated Red, White & Blue day in honour of the Queen's Jubilee.

We are exhausted, but very happy!

From all at West Green Primary School, have a lovely half term. We will see you all back in school on Monday, 6 June 2022.

QUEEN'S JUBILEE

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is coming up and the whole country will be celebrating the Queen's historic 70-year reign. Each child in a state-funded primary school will be given their own free storybook before the end of term.

You can explore the Queen's Jubilee website that has been created by DK Books by visiting www.jubilee.dk.com. You will find **free** audio recordings of 'Queen Elizabeth: a Platinum Jubilee Celebration'; a commemorative book written in collaboration with royal experts and historians. There are also links to other Jubilee resources and videos.

If your child enjoys a creative challenge, they may like to design a Jubilee Crown. You can find out more about how to enter by visiting www.platinumjubilee.gov.uk, click on the 'Get Involved' link and then the 'Creative Challenge' link.

All West Sussex schools have been allocated an additional day to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee as it falls during half term week. The extra day has been added onto the end of the Summer term.



AT THE END OF THE SPRING TERM...

It didn't make it into the last newsletter, but at the end of last term as we were able to celebrate the last day together as a school, we turned up the music and all had a go at the Macarena!



YOUNG VOICES AT THE O2

Our Young Voices choir got to perform at the O2 with thousands of other children. The teachers and children that attended have all said what a great experience it was. Everyone who attended was very tired the next day, but it seemed to be worth it judging by the sleepy, smiling children who came into school after the concert. The acts that joined in the event were very impressive, but the highlight seems to have been a guest appearance from the Go Compare man (yes, he really is a trained opera singer)!

The staff that attended were full of praise at how well the children behaved. They did extremely well in representing the school, so well done to:

Belinay, Mertcan, Ezgi, Sinem, Dorothy, Francesca, Tia, Ava, Ella, Ben, Zoe, Florence, Milan, Nadin, Kornelia, Billy, Neve, Emily, Lucy, Alex, Ilyas, Daisy, Abinasri, Ryma, Aaliyah, Safia, Ashvin, Jenson and Lexie.

CHICKS IN RECEPTION

The Reception children had a very important job recently. They made sure that the eggs in their class were kept safe as they hatched and the chicks emerged.

Some of you may remember that last year we hatched some ducklings, but this year it was the turn of the chicks. The Reception children treated them so carefully and were very protective of them. We only wish we could have kept them, but they had to go back to the farm so they could live with all the other chicks.



YEAR 4 STEM TRIP

Year 4 visited Crawley College for a STEM session recently. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. There were a lot of projects that the children could interact with, which must have been a lot of fun after the last couple of years where everything has been approached in a 'hands off' way.

We were complimented (yet again) on how well the children behaved. Well done Year 4, keep up the good work!

YEAR 5 & 6 CRICKET FESTIVAL

In this last week of term, some pupils from Year 5 and 6 were fortunate to be able to take part in a Cricket Festival at Ifield Cricket Club. They did really well and learnt some good techniques. It was lovely for a small school like ours to be able to take part in this event. Thank you to all the parents who allowed their child to take part, and collect them from the venue at the end of the event.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

We continue to support our local community whenever we can. In this regard we have listed below the open days for the railway signal box (by the level crossing in Brighton Road).

- ♦ 18 June 2022
- ♦ 16 July 2022
- ♦ 20 August 2022
- ♦ 17 September 2022
- ♦ 10 December 2022

It is a great experience for children (especially if you happen to be in the signal box when a train is going past). The box will be open 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.



The signal box dates from around the 1870s and was closed by British Railways in 1986. The Crawley Signal Box Preservation Society took it over in 1992 and, after much hard work to restore the box, it was opened up for the public to view.

HUXLEY'S BIRDS OF PREY VISIT

On 25 May 2022, we had a visit from Huxley's Birds of Prey Centre who are based in Horsham. It was incredible! The children were captivated, and they all had their photo taken with one of the birds (if they wanted). If we already have photo permission for your child we will e-mail you a copy of your child with one of the birds of prey. If you have not provided photo permission, we will contact you to see if you would like a copy of a photo of your child with one of the birds. Here are a few of the photos from the day...





We still need volunteers for this year's Summer Fair which is being held at the end of the school day on 8 July 2022. Although some parents have kindly volunteered to help, we do still need more helpers if the event is going to go ahead successfully. We have had 2 years of being told we can't do things, and now we have the chance to actually have some fun! Please help us make this Summer Fair a success after it's been so long since the last one. Any help at all would be much appreciated. Please let the school office know if you are able to help.

Thank you!

Friday 8th July 2022



Staffing Updates



One of our longest serving members of staff has retired for a well deserved rest.

Mr Tattersall worked for West Green Primary School for 22 years! He was so well known by many children and parents over the years, and was loved by the staff as he was always on hand to help fix any issue that arose at any given time.

We miss his 'can do' attitude, and the school is not the same without him.

Mr Tattersall has not only been the Premises Officer but also over the years has been very involved in school life. He has held a gardening club and volunteered on school trips amongst other things. His wife has also had great involvement with the school over the years and spent a lot of time volunteering with cooking club, reading in class and assisting on school trips. They have also both worked tirelessly at school summer fayres over the years. Enjoy your retirement, it is well deserved!



We have also recently said a fond fairwell to one of our Midday Meals Supervisor's. Mrs Khan has worked with us for a number of years and was very popular with the children who saw her at lunchtimes.

She has left us to work at a school closer to her home. We wish Mrs Khan good luck in her new job.



We have a new member of staff in the school office.

Many of you will already have met Mrs Simmonds. She has settled in so quickly, it is like she has been working with us for ages! Many of the children have introduced themselves to her, and have made her feel really welcome.

She has taken on her new role with such ease, we are so pleased she has joined us.



When Mr Tattersall retired we had a little send off for him. One of our members of staff, Mrs Dallaston, made a lovely cake for his party. It tasted as good as it looks!

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: <https://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.



Vacancy Premises Officer

Do you know anyone who would like to work part time?

We would like to appoint a conscientious, dedicated Premises Officer to join our team.

We are looking for a practical and well-motivated person who can work on his or her own initiative.

As Premises Officer, you will ensure that the school environment is maintained to a high standard. Your personal qualities will include versatility, good communication skills, and a commitment to the role.

The successful applicant will;

- ♦ Possess a range of skills including; building management, maintenance, D.I.Y., caretaking and gardening
- ♦ Have the ability to maintain accurate records (both written and computerised) for premises and health and safety compliance
- ♦ Be flexible to meet the needs of the school

Hours are to be agreed with the successful candidate and will ideally include both opening and locking up the premises.

Location: West Green Primary School, West Green, Crawley, RH11 7EL

Salary: Circa £10.60 per hour (WSCC Grade 5, point 7) £20,444 pro rata for hours worked.

Hours: 20 hours per week, year round, Monday to Friday with paid holiday.

**If you are interested, please arrange a chat with our
School Business Manager**

Please contact us by email: sbm@westgreenprimary.com

A full application pack, job description and application form available by request

The post is subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring (DBS) check in line with the school's policy towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

CURRENT GOVERNMENT COVID ADVICE

Most people can no longer access free testing for COVID-19. The risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections is very low for most children and young people.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections are very similar. It is not possible to tell if you have COVID-19, flu or another respiratory infection based on symptoms alone. Most people with COVID-19 and other respiratory infections will have a relatively mild illness, especially if they have been vaccinated.

If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

SAFEGUARDING

You may have heard about an app called Wink. The description for Wink on the App Store and Google Play states that it is a networking app “for friendships only”. The app launched in 2020, and there has already been at least one criminal trial from an adult meeting up with a minor who they befriended through Wink.

The app requires users to be at least 13 but, as with many apps, younger children often sign up to apps which are not age appropriate either with or without their parent’s knowledge. Children can often connect with strangers online simply to increase their friend count, which in itself is a sign of a child’s innocence and vulnerability.

It is not our intention to frighten parents, but it is our moral duty to make you aware of safeguarding issues as and when they are brought to our attention. In this modern world we and our children will all use mobiles/tablets/computers for all sorts of reasons. We only want to make you aware of things to look out for in order to keep all children safe online.

By only allowing your child to access age appropriate apps, setting up filters on wifi and other settings that block inappropriate sites, and having conversations with your child/children about how to stay safe online, these are the best things you can do so that they are shielded from things we do not want them to see.



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).