



Westhouses Primary School Summer 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a short, but busy half term: the children have worked hard in lessons; represented the school in sporting events; been involved in art projects, gone on school trips; had SATs tests; watched chicks hatch and dressed up as pirates ... the list goes on. All that in five weeks, with two bank holidays and two INSET days! We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and getting a glimpse of what we've been up to.

With the weather turning warmer, after half term, please remember to send your child to school with their water bottle, sunscreen and a sunhat—thank you.

Have a wonderful half term—let's hope the sun shines!



ATTENDANCE From September 2024

Little Explorers:	~	95.7%
Big Explorers	~	95.1%
Philosophers:	~	96.3%
Trailblazers:	~	96.3%
Total Attendance:		95.9%

Attendance target is 97%.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

Thursday 22nd May	Break Up	
Friday 23rd May	INSET	
Monday 2nd June	Back to school	
Wednesday 4th June	Y6 Institute of Sport Trip	
Thursday 5th June	Printing Workshops with Friends of Westhouses day 1 Y4/5 Bikeability	
Friday 6th June	Printing Workshops with Friends of Westhouses day 2 Y5 Bikeability	
Monday 9th June	Friends of Westhouses meeting	
Thursday 12th June	Meet the tutor at Tibshelf Community School for Y6 3:30– 5:30	
Friday 13th June	School photographer in	
Monday 16th June	Arts Week	
Tuesday 17th June	Reading mentors from Tibshelf Community School in	
Monday 23rd June	Transition Week 4pm Resources Committee meeting	
Tuesday 24th June	4pm Teaching and Learning Committee	
Monday 30th June	Enterprise Week	
Tuesday 1st July	Valley CIDS assembly	
Wednesday 2nd July	Wellbeing sessions	
Thursday 3rd July	SEND networking meeting for parents	
Friday 4th July	2:30—4pm Summer Fayre	
Monday 7th July	6pm Parish Council Meeting	
Tuesday 8th July	Full Governing Board Meeting	
Wednesday 9th July	Colour Run—parents invited!	
Thursday 10th July	Severn Trent Water Workshops	
Friday 11th July	Cleethorpes Trip	
Wednesday 16th July	Sports Day	
Thursday 17th July	Reserve Sports Day	
Tuesday 22nd July	Leavers' Show	
Thursday 24th July	Leavers' assembly Break up	



Parenting Support

We know that being a parent can be the hardest job in the world—we are here to listen! We have an 'open door' policy, if you want to talk. We can offer help through our pastoral worker (Mrs Tomlinson) and/or signpost you to a wide range of other professionals if more support is needed.

For advice and tips on supporting your child with sleep please click [here](#).





Little Explorers

This half-term we have looked after some eggs in an incubator and last week three of the chicks hatched! The children were very excited! Once they were strong enough, we could hold them and stroke their feathers. The farmer will collect them before the holiday. Goodbye little chicks.



It's a Pirate Party Day! We had a pirate theme day this half-term which included dancing, games, parachute play and biscuit decorating. We even had a pirate picnic outside in the sunshine. We had a really fun day!



This week the Reception children have designed, chopped, dished up and eaten their own Rainbow Salad! They are getting really confident using the cooking equipment safely. We enjoyed eating our delicious salads. Yum yum!



Big Explorers

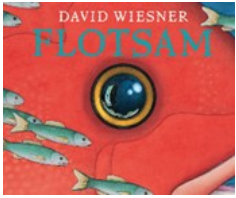


Despite how short and quick this half term has been, we have had a fantastic time! We've been learning about Victorians! The children found it fascinating learning about the jobs that poorer Victorian children had to do! They wrote some fantastic diaries as Cotton Mill workers. They also enjoyed learning about how toys have changed over time. We managed to make our very own thaumatrope and cup and ball toy. I enjoyed their looks of concentration as they tried to catch the balls in their cups!

In computing, the children have learned about photography. They thoroughly enjoyed thinking about how to carefully take action shots, close ups and selfies. My favourite photo has to be the fabulously creative selfie taken by placing the camera on the floor and pointing it up to the sky.

The children have enjoyed their science learning. We have been learning about how animals survive and stay healthy. The children enjoyed investigating how their bodies reacted when taking part in coordination, balance and agility exercises. Some Big Explorers were able to balance on one leg for longer than 5 minutes! Well done, Big Explorers.





Philosophers

It has been a short, busy and very enjoyable half term! In Geography, the Philosophers have been learning about Europe. The children have developed their skills in using maps to identify countries in Europe, as well as mountain ranges and rivers. There is a capital city quiz on

Seesaw that is still available if the children would like to have another go.



In English, we have loved reading the wordless book Flotsam, which explores a strange underwater world. The children used this to create their own sequel to the book, entitled 'Jetsam'. I have been delighted with their hard work, enthusiasm for writing and fabulous creativity.

In Science, the children have been learning about forces. We have conducted various scientific enquiries over the half term, including testing how surfaces affect the movement of an object.



In Art, we have been exploring printing. The children created some excellent tessellations, after learning about the artist M.C. Escher.

In Music, the children have continued to develop their skills on the flutes and fifes. They have started composing their own songs and writing them on sheet music!



Trailblazers

Trailblazers have started their topic on 'Crime and Punishment' this half term. We had a visit from two police officers to kick our history topic off and we loved having the opportunity to dress up and handle some of the equipment.



Linking with our Crime and Punishment topic, the children have been watching an alternative version of 'The Three Little Pigs' where the pigs were in fact the guilty party and not the wolf! The children produced

brilliant emotive letters as a result.

The Year 6's have been revising particularly hard this half term in preparation for their SATs tests and I am really proud of the effort and resilience they have demonstrated. We've also managed to squeeze in a trip to the National Justice Museum to learn even more about crime, punishment and the justice system.



Online Safety



Our focus for this half term was **Managing online information.**

Our focus for next half term was **Copyright and Ownership.**

There is also a link to the TikTok Safety Guide for Parents if you wanted to include this too.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/tiktok/>

For more advice on keeping your children safe online, please click [here](#).

PE:

Reception Summer Fun: Last week our Little Explorers children went to Tibshelf Community School to take part in a sports event hosted by BSSP. They had great fun playing Messy Bedroom, Crab Dodging and Musical Spots. They showed excellent running, throwing, dodging and dancing skills. We were very proud of their enthusiasm and determination. Well done, everyone!



This half-term our EYFS children have had 3 sessions of Balance Bike Ability. They gained confidence in steering and gliding over the sessions and the BSSP staff commented on the tremendous progress they all made!



Coming up...

Weds 4th June – Year 6
Celebration of Sport
event.

Thurs 5th and Fri 6th June
Bike Ability for Year 4 & 5.



VE Day 80th Anniversary



The children and staff gathered on the park to commemorate this special day. Members of the parish council were there to say a few words and Amelia and Rupert had the honour of raising the flag.



A few words from our Governors

The full board met last month in what has been another busy and positive term. We were delighted to hear about the continued good progress our children are making in their learning – many thanks to all the pupils and staff.

We also had an interesting update on the bridging project with Tibshelf Secondary School. It's fantastic to see our schools working together to support reading and make the move from primary to secondary even smoother for our children. T

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to complete our recent questionnaire. Your feedback is really important, and we've been looking closely at your comments to see how we can make things even better.

Excitingly, we had a look at the design plans for our early years' outdoor learning area which we continue to explore and hope to have a firmer plan for development in the near future.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

There is clear evidence to show that days off school impact on your child's attainment and progress.

365 days in each year	175 non school days a year		To spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments		
	190 school days in each year	12 days absence			
		178 days of education	19 days absence		
			171 days of education	29 days absence Half term missed	
		161 days of education	38 days absence	152 days of education	
100% to 95%	94%	90%	85%	80%	
GOOD Best chance of success.	WORRYING Less chance of success		SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Possible legal action		