



Westhouses Primary School Spring 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's such a relief to see the sun shine at last! The EYFS outdoor learning area is finally completed and looks amazing! The official opening is Friday the 24th April, but the children should be able to use it when they come back after Easter. There are plans for other areas in the school, but we will have to raise enough funds before the next stage gets underway. If you are interested in the other phases, the plans are available in the office.

We have noticed an increase in the number of children being one or two minutes late in the morning; please help us by ensuring your child is here for when the doors open at 8:50, as learning activities start straight away. Many thanks.

Have a wonderful Easter break and I hope the Easter bunny visits you all!



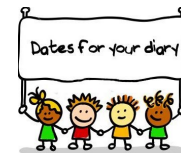
ATTENDANCE

From September 2025

Little Explorers:	~	96.6%
Big Explorers:	~	97.14%
Pioneers	~	95.8%
Philosophers:	~	96.26%
Trailblazers:	~	96.42%
Total Attendance:		96.41%

Attendance target is 97%.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts



Monday 13th April	Back to school
Wednesday 15th April	Y5 Wellbeing Workshop
Thursday 16th April	Swimming starts again
Wednesday 22nd April	Y5 Wellbeing Workshop
Friday 24th April	Official opening of the EYFS outdoor area
Tuesday 28th April	Valley CIDS assembly Full Governing Board meeting
Wednesday 29th April	Welcome Wednesday for Y2 parents
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday
Friday 8th May	London Trip for Y6
Monday 11th May	KS2 SATs Week
Monday 18th May	Pupil Parliament visit to Swanwick with a focus on play
19.05.26	RNLI assembly
20.05.26	Welcome Wednesday Y3/4
Thursday 21st May	SEND Parents Networking 1:30pm Break up for children
Friday 22nd May	INSET

SEND Parents Networking

Next meeting: 22nd May

Venue: The Cabin

Focus: School Nurse tbc

Useful link: Neuro Hub newsletter:

<https://derbyshirecarers.co.uk/blog/neuro-hub-newsletter-march-2025>

Explorers



It's been a short but busy half term in the Explorer's class. We have enjoyed learning all about planting and growing. We started the half term by planting seeds and talking about what a plant needs to grow. We have enjoyed watching the seeds begin to sprout over the past few weeks.



In Science week we enjoyed asking questions and being curious. We found out that plants couldn't grow on the moon and planted our own cress seeds in cotton wool. Our seeds have already started to grow! We investigated which liquid would make the best bubble and made our own bubble wands using pipe cleaners. We then investigated dinosaurs, how we know about them and how they were suited to where they lived. We then enjoyed making dinosaur fossils.

In PSHE we have been learning about 'Healthy Me' and thinking about all the ways we can keep ourselves healthy such as exercise, making healthy food choices and getting enough sleep.

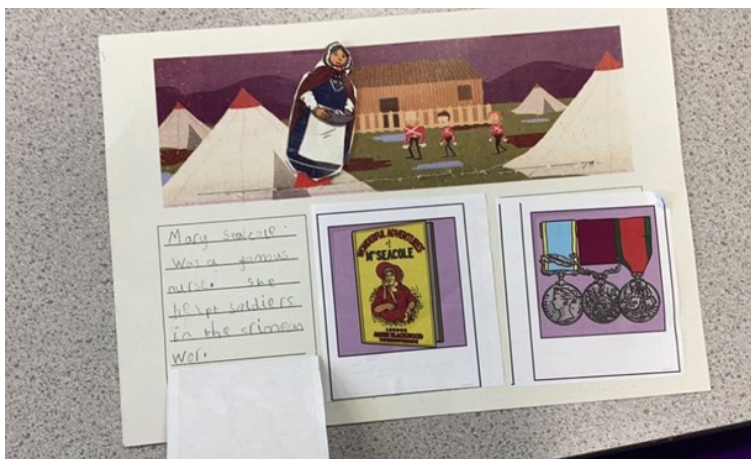


We have really enjoyed Forest School this half term, even though the weather hasn't been very kind to us! We have been planting seeds, creating nature collages, exploring living and non-living things, collecting natural objects and creating sculptures using clay and sticks.



Pioneers

The Pioneers have had a fantastic and very busy spring half term! Our topic, **Powerful People**, has inspired us to explore the lives of influential figures throughout history. The children created their very own interactive information books, complete with sliders and flaps!



A real highlight this term was taking part in the **Dance Festival**, where the class performed brilliantly—full of confidence, teamwork, and enthusiasm. We are so proud of them!

We have also loved spending time caring for our classroom creatures, especially the chicks and snails. The children have shown such kindness and curiosity while observing how they grow and change.

In English, we produced some excellent writing based on a **very odd egg** using some excellent sentence types and adjectives. Well done, Pioneers!





Philosophers

This half term in English, the children have been busy writing their own non-chronological reports about tea, inspired by the beautiful story *Cloud Tea Monkeys*. They



particularly enjoyed becoming tea tasters during one lesson, sampling a range of blends and describing their flavours.



Speaking of tasting, our *Scrumdilyumptious* topic has taken us on a delicious journey through the world of chocolate. The children sampled white, milk and dark chocolate and wrote about the journey of a cocoa bean from pod to packet. We have also been exploring seasonal foods and discovering where the ingredients we enjoy come from.



As part of Science Week, the children took part in a range of exciting investigations.

One of the favourites involved designing and building boats using only paper and masking tape to see which model could hold the most marbles before sinking. A huge well done to Valentin, whose impressive design held a whopping 70 marbles!

World Book Day was another highlight of the half term. It was wonderful to see the children arriving in such creative and colourful costumes! Throughout the day, we explored the wordless picture book *Flotsam* and had a go at writing our own haiku poems inspired by its mysterious underwater world.



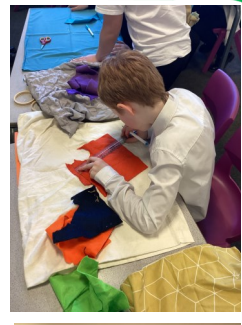
In Design Technology, the children created their own seasonal vegetable tarts, building confidence with chopping techniques, and evaluating their designs after tasting **them**.

Trailblazers

Trailblazers have had an amazing half term. Our topic has been World War 2 and we started the topic by eating bananas and satsumas because these were items that had to be imported. During the war these were a luxury!

Key events, rationing, life in England, the Blitz, evacuees and not forgetting the thought probing trip to the Holocaust Centre have inspired our learning. We even thought about these in our World Book Day - we added a page to the book *Flotsam* - some children dressed in 1940's clothing for a holiday during World War 2! We didn't forget our gas masks!

In science we have been looking at inheritance and adaptation, and we enjoyed creating the offspring for different Mr Men and Little Miss! The *Lost Thing* text has also inspired many fantastic writing opportunities. The children really enjoyed writing explanations on how to look after this THING! We have also enjoyed developing our sewing skills by improving old pillow cases into new items or adding embellishments as part of 'Make do and mend!'



Sports and PE:

This half-term KS1 and 2 have fully embraced our Dance unit. The Alice in Wonderland ballet theme inspired creativity and innovation, resulting in wonderfully unique dance routines. Our Pioneers used their PE lessons to inspire the choreography of their dance performance at the local show. Well done to all who took part in the KS1 dance festival—check out the photographs and video on Seesaw.

This half-term, our Year 5s began their weekly well-being sessions with Bolsover School Sport Partnership.

This week we took a team of swimmers to compete in a swimming gala against other schools of varying sizes. We were very proud of our pupils who swam their fastest and cheered each other on.

Pupil Voice:

On Monday 16th March Pupil Voice attended Pupil Parliament at Blackwell Primary School to discuss mental wellbeing. Following their visit, they asked to meet with me to discuss introducing 'joy jars' in class.

They have added audio to the child-friendly behaviour policy and delivered a whole-school assembly on the updated policy. Click [here](#) to hear!



Online Safety

Our online safety focus for this half term was: Health, Well-being and Lifestyle

Our focus for next half term is: Summer 1 - Managing online information

Please make sure you talk to your children about their online experiences.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a safe and age-appropriate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without installing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content slipping through the content process.

SETTING UP

- 1 Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.
- 2 Input your child's name, age and birth month.
- 3 Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.
- 4 If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.
- 5 Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

Advice for Parents & Carers

- REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS**
You can turn off ads in the YouTube Kids app. However, ads are still present in the background and may be visible on the screen. Ads are also present in the background when you are watching videos.
- BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT**
YouTube Kids is designed to be safe for children, but it's not perfect. There are still some videos that are not suitable for children. If you see a video that you think is not suitable for your child, you can report it to YouTube.
- DISABLE SEARCH OPTION**
You can turn off the search option in the YouTube Kids app. This will prevent your child from searching for videos. However, you can still see videos that are recommended to your child.
- RESTRICT VIEWING TIME**
You can set a limit on how long your child can watch YouTube Kids videos. This will help you manage your child's screen time.
- MONITOR WATCH HISTORY**
You can see a list of the videos your child has watched in the YouTube Kids app. This will help you monitor what your child is watching.
- WATCH TOGETHER**
You can watch YouTube Kids videos with your child. This will help you ensure that the content is appropriate for your child.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. David Colquhoun is a leading expert on child online safety. He has written several books and articles on the topic. He is also a frequent speaker at conferences and events.

National Online Safety
#NationalOnlineSafety

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety



You may have noticed that we are using fewer photographs in newsletters now and that images don't show full faces. This is to reduce images shared publicly from being used by AI for inappropriate content. Other photographs are available to you through your child's See-saw account. May I remind everybody that these should not be shared, as per the signed agreement when your child started at the school. Many thanks.

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 <div style="display: inline-block; border-bottom: 1px solid black; width: 150px; margin: 0 10px;"></div>		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% GOOD Best chance of success.	94% WORRYING Less chance of success	90% SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Possible legal action	85%	80%	