



Westhouses Primary School Summer 1

Dear Parents and Carers,


It was a short, but jam-packed half term, with trips to the seaside and the capital; local walks; sporting events; the opening of the new outdoor area; creating and tasting, a photography competition to name but a few!

We would like to say thank you to the university student teachers who have now completed their placements with us—we wish them all the best over the next two years as they continue with their degrees.

As a school we continue to focus on further developing reading and oracy.

The staff start next half term with cyber awareness training, so please remember that the children don't start back until Tuesday the 2nd June. In July we will be welcoming Miss Briggs back after her maternity leave, but she will be in for the first part of our transition week which starts on Monday 22nd June.

Have a lovely half term and enjoy the sunny weather!

ATTENDANCE

From September 2025


| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| Little Explorers: | ~ | 97% |
| Big Explorers: | ~ | 97.43% |
| Pioneers | ~ | 95.83% |
| Philosophers: | ~ | 96.57% |
| Trailblazers: | ~ | 96.83% |
| Total Attendance: | | 96.68% |

Attendance target is 97%.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts



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|---------------------|--|
| Monday 1st June | INSET |
| Tuesday 2nd June | Children start back Balance Bikes for Explorers |
| Wednesday 3rd June | Y6 at the Institute of Sport |
| Thursday 4th June | Bikeability for Y4 and 5 Swimming starts again for five weeks |
| Friday 5th June | Bikeability for Y5 |
| Monday 8th June | Lea Green residential visit for KS2 all week |
| Tuesday 9th June | Balance Bikes for Explorers |
| Tuesday 16th June | Balance Bikes for Explorers Valley CIDS assembly |
| Wednesday 17th June | Welcome Wednesday for Y5/6 |
| Friday 19th June | Theatre Performance: Resolving Conflict and Showing Resilience in a New Environment |
| Monday 22nd June | Transition Week |
| Thursday 25th June | Y6 and Y10 Building Bridges Project (reading mentors) Celebration at Tibshelf Community School |
| Friday 26th June | Railway Safety Presentations |
| Friday 3rd July | Summer Fayre |
| Monday 6th July | Miss Briggs returns |
| Tuesday 7th July | Building Bridges Project Y5—reading mentors in FGB meeting |
| Wednesday 8th July | Welcome Wednesday for Reception Colour Run |
| Wednesday 15th July | Sports Day and family picnic |
| Friday 17th July | Reserve Sports Day |
| Tuesday 21st July | Leavers Shows (1:30pm and 5:30pm) |
| Thursday 23rd July | Leavers Assembly Break Up |



SEND Parents Networking

Next half term we are running a parenting course over six weeks.

- It will include: practical tools and strategies you can use at home
- Support with understanding and responding to your child's needs
- Opportunities to meet and connect with other parents and carers
- Guidance from experienced staff who work closely with SEND children

Explorers

The Explorers have had a very exciting half term: our new outdoor play area opened!! We have loved digging in the sand pit, going on the slide, making mud pies in the mud kitchen and role-playing on the fort. We have been practising our balancing and pedal skills on the bikes and learning how to put on our helmets.



In our topic work we have been learning about seasonal changes and the weather. We made observations whilst outside to see what changes are taking place. We have thought about wind; how to measure the wind and how wind can be used. We have explored rainbows and how they are formed and how we can make our own rainbows.

Inside, we designed and made our own salads. It was lots of fun to practise our chopping skills and thinking about using the equipment safely. We enjoyed tasting the different parts of our salads and evaluating what we liked and disliked.



We have really enjoyed having Miss Taylor in class to help us with our learning and which her all the best in her teacher training.



Pioneers

Pioneers Class have had a wonderfully busy half term exploring our local area and developing a range of new skills. During our walk around the neighbourhood, the children enjoyed spotting different road signs and learning about their important purposes, showing great curiosity and awareness.

In Design and Technology, they demonstrated fantastic creativity by making colourful pin-wheels to brighten their gardens. The garden theme also linked to our science learning, we have planted sunflowers and explored what plants need to grow, with everyone eagerly taking responsibility for caring for them.

The class have also produced some fantastic *lost and found* stories, showing great imagination and developing their writing skills brilliantly. They have additionally impressed me with their gymnastics routines, showing increasing confidence, balance and coordination. Well done, Pioneers, on a fantastic half term of learning!



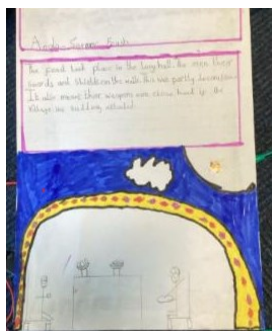
Philosophers

A definite highlight of this half term was our recent day trip to Skegness. We had a beautiful day for it, and we were lucky enough to have almost the entire beach to ourselves. The children were exceptionally well-behaved and polite throughout the day, representing the school perfectly. To show their gratitude, the children wrote letters of thanks to the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre to thank them for such a memorable experience.

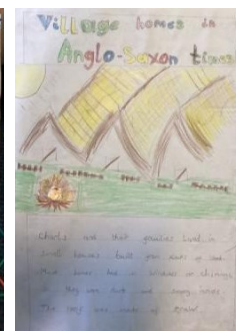


In our English lessons, we have been reading *How to Live Forever*. This story inspired the children to write their own persuasive letters, where they explored the concept of immortality and wrote warnings about its potential drawbacks.

Our work in Design Technology took a historical turn this term. Following our research into the Anglo-Saxons, the children designed and built electrical posters that combined their history knowledge with their understanding of circuits.



The children have turned into animators in Computing, using stop-motion to bring their ideas to life. These brilliant finished projects are available for you to view on Seesaw.



Trailblazers

What an amazing half term! The Year 6 have worked very hard with their SATs tests and enjoyed their trip to London. What an experience! Parliament, lunch looking out on to the River Thames, underground and a cable car journey over the O2 arena.



Our topic has been Hola Mexico and we started the topic trying Doritos, salsa and guacamole. We have learnt a lot about human and physical features of Mexico and compared them with Westhouses and England.

In science we have been learning about life cycles and even cloned our own mint plant! In Art we have been preparing and making model totem poles and now onto our final large totem poles that will be in our playgrounds soon.



Sports and PE:

This half-term, the children have taken part in Gymnastics sessions with Tracey from Derbyshire Gymnastics Academy. In these sessions the children have been working on types of balances both individually and working in pairs or groups. They have also worked on sequences of movements, coming up with their own routines and performing them.



In May, our Reception pupils took part in a Summer Fun sports event hosted by BDSSP. They participated in a number of fun physical activities such as 'messy bedroom' where they competed against each other, throw-

ing shuttlecocks into the other bedroom to make it as messy as possible! Steal from the nest was another firm favourite, where teams had to race to collect treasure from the nest. We were very impressed with all the Reception children who took part in their first sport event with confidence and enthusiasm!



Photography Competition:

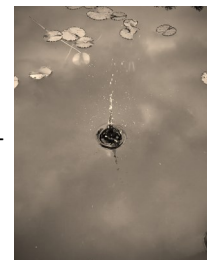
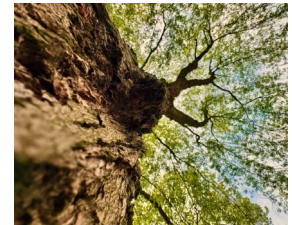
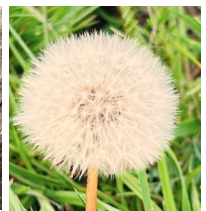
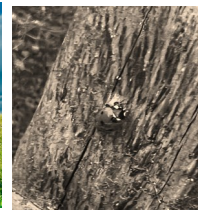
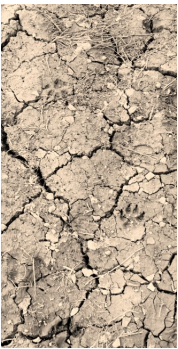
Thank you to everyone who entered our competition, we had an amazing 43 entries.
Nature Wonders - Nate Maycock - bird
Black and White - Darcie McNaughton - Capturing a splash
Sky Stories - Valentin Majtan - Blue and green

Something Close Up - Ethan Maycock - dandelion
Amazing Patterns and Shapes - Nate Maycock - cracks
Something That Makes Me Happy - Betsy McNaughton - 5 pits trail bike rides

Most Creative Photo - Ethan Maycock - Black and white lady-bird

Most unique photo - Darcie McNaughton - tree

All winners were chosen by a different staff member and were anonymous.



Online Safety

Our online safety focus for this half term was: Managing online information

Our focus for next half term is: Copyright and ownership

Please make sure you talk to your children about their online experiences—try Lego Build and Talk Project:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>



A few word from our governors: The full board of Governors met at the end of April and we were thrilled to share news of the official opening of our fabulous new play area! We were honoured to have our local MP join us to cut the ribbon. It is wonderful to see the children already exploring, climbing, and making the most of this fantastic new space.

To make sure we get the most out of our new facilities, we also heard about the hard work of the mid-day supervisors and all staff in supporting our all-weather play approach. We believe that a bit of rain shouldn't stop the fun. Their work and the new play facilities will help ensure the health and well-being of the children, supporting them to be more focused and ready to learn after breaktimes.

A huge thank you to everyone who completed our recent parent survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable. Alongside the children's survey, once completed, we will be looking at how we use the feedback to help shape the next chapter of our school's development.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school such a vibrant place to learn—rain or shine. Maybe both now summer is approaching.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

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

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 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 | | |