



Westhouses Primary School Summer2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a very hot term, but that didn't stop all the hard work and fun. We kicked off the summer with a residential to Lea Green with KS2 children and continued with a trip to Twycross Zoo for our younger pupils, performances, transition week, a colour run, sports day and other sporting events. It has been wonderful to have so many parents and other family members join us for many of these.

We also welcomed Miss Briggs back from maternity leave. We are delighted that Mrs Green will be continuing to work at our school for one and a half days a week—one day in Trailblazers and half a day in Philosophers.

Next academic year, we will be continuing our work on oracy and reading. We will be really focussing on fluency. Please help by encouraging your child to read to you over the summer. Click [here](#) for tips on how to do this.

We wish our Y6 pupils all the best in September as they start the next stage of their education journey. We are very proud of you and look forward to hearing about your future achievements. Have a wonderful summer break and we will see most of you in September!



ATTENDANCE

From September 2025

Little Explorers:	~	97.75%
Big Explorers:	~	97.45%
Pioneers	~	95.35%
Philosophers:	~	96.67%
Trailblazers:	~	96.71%
Total Attendance:		96.72%

Attendance target is 97%.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

**THANK
YOU!**

A huge thank you to our Pupil Voice (*Ethan May, Ella P, Shae G, Darcie M, Tommy B, Tristan W-D, Eva U, Edward B, Victoria M*) for all their hard work and dedication over the last year. They have made a real difference to our school by helping to amend our behaviour policy and create child-friendly version; raising money for charities; and helping to organise our fantastic Colour Run. They have also willingly given up their time to design and create posters for school events and initiatives. As a lasting legacy of their hard work, the Pupil Voice would like to purchase some new playground resources for everyone to enjoy – watch this space! We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and look forward to holding elections for our new representatives next academic year.

Friday 4th September	INSET
Monday 7th September	Children back to school
Saturday 12th September	Winning boat designers invited to opening of Matlock Illuminations
Thursday 17th September	Diwali workshop (Open Centre)
Monday 21st September	Resource Management - governor sub-committee meeting
Friday 24th September	Bridging Project—Tibshelf Community School Reading mentors in for Y5/6 pupils
Tuesday 29th September	Teaching and Learning— governor sub-committee meeting
Thursday 1st October	School photographer in for individual and sibling shots
Friday 2nd October	Trip to Eyam for Trailblazers (tbc)
Monday 5th October	Severn Trent in school—workshop for Philosophers and assembly for whole school
	Parish Council meeting
Tuesday 6th October	Valley CIDS assembly
	Full governing board meeting
Friday 9th October	Karate demonstration assembly
Tuesday 13th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 14th October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 15th October	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 21st October	Assembly about young carers by Derbyshire Cares Association
Thursday 22nd October	Halloween disco
Friday 23rd October	Harvest Festival
	Break up
Please note that we are still awaiting dates for sporting events from the School Sports Partnership.	





Explorers

It's been a very busy and hot half term! We've enjoyed transition week and our reception children had a very positive week in Pioneers with Mrs Ramsdale. We have had our new nursery and reception children visit school in preparation for September-they did so well!



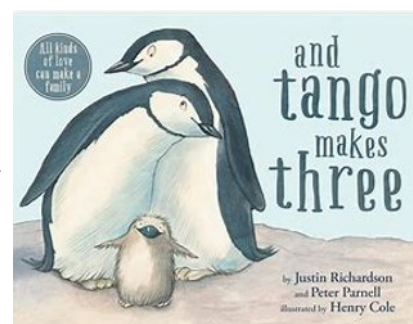
The Explorers had a lovely trip to Twycross Zoo! The children were very well behaved and enjoyed looking at all the different animals, playing on the park and exploring the Gruffalo trail. Their favourite animals were definitely the monkeys! We loved watching the penguins swimming like the penguins in our story 'And Tango Makes Three'.

We have also taken part in balance bike sessions which the children have really enjoyed. The children have learnt how to balance, how to brake and how to glide on the balance bikes.

We have been learning about our bodies and learning the different names for body parts. We explored what happens as our bodies grow and how we change from a baby to an adult.



We wish the reception children the best of luck in year 1. They have worked very hard this year and we are so proud of what they have achieved.



Pioneers

This summer, the Pioneers have been on an exciting journey around the world! Our topic has given us the opportunity to explore different countries, animals and habitats while developing our creativity and learning about the wider world.

One of the highlights of the term was our visit to the zoo, where we explored animals from around the world and learned about those that are critically endangered. The children were fascinated to discover why some species are at risk and discussed the importance of protecting animals and their habitats for future generations.

Our learning then took us to **Africa**, where we explored its landscapes, wildlife and cultures. We learned about some of the amazing animals that live there and discussed what daily life might be like for a child living in Africa, comparing it to our own experiences. The children showed great curiosity and empathy throughout these discussions.

In our art lessons, the children created some truly fantastic **African-inspired masks**. Using clay, paper mâché and acrylic paint, they carefully designed and decorated their masks, demonstrating wonderful creativity and perseverance. The finished masks looked incredible and we were all very proud of the results.

We also enjoyed learning about **habitats around the world**, investigating how animals are adapted to survive in different environments. To bring our learning to life, the children worked hard to design and make their own **ocean habitat models**, showing a great understanding of the creatures and features found beneath the sea.

It has been a fantastic term full of discovery, creativity and hands-on learning. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork and effort shown by all of the Pioneers. Well done, everyone!





Philosophers

We've had a fantastic final summer term in Philosophers Class.

In English, we read the beautiful book *Our Tower*, and the children used this as inspiration to write their own fantasy narratives. They enjoyed describing their very own fantasy creatures.



We have explored the Vikings in our history lessons. The children acted out the dramatic attack on Lindisfarne and then put on their journalist hats to write gripping, detailed newspaper reports about the historical event!

In Art, we have been mastering watercolour skills and techniques. The children practised blending and brush-work skills to produce their final fantastic watercolour paintings of Viking longships.

Even on the hottest days this half term, the children have continued to demonstrate brilliant attitudes in school and have brought positivity and smiles to the classroom – well done, Philosophers!



Trailblazers

What an amazing half term we've had in Trailblazers! We have been exploring the Mayan's way of life, their traditions and researching famous historical places linked to the time period.



In DT, we have been learning about staying healthy and made a vegetable chilli, using the bridge and claw cutting techniques.

In English we have been enjoying the book 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo, we designed our very own creatures and wrote a chapter for the book using these. We have even managed to squeeze in some time to learn how to programme microbits!

We have also been busy preparing for the play 'Hansel and Gretel': making props and scenery to enhance this. We even did our own sound production!



Sports and PE:

Sports Day: We had a fantastic time at our annual sports day! Well done to all the children. You tried your best in all the different activities and cheered on your team-mates! It was lovely to see such enthusiasm and team spirit! During the event, staff were looking out for pupils showing all of our sporting values: determination, self-belief, honesty, respect, teamwork, resilience, passion.

Our Sport Values winning pupils were: Cassi, Jacob F, Ree, Shae, Graysen, Bodie and Luca.

This year's winning team was...SYDNEY!

Bikeability: In June, children in Year 4 and 5 had the opportunity to participate in Bikeability, learning cycle safety and proficiency. As well as learning practical skills, the children developed their road awareness and gained much more confidence.

Year 6 Institute of Sport: This half term, our oldest pupils attended the Celebration of Sport event at the English Institute of Sport. They took part in a range of sporting activities from boxing, fencing and dance to an enormous inflatable obstacle course. They represented our school really well and demonstrated resilience, honesty and team spirit.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our sports events this year. We have had another fantastic year of physical activity!



Community: Colour Run!

Earlier this month, we had an absolute blast at our Colour Run event! We had to run round the course, dash through the rainbow tunnel and dodge the colour sprayers. We had a brilliant time! The added bonus **was raising £392** for the Derbyshire Childrens' Holiday Centre.



Ideas for the summer break





Online Safety

Our online safety focus for this half term was **Copyright and Ownership**.

Our focus for next half term is **Privacy and Security**.

Advice for parents about online games: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

Click [here](#) for information about raising digitally Smart Families.

LEGO® Build & Talk



We're working with the LEGO Group to bring Build & Talk activities to families across the UK. These activities make learning about online safety fun, hands-on, and easy to start.

Try them today!

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 ab- sence								
		178 days of education	19 days ab- sence							
			171 days of education	29 days ab- sence						
				Half term missed						
			161 days of education		38 days ab- sence					
				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					