



# Westhouses Primary School Spring 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following feedback from parents, we have updated the format of our newsletter — we hope you like the new look! Your views are important to us, so thank you to those who completed the parents' survey. We continue to listen and where possible respond to suggestions. For results of surveys, please click [here](#).



After Easter, we welcome Mrs Gregg to Little Explorers on Mondays and Tuesdays. We are also very excited to announce that in the autumn we will have a new addition to our Westhouses family : Miss Briggs is expecting! Huge congratulations—we cannot wait to meet baby!

This half term has been busy as always, so please read on to find out about just some of the things we have been up to.

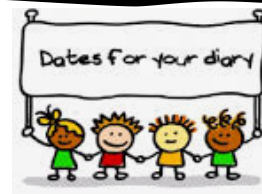


## ATTENDANCE From September 2024

Little Explorers:	~	95%
Big Explorers	~	94.8%
Philosophers:	~	96.4%
Trailblazers:	~	96.3%
<b>Total Attendance:</b>		<b>95.9%</b>

**Attendance target is 97%.**

*Moments Matter, Attendance Counts*



Friday 4th April	Break up
Tuesday 22nd April	Back to school
Monday 28th April	Friends of Westhouses meeting at 3:40pm
Tuesday 29th March	Reading mentors from Tibshelf Community School Full Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday 30th March	School Sports Partnership Wellbeing with Big Explorers
Thursday 1st May	INSET DAY—elections
Friday 2nd May	Oral Hygiene Workshop with the school nurse for Big Explorers
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 7th May	Balance Bike session for Little Explorers
Thursday 8th May	Raising the Flag in the village for VE Day
Wk .beg. 12th May	SATs Week
Wednesday 14th May	Balance Bike session for Little Explorers
Thursday 15th May	Reception fun event at Tibshelf (letter to follow)
Friday 16th May	Galleries of Justice trip for Trailblazers
Tuesday 20th May	Valley CIDS assembly
Thursday 22nd May	Break Up
Friday 23rd May	INSET
Monday 2nd June	Back to school



**Reminder: The 21st April is a bank holiday.**





## Little Explorers

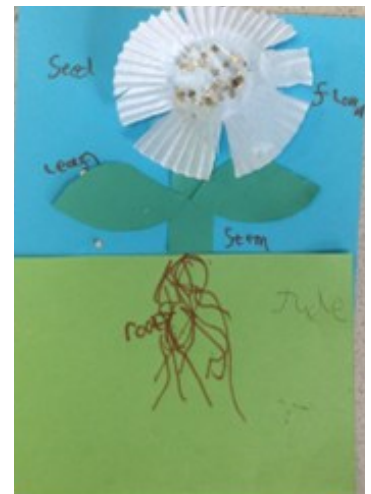
This half term in Little Explorers, we have been learning all about plants and growing. We have worked together to turn over the soil and plant some seeds. We have been watering the patch regularly and hope to see flowers in the summer.

We planted some cress seeds and tested if they would grow without water or sunlight. We found that they needed both to grow. We then planted beans in a clear bag so that we could see the roots and shoots as they grew.

We have also been learning about foods that come from plants. We chopped fruit to make rainbow fruit kebabs, yummy!



## Big Explorers



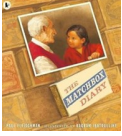
Big Explorers have had a very busy half term! We thoroughly enjoyed our farming topic and were lucky enough to visit a local allotment! The children loved feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs.

We have learned about plants in science and have enjoyed planting our own flowers and watching them begin to grow. The children created a lovely craft flower to show the different parts of a plant. What a fabulous prize day we had dressing up! The children were so excited to earn all their stars in the jar and we were able to bake some cookies as well!

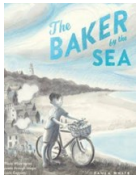


## Philosophers

In Philosophers Class this half term, we've been learning all about the Romans. The children particularly enjoyed learning about Boudica's rebellion, and we considered whether we'd fight back or surrender to the Romans if we lived in AD43!



In English, we've explored two more beautiful books – *The Baker by the Sea*, and *The Matchbox Diaries*. We discussed which has been our favourite so far and the children have been drawing comparisons between these and our book from last half term. Their writing, inspired by these books, has included autobiographical writing and a tourist brochure.



Our project in DT was to design and make slingshot cars. We had great fun testing them out on the playground and it was lovely to



hear the encouragement and feedback that the children gave to each other.



## Trailblazers

Trailblazers have been learning all about 'Rivers' this half term. In Geography, we have been researching how rivers are formed and comparing rivers from around the world. The children produced some excellent river posters for our display.

In English, we have been reading a book called 'Paradise Sands', it inspired us to write our own narrative from the perspective of one of the characters. The narratives were amazing, and we were really

proud of our finished pieces.

In DT we have been researching, designing and building a bridge. In our final week, we will be testing the strength of our bridges to see who's can hold the most weight.

There was still time for exploring the different lands set up around school on World Book Day. We really loved the book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker and of course dressing up!





# Online Safety

Our online safety focus for this half term was **Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle**



Our focus for next half term is **Managing online information.**

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

## PE:

In February, Athur and Rupert from Year 6 represented our school in the district final of Cross Country. They raced 1500m around a tough terrain, and even battled the elements as the heavens opened to icy hailstones. Their determination was admirable and we were extremely proud of them.



We recently had a football taster session with Kixx. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all classes and the coaches were full of praise for our pupils' skills, enthusiasm and teamwork!

Last week we sent a team of seven swimmers to a competitive gala in Clowne. The team had to swim in some individual races and work together in relay races. Everyone put their heart and soul into



the event and we were pleased to come third. Well done to all of our swimmers!



**Friends of Westhouses**

Thank you to Friends of Westhouses for organising the pre-loved sale this week to coincide with parents' evenings. They worked incredibly hard to organise all of you kind donations.

Many thanks to them for also providing the eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and donating £350 towards the cost of upcoming school trips..



# World Book Day 2025



## 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 <span style="font-size: 2em;">→</span>		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% <b>GOOD</b> Best chance of success.	94% <b>WORRYING</b> Less chance of success	90%	85% <b>SERIOUS CONCERN</b> Not fair on your child Possible legal action	80%	