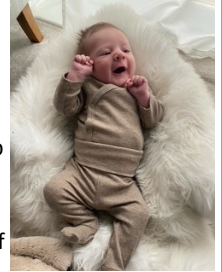




Westhouses Primary School Autumn 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a really positive start to the academic year. We have welcomed Mrs Green to Trailblazers class and welcomed baby Hugo to the Westhouses family - congratulations Miss Briggs!



As part of our school improvement this year, we are focussing on speaking and listening, so we are introducing 'Aye up me duck Friday': children will be rewarded for using accurate grammar and adventurous vocabulary while staff will receive a forfeit if the children catch them using poor grammar. Other priority areas include: effective use of new online safeguarding system; implementation of the new Derbyshire Agreed Syllabus for RE and further development of PE and music.

Congratulations to our newly elected Pupil Voice members—they are starting by working on our behaviour policy and writing a pupil friendly policy.

Have a spooktacular half term break and we'll see you on the 3rd November.

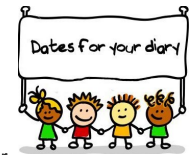


ATTENDANCE From September 2024

Little Explorers:	~	95.5%
Big Explorers	~	95.1%
Philosophers:	~	96.5%
Trailblazers:	~	96.1%
Total Attendance:		96%

Attendance target is 97%.

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts



Monday 3rd November	Back to school
Tuesday 4th November	Scholastic Book Fair Arts Ambassadors trip to meet an illustrator
Wednesday 5th November	Height and weight checks for reception and Y6
Thursday 6th November	Author visit Y5/6 Dodgeball at Frederick Gent's Swimming starts again.
Wk. Beg. 10th November	Anti-bullying Week
Thursday 13th November	2pm Networking meeting for parents of SEND children (focus NVR training)
Friday 14th November	Children in Need
Wednesday 19th November	Phonics workshop for parents
Friday 21st November	Non-uniform - Bring a bottle for the Christmas Fayre
Thursday 27th November	Cake donations for the Christmas Fayre
Friday 28th November	Cake donations for the Christmas Fayre 2:30—4:00pm Christmas Fayre
Monday 1st December	Pupil Parliament at Tibshelf Community School 6pm Parish Council Meeting
Friday 5th December	Panto—oh yes it is!
Tuesday 16th December	Philosophers' Christmas Performances
Wednesday 17th December	Explorers' and Pioneers Nativity Performances
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Parties
Friday 19th December	Carol Concert Break Up

Pupil Voice Election Results

Reception: Ted
 Year 1: Eva U
 Year 2: Victoria
 Year 3: Tristan
 Year 4: Darcie and Tommy
 Year 5: Shae
 Year 6: Ethan May and Ella



Explorers

What a brilliant first half term the Explorers have had! We are so proud of how well the children have settled in. We have spent lots of time learning through play inside and outside and getting used to our school routines.

Through our 'Into the Wild' topic, Explorers have been busy learning about different animals and have enjoyed making lots of different animals in the craft area.

The children have been enjoying daily phonics lessons. Nursery children have learnt different nursery rhymes and have been practising different mark making patterns. Reception children have been introduced to the first phase 2 sounds and tricky words and have done lots of name writing.

In maths we have been using the autumnal objects to explore pattern and pattern repeats. We have been describing capacity, size and sorting and grouping.



Pioneers

Pioneers have had a fabulous half term learning about the history of transport. They loved the visit to the tramway! We were able to learn about the history of trams and have a lovely walk on the sculpture trail.

The children have learned about George Stephenson and how he was the 'father of railways'. We also learned that George Stephenson owned the quarry that now houses the Tramway Museum!

In D&T, we've been learning how to use axles, axle holders and wheels when making our pull along monster toys.

The children have settled so well—what a great start of the year! I am really proud of their super learning attitudes.





Philosophers

We have enjoyed a fantastic start to the year in Philosophers' Class. All the children have settled in beautifully and have shown wonderful enthusiasm for their learning – I'm very proud of them all!

Our Year 3 children have now started learning the fife in our music lessons, whilst the Year 4s are learning

new skills on their flutes.

We had great fun during our energetic sports-themed African Dance workshop with Bemba. The children also enjoyed asking her questions and listening to her speak about her work as an author.

In Science, we have been learning about 'Living things and their habitats,' including classification and how animals adapt to their environments. The children enjoyed creating their own animals and making suggestions as to how they would adapt. Ideas included a sand-coloured desert crocodile with long eyelashes, and a green and brown striped forest cat!

In our Art lessons, we have been learning about the work of Henri Rousseau and have experimented with different techniques for collage, such as layering, mosaic and overlapping. We applied our learning to create our own rainforest-theme collages, based on Rousseau's famous painting, 'Surprised!'.



Trailblazers

Trailblazers have had an amazing start to the year. Our topic was 'Our Planet' and we have enjoyed learning about: the planets in our solar system, phases of our moon which included using biscuits to help us reinforce our learning - we used biscuits to represent the phases of a moon. Each cycle takes 27 days.

The man, who tightrope-walked between the twin towers, has inspired many writing opportunities, including a newspaper article as if we had been witness to the amazing event. We have also written a story sequel to the book 'The Island' by Amir Greder.



We have also enjoyed investigating structures in DT and making automata toys. In preparation for making our toys, we made our cubes and tested their strength with books. The successful ones had support on the sides and /or between the open spaces. The thicker lollipop sticks were also better.

PE

In September, our Trailblazers were invited to take part in the local schools' football tournament. We had a huge squad of 13 players, and it was great to see so many eager to play. All children tried their best, were happy to play in different positions and worked well as a team.

In October, we also took our Year 3's and 4's to a football tournament. They faced some tough opponents but still tried their best. It was lovely to see many of these pupils joining in with their first school sport event.

Our Explorers class have been enjoying some Active Story Telling workshops with Alice from the Bolsover School Sports partnership. They heard a story about a baby owl hatching from its egg and then completed a range of activities based on the story. Here we are stretching after hatching out of the egg.

Our afterschool football club with Kixx has been really popular this half-term. Well done to everyone who joined in. Look out for information about next half-term's club with Kixx.



Governing Board

The full board met earlier in October to hear about what has been another busy and positive term and make some decisions to support Westhouses Primary to continue to thrive.

We've agreed to move forward with a new foundation stage play area project. This is a major investment and we're sending the proposal off to Derbyshire County Council for final approval. This exciting development will give our children even more fantastic space to play and learn outdoors.

We heard about positive performance reviews for staff across the school and would like to thank all staff who after a year of changes have come together to make our school as successful as it is.

We also thoroughly reviewed and agreed upon our Sports Premium and Pupil Premium reports, which set out how we use these funds to ensure all our pupils, especially those who need extra support, achieve their best.

Finally, we've set a whole-school attendance target of 96% for the year and we appreciate all parents and carers' support towards achieving our targets over the years. We look forward to a successful and productive term and leave you with our best wishes for the October half term break.



Online Safety

Our online safety focus for this half term was **Privacy and Security**

Our focus for next half term is **Online Bullying and Self image and identity.**

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





Parent Support

Neurohubs provide a support and information service for neurodivergent children, young people and their families. This support can be accessed in-person, over video chat or on the phone. These hubs are based in Buxton, Chesterfield, Derby and Heanor. Find out more click [here](#).



Leaving your child home alone

Know when it's safe and how to make the right decision for your child.

Click [here](#) to find out more from the NSPCC.

Sleep workshops

For parents and carers of 0-19 year olds who are or may be neurodiverse

Pathological Demand Avoidance and Sleep
 Sleep can be a huge trigger for children and young people with PDA. Join Nickie to look at some strategies to help reduce bedtime battles.
 Wednesday 15 October, 12:30-3pm
 at Sinfon Family Hub, 345 Sinfon Lane, Sinfon Moor, Derby DE24 9SG
 Call 01332 956967 to book

Sensory Processing and Sleep
 Children and young people with sensory processing differences find it hard to settle and sleep well. This workshop will look at how the different senses impact on sleep and share simple, effective strategies to support.
 Wednesday 12 November, 6-8pm
 Online
 Call 01332 208175 to request the link

Autism and Sleep
 Sleep is much harder for autistic children and young people for reasons that they cannot control. This workshop will focus on how Autism affects sleep and what you can do to help.
 Friday 5 December, 12:30-3pm
 at Mackworth Morley Family Hub, Reigate Drive, Mackworth, Derby DE22 4EQ
 Call 01332 208175 to book

All workshops are delivered by Nickie Sutton, Specialist Sleep Practitioner.

Please scan for further information

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	