



May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The start of the summer term is always a lovely time. There is a feeling of excitement amongst the children with the summer holidays just one term away. Even the sun has made more of an appearance.

The children have been very enthusiastic with their learning, there have been numerous class trips, Year 2 and Year 6 approached their SATS with great determination, we celebrated Eid in style, we also celebrated the King's coronation, and to top it all off we hatched some ducklings!

You will hear all about the Reception & Year 1 trip to Washbrooks Farm in the next newsletter. We hope you all have a lovely break over the half term, and we will see you again on Monday, 5th June 2023.

West Green Primary School



WEST GREEN SUMMER FAIR - PARENT HELP NEEDED STILL NEEDED

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the West Green Primary School summer fair is being held on Friday, 7 July 2023 (we have an indoor plan in case of bad weather), but in order to make it as successful as last year we still need some parent volunteers.

All help is gratefully received. We would be very grateful for whatever time you are able to give to assist us. The classes will run their own stalls once again as they did such a great job last year.

However, we will definitely need parent volunteers to organise and run the following:

- ◇ A raffle stall;
- ◇ A food & drink stall;
- ◇ If you would like to run an alternative stall please contact the school office.

If you are willing to volunteer please let the school office know. Thank you!

YEAR 3 HAMPTON COURT PALACE TRIP

Year 3 had a real experience when they visited Hampton Court Palace. They gave us a royal wave and went off to explore the Palace and it's amazing history. The Year 3 teacher had this to say about the day...

"Recently, Year 3 went and visited Hampton Court Palace in London. After a long coach ride, we became history detectives and answered questions about Henry VIII. We then sat out on the fields for lunch, trying to make sure the wind didn't blow away our food! Then, we explored the grounds and went to the kitchens. It was a very busy day filled with lots of different activities. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed this trip and were all very keen to go back some time soon."

Mr Linford - Year 3 Teacher



YEAR 4 BIGNOR ROMAN VILLA TRIP

Year 4 visited Bignor Roman Villa to learn more about roman history. They were extremely well behaved and they represented the school very well. The Year 4 teacher had this to say about the day...

"Year 4 had an exciting time at the Bignor Roman Villa, where they had the opportunity to walk on and touch 2000 year old Roman Mosaics. The children were shown around the villa and got to see the way in which central heating was introduced by the Romans. They also had lots of fun taking part in the various activities, particularly grinding their own flour. They all very quickly agreed that although this was a fun task, they would not have enjoyed being a Roman slave."

Mrs Riadat - Year 4 Teacher



YEAR 5 SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP

Year 5 had a very exciting and successful trip to London. They went by train in order to keep the costs as low as possible. They then walked from Victoria train station, via Buckingham Palace (where they saw the changing of the guard), and onto the Science Museum. The Science Museum is a really interesting place to visit, and if you ever have the chance to take your child/children there it is free entry and you can easily make it last the entire day if you want to. The Year 5 teachers had this to say about the day...

"Year 5 had a lovely trip to London to go to visit the Science Museum. Everyone was very excited to make the journey up to London by train. We made a detour to Buckingham Palace on our way there and were right in time to watch the changing of the guards outside the palace gates. We continued our walk through London to the Science Museum and were able to see many famous sights on the way. At the Science Museum, Year 5 were able to have an amazing hands-on experience with lots of scientific phenomena and watch live demonstrations. Playing with forces down the giant slide was a particular favourite! It was a brilliant day- even if everyone had very aching feet by the end!"

Mrs Brotherton & Miss Jeffery - Year 5 Teachers



NON-UNIFORM DAY TO CELEBRATE EID

We joined in the Eid celebration by dressing to impress. A lot of effort was made, it was a very glamorous day!



KING'S CORONATION PICNIC

We celebrated the King's Coronation in style by having a non-uniform day where the theme was to try to dress in red/white/blue. Some children designed posters, and we also had a picnic. We made it a very grand occasion! We even had a visit from the King & Queen...



YEAR 6 SATS

Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this school year in preparation for their SATS. We are so proud of the effort that every child has put in. We hold a breakfast club for Year 6 students during the week of their SATS, and it seems to work well in giving the children time to relax prior to the tests. To celebrate their final test the children received their leavers hoodies.



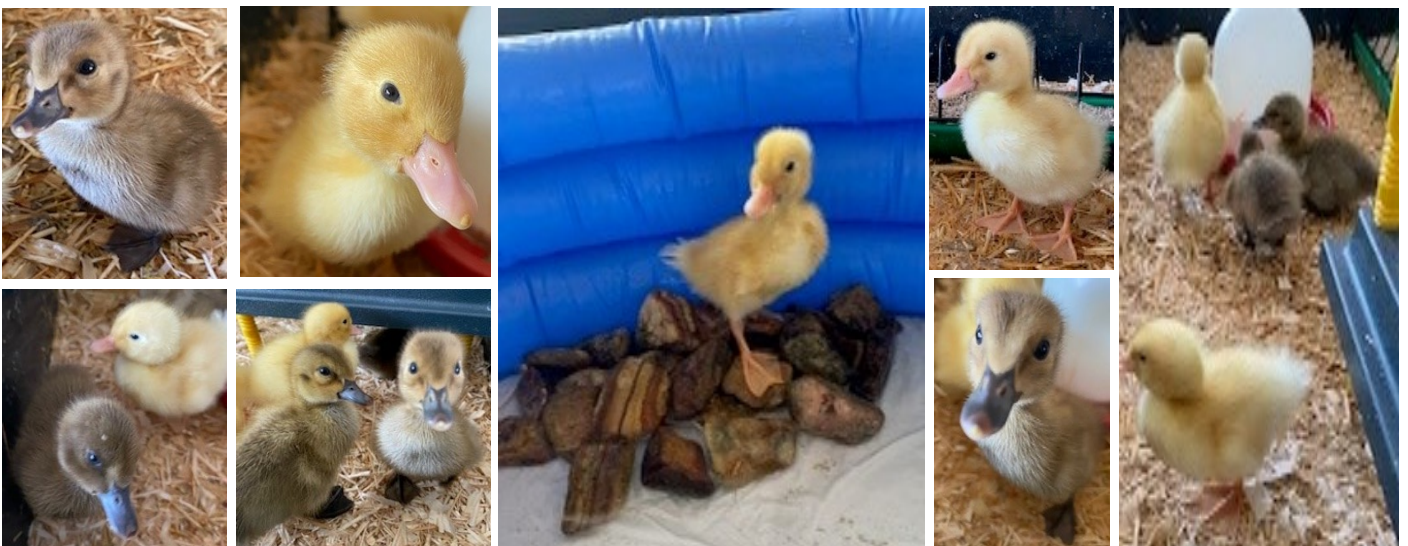
RECEPTION DUCKLINGS

Our Reception children hatched some ducklings this year. We had five ducklings successfully hatch. The children were very good around the ducklings, and they even helped teach them to swim. We are always sorry to see the ducklings go back to their farm, but what a lovely opportunity for the children to watch chicks hatch and grow.

It is exhausting being born...



...but look at us now!



NEW SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

At the start of the Summer term some new school council representatives were elected. We would like to thank the previous representatives who did a great job, and came up with a lot of marvellous ideas. We are sure our new school council representatives will do a great job too. Congratulations to Jeyashni, Hugo, Lilia, Ilyas, William, Agata, Maysae, Oscar, Leo, Devon, Harry, Rhiya, Emily and Lucy.



HOW ARE WE DOING...

“...she enjoyed her work experience very much. She loves your staff and school.”

ANON parent of a child visiting us for work experience.

“...to say THANK YOU for arranging the trip to Hampton Court yesterday. I understand it is not easy to put everything together and going through strikes and other challenges. The children loved it and [child's name removed] could not stop talking how "amazing" it was. Thank you to the West Green team.”

ANON parent.

When the Year 3 children visited Hampton Court Palace two of the staff that did guided sessions for us said how good the children had been. The parents that came along on the trip also commented on the children's good behaviour.

Headteacher.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Many of you may have noticed the old railway signal box by the railway crossing at the end of Brighton Road. They often have open days where you can have a look around the signal box. It really is an interesting piece of our Crawley history and is well worth a look. It is a great experience for children (especially if you happen to be in the signal box when a train is going past). Their next open days will be on Saturday, 17th June 2023 and Saturday, 15th July 2023, between 12:00 midday – 4:00p.m. The signal box is only kept open and in such good condition due to the volunteers who give up their time to preserve it's history, so your support would be greatly appreciated. Also, it's another way to make a memory with your child.



STAFFING UPDATES

We will keep you updated on our new starters as and when they arrive. You can find information on school jobs that are currently available by visiting: www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/
You can then type in the location where you are searching for jobs, i.e. Crawley, Horsham etc.

10 Ways Gaming Can Support Positive Outcomes in Children and Young People

Although our safeguarding section often highlights the negative side of the internet and social media sites, it is not all doom and gloom. There are positive aspects, one of which is that gaming (in moderation) can actually be beneficial to children. Here are 10 ways in which gaming can support positive outcomes in children:-

1. **The feel good factor** - succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains; the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing as long as players do not become solely reliant on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.
2. **Achievement & Pride** - a sense of achievement is important to all of us. If we are feeling unhappy or distracted then achieving something small, like a difficult level in a video game, can give us renewed optimism.
3. **Social interaction** - when playing with trusted friends it is a chance for your child to have some social interaction with children their own age.
4. **Teamwork** - in many online games teamwork is often crucial to winning. Working as a team, with trusted friends or family, in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance. Working towards a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they are an integral part of something bigger.
5. **Real-World relatability** - not all games are action games which involve explosions and violence. There are many games that explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety, or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they are not alone in how they might be feeling.
6. **Digital comfort** - Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress.
7. **Problem solving practice** - It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome. Defeating a powerful monster, or solving a tricky puzzle, reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.
8. **Escapism** - We all feel the need to escape the everyday at some point. For children, gaming can give them a time to escape for a moment in the day to forget any issues they may be dealing with.
9. **Tried & tested** - There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity.
10. **Encouraging creativity** - Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games. For example, in Minecraft or Roblox players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something is massively beneficial for the brain. That is why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

The above information was provided by National Online Safety. For more information visit:

<https://scwa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/gaming-can-support-positive-outcomes.pdf>



COST OF LIVING CRISIS — WHERE TO FIND HELP IF YOU NEED IT

turn2us

This website is designed to help you find out if you are able to get help with your energy bills. There are many grants out there you may not know about. Some energy suppliers have their own grant scheme in place. You can ask your supplier if they have a scheme, and what the criteria is for claiming a grant. Turn2us also has other useful links in relation to other household bills e.g. water bills. To search for grants that you may be eligible for, you can use an easy tool on <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>.

StepChange Debt Charity

If you are worried about any debt, you can contact the StepChange Debt Charity for free advice on <https://www.stepchange.org>. Tel: 0800 138 1111

Food Banks in Crawley

There are a number of food banks in Crawley, if you do a web search you should be able to find some details. Listed below are some contact details to help get you started:

Freeshop - info@freeshopcrawley.com - Tel: 07861 907133

Crawley Food Bank Partnership (they are The Easter Team and also Crawley Open House who are working together)

Tel The Easter Team: 07940 900948/Tel Crawley Open House: 01293 447702

Government and Local Council Resources

The government have an online tool to help people check the benefits and financial support they might be able to apply for. You can check at:

www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support you can also find help at:

www.crawley.gov.uk/moneyworries

Your local council may be able to help you pay for things like:

- Energy and water bills;
- Food;
- Essential items such as clothes or even an oven.

This help is known as Welfare Assistance or the Household Support Fund. Each council runs its own scheme. The help they offer, and who can get it, varies. Ask your local council if they run one of these schemes. You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from your local council. If you are in receipt of benefits, they will not be affected if you get help from one of these schemes. See below for information on the WSCC Community Hub.

COMMUNITY HUB

WSCC have a community hub for anyone who may need help. You can request support from the Hub, including accessing the Household Support Fund, and where to get advice.

WSCC are focused on making sure they continue to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

If your request is urgent, for example, you are going to run out of food within the next two days, please phone [033 022 27980](tel:03302227980) so that they can make sure you get the help you need as quickly as possible.



CHANGE OF DETAILS

If any of your contact details change (address, home phone, mobile etc), please inform the school office so they can update the school records accordingly.

MEDICATION

From time to time we will sometimes administer paracetamol to a child if they are feeling unwell, but it is not necessary to send them home. The brand we use is either Calpol paracetamol 6+ sachets or meltlets (so cannot be administered to anyone under 6 years old). For this to be administered to your child you will have needed to have signed a form giving your permission. We will always telephone you to get your permission before we administer any paracetamol, but without the signed consent form we cannot administer it in any event. If you have already signed a permission slip you do not need to do anything else. The above is also relevant for antihistamine's. We use Piriton, but only if the parent has provided written consent and also verbal consent just before it is administered.

TRIM TRAIL AND TYRE TRAIL

At the end of the school day it has been noted that parents are allowing their children to play on the trim trail outside the classrooms. If you do allow your child to use the trim trail (or tyres) at drop off/collection time it is **your responsibility** to ensure they use it safely. Please keep an eye on your children at all times during drop off/collection to/from school to ensure their safety.

UNIFORM

We no longer take school uniform orders via the school office. When you require new uniform for your child you can order it from: www.myclothing.com

Tel: 0800 069 9949

MOBILE PHONES

Please can you remind your child that if they bring a mobile phone to school with them, they must **not** use the phone whilst on the school premises. All phones must be turned off when your child has arrived at school, and handed to their class teacher. All phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

BIRTHDAYS AND TREATS

We love birthdays, and we love celebrating them even more! If you provide sweets for a class in order to celebrate your child's birthday, we would ask that you ensure they are individually wrapped, nut free and, if possible, vegetarian. This will mean all of your child's classmates can celebrate their birthday with them. We are not able to hand out any cakes or sweets that are homemade.

Also, from time to time throughout the school year, we will give out sweet treats to children. We will ensure we always meet a child's dietary requirements. **Please inform the school if you do not want your child to be given any sweet treats.**

ASTHMA INHALERS/AUTO INJECTORS

If we hold an asthma inhaler or auto injector for your child, please be aware that we need two, one in the classroom, and one in our medical room. When that item is out of date we will contact you and ask you to provide us ones that are in date. **Please make sure that you provide us in date items as a matter of priority. It is for your child's safety and must be acted upon immediately.**

FILMS AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER (AND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR)

Mainly at Christmas and Easter time we will sometimes arrange for the children to watch a film as an end of term treat. The films will either be a 'U' or 'PG' certificate. We would never show a film that we judged to be inappropriate. **However, if you do not wish your child to watch a 'PG' certificate film then please let the school office know so that a different film can be chosen for your child's class to watch.**

NO NUTS REMINDER

Please remember that we are a 'No Nuts' school. This means that no food brought into school by either children or staff should contain nuts. This includes Nutella (there are other alternative chocolate spreads available that do not contain nuts).