



**October 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had an eventful half term here at West Green Primary School. We have packed a lot in so far!

The children, and some of the staff, have had their school photos taken, we had our harvest assembly, our Reception children have joined us in school (and so have many of their parents for two workshops explaining the maths and literacy curriculum). Our Year 3 class have started their ukulele lessons, and Year 5 are learning to play the cornets (it is a beautiful sound to finish off the week). Year 4 have started their swimming lessons, we have a new after school dance club that is going down a storm, Year 6 attended the Junior Citizen event at the Hawth and they represented our school brilliantly, and we joined in the Diwali celebrations by having a 'dress to impress day', everyone looked fabulous! Year 6 have had their class assembly, where their parents/carers were able to come along and join them. Also, we had an Olympic medallist visit us for one of our school assemblies. I'm sure all the children are looking forward to a week's rest before we start our run up to Christmas.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break, and we look forward to seeing you all in school again on Tuesday, 5th November 2024 (4th November 2024 is an INSET day so the school is closed to all children on that day).

***West Green Team***

**HEADTEACHER - START OF ACADEMIC YEAR**

Dear Parents & Carers

This has been such an amazing half term. I can't believe how it has flown by!

Our new starters in Reception have settled in well. A big West Green welcome to them, as well as our new members to the school staffing team.



This term we have started working with Caroline from Phunky Foods. Phunky Foods are an organisation promoting healthy eating advice. Caroline has already talked to the children in assembly and she will be working with the children in class and will potentially run an after school cookery club.

You can find out more about them at <https://www.phunkyfoods.co.uk>

We have made a few changes to our lunchtime play. There is more information further on in this newsletter, but I would like to remind you to save a date for after the half term holiday on 6th November 2024, as we will be hosting our 'Come & Share Our Lunchtime' to explain our aims for lunchtimes going forwards. You will even be able to join in some of these activities too!

Thank you to all our parents and staff for such a positive start to the school year.

I look forward to seeing you all after the half term break.

Kind regards

**Mrs Chapman - Headteacher**

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

The individual student photos have been taken, and by now you will all have received the proof of your children's photos. It is entirely your choice whether you purchase a copy of the photos. Please do not feel obliged to buy a copy, only purchase one if you really want one. As you can see below, even the staff get to have their photo taken...



### HARVEST FESTIVAL

We had our Harvest Festival assembly recently and the children really seemed to enjoy being a part of it. Thank you to all the children who brought in donations for Crawley FreeShop (and thank you to all the parents who we know provided the items in the first place). Once the donated items are taken to the Crawley food bank they are then distributed to families in need. Below is a picture of what we collected as a school. It will go a long way in helping those that need it.



### CHENER SCHOOL DANCE CLUB

This year we invited Cheneler School of Dance along to West Green Primary to set up an after school dance club. It has proved to be very popular and the children that attend seem to be enjoying it. This club was a trial as it is a club that needs to be paid for (unlike our multisport clubs that are free to attend). However, as the children that attend seem to be liking it so much it seems that it is here to stay for a while longer! Time to dust off our dancing shoes...

### OLYMPIC MEDALLIST

We were so pleased to be joined by Olympic medallist Jodie Grinham. She visited us for one of our school assemblies and shared with the children her experience of what it was like to be part of the British Paralympic Archery Team. We are all very impressed by how hard she has worked



to reach a standard high enough to not only compete in an Olympic event, but to also win a medal. Congratulations on your achievement, and your forthcoming new arrival.



### OUR SCHOOL POND



Over the summer some improvement works were completed on our school pond and the area surrounding it. It is not an area that parents would normally have a good view of as, for safety reasons, the pond area is kept locked unless in use.

However, our aim is to use it more often throughout the different seasons to allow the children to learn more about nature. We currently have at least one frog in our pond! We hope the children enjoy some pond dipping to see what other visitors we have in there!

### REMINDER FOR YEAR 6 PARENTS

A reminder that all parents/carers of Year 6 children need to apply for a place at secondary school for their child. All Year 6 parents have been provided with the information regarding the application process.

It is extremely important that you apply for a secondary school place for your child before the deadline. If you do not apply for a secondary school place for your child then your application will be of lower priority, and may result in your child being offered a school place a long distance from your home.

We have noticed in the last few years that many Crawley secondary schools that our students wish to attend are over subscribed and some children are not offered a space at a school in their catchment area, even though they applied well before the deadline. Therefore, the chances of you getting into the school of your choice if you apply after the deadline is unlikely. **Please make sure you submit your application by the deadline of Thursday, 31st October 2024.**

If you are struggling with the admissions process there is help available via the SENDIAS Service. Their details are:

Helpline: 0330 222 8555/Email: [send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk)/[www.westsussexsendias.org](http://www.westsussexsendias.org)

### CATERPILLARS NURSERY

You may have noticed over the summer we have made some upgrades to our Nursery building at the front of the school. Due to weather conditions and general wear and tear the building needed improvement and we were lucky enough to receive a grant from West Sussex County Council to complete the cladding to the exterior of the building. The nursery is an important part of our community and also brings in extra funding for the school.

Also over the summer, our school classrooms and other areas of the main building have had LED lighting fitted to improve energy efficiency and create better lighting for our pupils and staff, this should ensure that the schools electricity bills are lower in the future. This was funded by the Department of Education.

We are pleased to share that West Green Primary School has been chosen by West Sussex County Council as a pilot school for solar panels and we are awaiting a site survey but hope that this will be given the go ahead in the coming few years.

### ASDA REWARDS

If you shop at ASDA you could help with extra funding for our school. ASDA have recently launched, through their **ASDA Rewards App**, a scheme so that when you shop and scan a 'Cashpot for Schools' is added to for your chosen Primary school.

To help raise funds for the school all we would ask you to do is to add our school by following the instructions below. You don't have to be a parent or carer of someone in the school – anyone can join up and select our school.

We hope you will be able to support us, and would like to thank you in advance if you can. If you don't already use this app it can be beneficial if you shop in ASDA on a regular basis. Some of our members of staff already use it and, when you have enough in your cashpot, you can get a decent amount of money off your shopping bill by creating a cashpot voucher.

We will let you know how much the app has raised for our school when we are awarded the donations raised from ASDA. At the time of writing this our cashpot was at just over £200.



### UKULELE AND CORNET CONCERTS

Our Year 3 class will be giving a ukulele concert, and our Year 5 class will be giving a cornet concert, to all their parents/carers on Friday, 29th November 2024 at:

- Year 3: 2:00p.m.
- Year 5: 2:45p.m.

We would love it if you could join us to watch your child's performance.

**DIWALI DRESS TO IMPRESS DAY**

We joined in with the Diwali celebrations by having our 'Dress To Impress' day. Everyone looked fabulous! Here are some pictures of the day.





### **HALF TERMLY ATTENDANCE CLASS WINNERS**

There has been some friendly class rivalry in school this half of the term for the class who has the best attendance each week. Here is the list of weekly winners:

Week 1: Year 2 - 99.40% (Reception class not yet full time)

Week 2: Year 5 - 100%

Week 3: Year 1 - 98.89%

Week 4: Year 4 - 100%

Week 5: Year 3 - 100%

Week 6: Year 3 - 98.33%

Week 7: Year 5 - 98.33%

Week 8: Year 4 - 98.28%

The overall winner for this half term is:

Year 4 with an average attendance of 96.70%.

We are very pleased with the effort the children have made with their attendance this term, and well done to their parents too!

As you are likely aware, one of the education areas that the government is focusing on is school attendance. This is due to an increase in poor attendance since the pandemic. The following is an excerpt from 'working together to improve school attendance' DFE 2024

#### ***The law on school attendance and right to a full-time education***

*The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education suitable to their age, aptitude, and any special educational need they may have. It is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education either by attendance at a school or by education otherwise than at a school.*

*Where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.*

*This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.*

### RECEPTION CLASS

Reception have made a wonderful start to their school year. They have settled in well, and they are enjoying getting to know their new school environment. They have enjoyed reading the Kipper books and have made these fun “sock things” that they thought Kipper would like to play with. Welcome to the school Reception class, you are doing really well and we look forward to seeing some more wonderful work from you throughout this academic year.



### FREE HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

Crawley museum have been busy planning an exciting programme of events for the October half-term holiday, including arts & crafts, a spooky gallery trail and ghost tours. If you are interested please follow the link below for more information:

<https://crawleymuseums.org/halloweenfun2024/>

**OUR PLAYTIMES HAVE HAD A MAKEOVER**

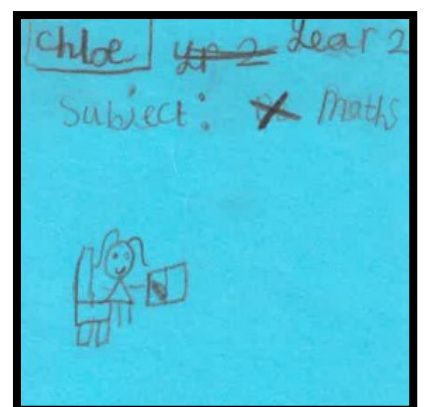
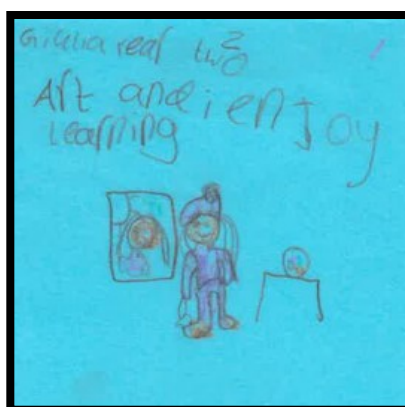
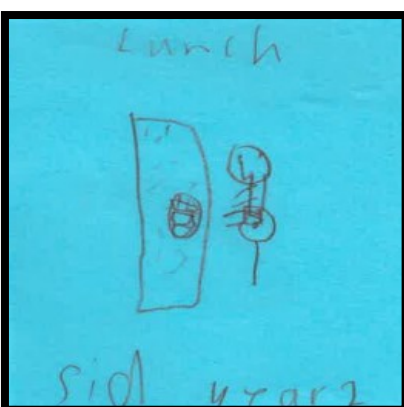
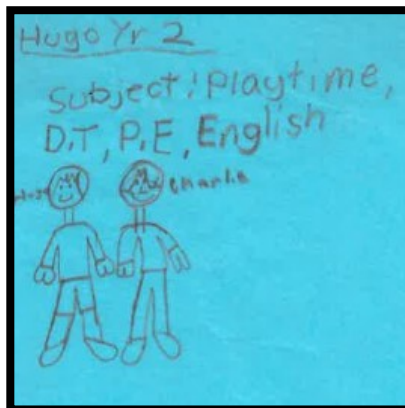
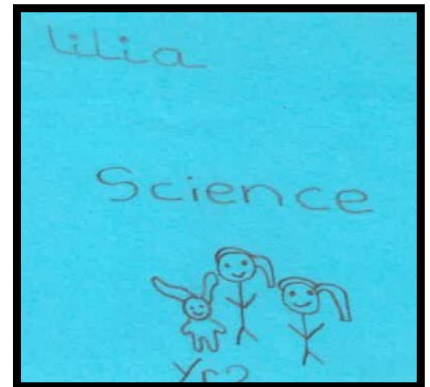
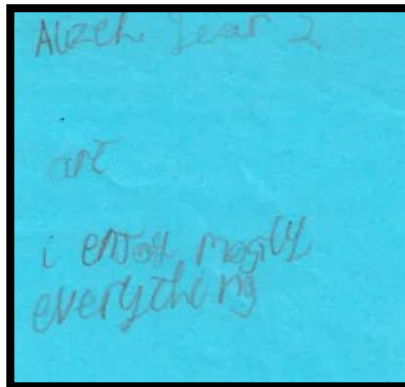
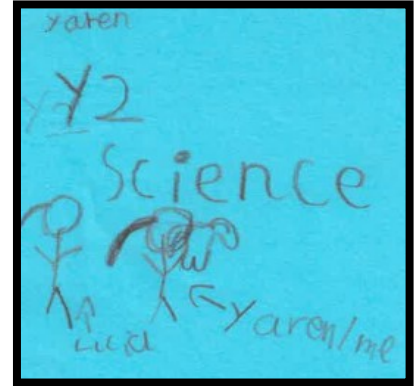
Our school playtimes have been revamped, and are more focused so as to make the playtimes more varied and interesting for the children. From something as basic as colouring, skipping, hula hooping, playing with Lego/Meccano and good old fashioned drawing with chalk, to finding ways to be inventive when playing with a tyre, the children are enjoying having new activities to keep them occupied during their breaks. Also, a special thank you to Mr & Mrs Lyon for donating a lovely train set that our children love to play with. It really has brought them a huge amount of joy, so thank you from all the children at West Green Primary School.





**WHAT THE CHILDREN THINK!**

At the end of last term we asked the children to write down what they like about our school. Here are a few comments from last years Year 2 class (now Year 3).





## **IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE**

### **Positive Parenting**

Balancing the various demands parents have to cope with isn't easy and all parents can come under pressure or stress from time to time. The NSPCC have prepared a useful guide for parents which shares practical advice and tips for positive parenting techniques that work well for children - from babies to teenagers. These techniques encourage better behaviour and help parents find out what works for them and their child.

You can download the full leaflet here:

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1195/positive-parenting.pdf>

The leaflet covers the following topics:-

- Understanding your child's needs
- How can I set boundaries?
- Rewards and discipline
- Keeping your cool
- Building positive relationships
- Who you can talk to?

Positive parenting uses techniques that work well for every child. These techniques will help you build and strengthen your relationship with your child, leading to them being happier, along with less stress for you. All parents can come under pressure or stress from time to time, and it can even lead to them wanting to smack their children – although many parents regret it later. However, evidence shows that it is not an effective way to discipline your children. Positive parenting techniques are much more likely to work and leave you feeling more positive about your parenting.

Children's needs and behaviours change as they get older, and understanding these needs will help you better understand your child. A lot has been written about the needs of children and advice for parents, and some of those needs are covered in the leaflet.

All children need love, guidance and to have rules and boundaries. Rules and boundaries help families to understand how to behave towards each other, and what's OK and not OK. The best way to go about this will vary based on your child's age and stage of development. All children are different and develop and reach milestones at different rates.

If you'd like more detailed advice you can talk to the NSPCC helpline.

Call on: 0808 800 5000

Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

### STAFFING UPDATES



Mrs Bain is now officially our Year 1 teacher. She taught the children in Year 1 on a few occasions before the summer holidays and so the children were very pleased to see her return again in September.



Mrs Atkinson has joined the EYFS/Reception team and the children adore her. She has settled in very easily and she is coping with the noise levels in Reception admirably.



Mrs Javed joined our midday meals team before the summer holidays this year. The children have made her feel very welcome, and she is a great addition to our team.

Welcome to the team Mrs Bain, Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Javed, we are really happy you have joined us.

### VISITORS COMMENTS

*"Very welcoming and accommodating"*

**Anon**

*"Such a lovely school and very welcoming. Extremely accommodating to any needs or requirements. Pupils are polite and well behaved."*

**Angela - Yellow Photography**

*"I taught in Miss Stone's Year 5 class and Mrs Riadat's Year 3 class today as a Randstad supply teacher. What a joy it was, and what great classes they were! Well mannered and motivated children. I have to thank the excellent TA's too, Mrs Mouni, Mrs Beedle and Mrs Farley."*

**Steve Bradshaw - supply teacher**

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/](http://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.

## **SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **CRAWLEY SIGNAL BOX (BRIGHTON ROAD)**

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, 7th December 2024, 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. It's a lovely opportunity to make a memory with your child.



### **1ST CRAWLEY SCOUT GROUP**

If your child is aged between 6 and 14 years of age there are Beaver, Cub and Scout groups available for them to join.

Beavers is a great starting point for any child aged between 6 and 7 years of age (if they are under 6 you can still put them on the waiting list). The weekly (term time) meetings are full of fun and their activities are based around making things, outdoor activities, singing, playing games, going out on visits, investigating nature, listening to stories, learning how to be safe and most importantly, making new friends. All the activities they do are always working towards a badge. It gives a child a real sense of achievement when they have put in some effort and receive a badge at the end of it, which can then be sewn on their uniform. It also gives the children some skills that will stay with them for life.

All the Beaver, Cub and Scout sessions take place at the scout hut in Oak Road, Southgate. If you would like to find out more then please follow this link:

**Contact Us – 1st Crawley Scout Group ([1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk](http://1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk))** , or search

[www.1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk)

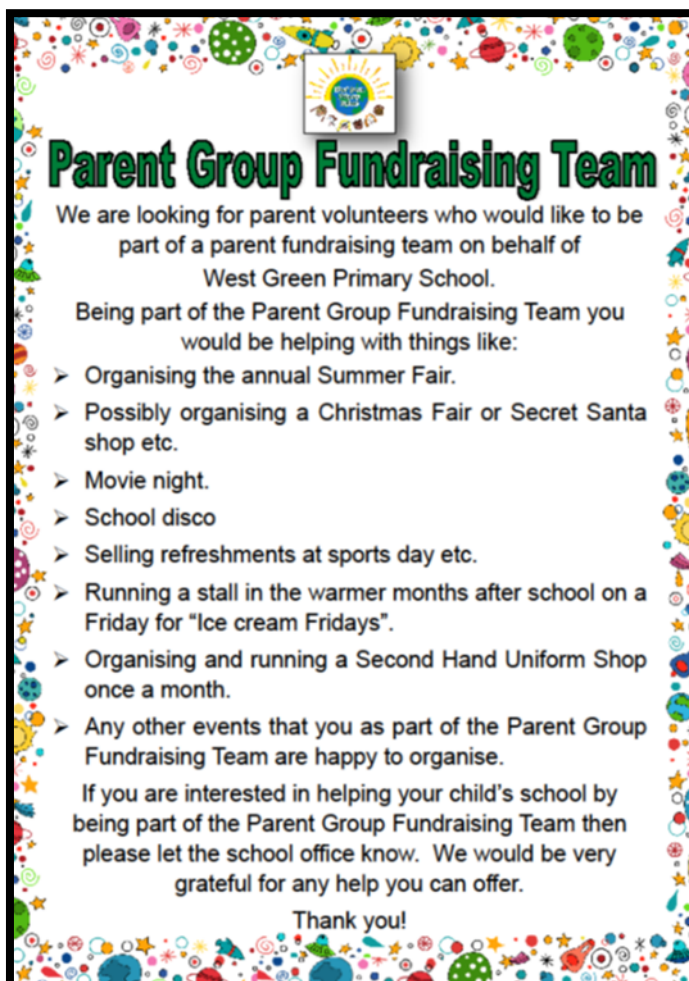
### **JUNIOR PARK RUN AT TILGATE**

Tilgate junior parkrun is a FREE 2km event for juniors of all standards, which takes place every Sunday at 9:00am in Tilgate Park,

It offers an opportunity for all the family to get involved and come together on a regular basis to enjoy Tilgate Park. They want to encourage people to run, walk, volunteer and be together irrespective of their ability.

Taking part is easy – just register in advance before your first ever parkrun. Your individual barcode can then be used for this weekly 2k event, or on any of the weekly 5k parkruns around the country.

It is a free event but Park Run ask you to please register at **<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/tilgate-juniors/>** before you first come along. You only need to register with Park Run once.



**Parent Group Fundraising Team**

We are looking for parent volunteers who would like to be part of a parent fundraising team on behalf of West Green Primary School.

Being part of the Parent Group Fundraising Team you would be helping with things like:

- Organising the annual Summer Fair.
- Possibly organising a Christmas Fair or Secret Santa shop etc.
- Movie night.
- School disco
- Selling refreshments at sports day etc.
- Running a stall in the warmer months after school on a Friday for "Ice cream Fridays".
- Organising and running a Second Hand Uniform Shop once a month.
- Any other events that you as part of the Parent Group Fundraising Team are happy to organise.

If you are interested in helping your child's school by being part of the Parent Group Fundraising Team then please let the school office know. We would be very grateful for any help you can offer.

Thank you!



**Lunchtime**  
**Come & Share our Learning**  
**on Wednesday, 6th November 2024**  
**between 9:00-10:00a.m.**

At this time of year we normally invite parents and carers into school to take part in our 'Come and Share our Learning' morning between 9:00am - 10:00am. This is an opportunity for parents and carers to take part in a range of curriculum activities with their child, and get to know how these subjects are taught in school.

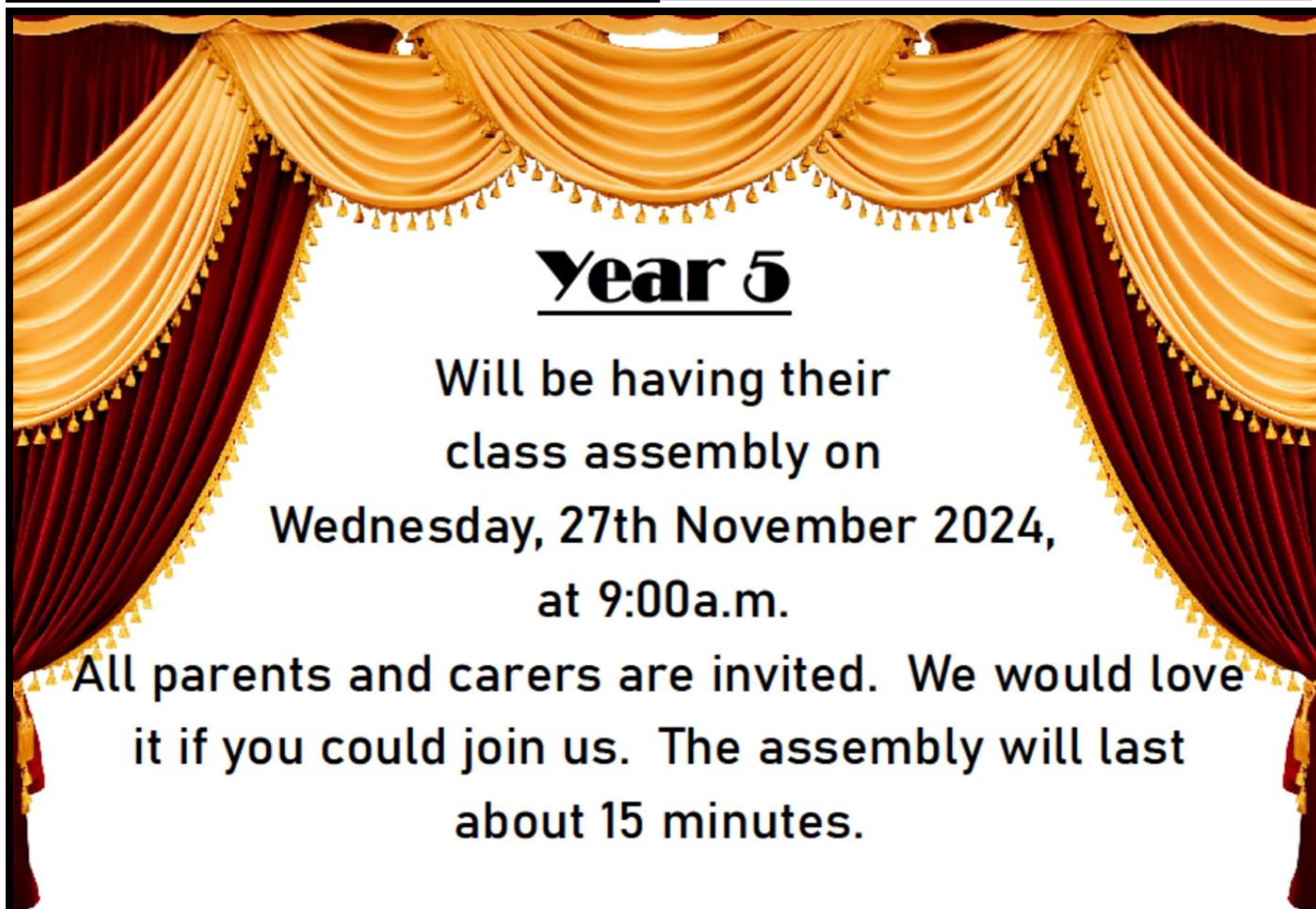
However, this time we are keen to show you how we have developed our lunchtime breaks.

We have a range of games and activities that the children can join in with during their lunchtimes that help them to develop their creative sides whilst having fun.

If you would like to attend, please drop off your children as usual and then make your way to the school hall. The children will be registered and then the fun will start!

You will be able to join in some of our lunchtime activities with your child. The children are looking forward to showing you the activities they are sharing with their friends at school.

We hope that you take the opportunity to come and find out a bit more about what your child is experiencing in school.



**Year 5**

Will be having their  
class assembly on  
**Wednesday, 27th November 2024,**  
at 9:00a.m.

All parents and carers are invited. We would love it if you could join us. The assembly will last about 15 minutes.

# West Sussex SENDIAS Service

**Is your child starting primary school or transferring to junior or secondary school in September 2025?**

**Do you think, for**

- **whatever reason, you**
- **may struggle with the**
- **Admissions process?**

## Secondary School

**Online applications open:**

Monday 2 September 2024.

**Deadline for applying for a secondary school place for your child is:**

Thursday 31 October 2024.

## Primary School (inc. infant/junior)

**Online applications open:**

Monday 7 October 2024.

**Deadline for applying for a school place for your child is:**

Wednesday 15 January 2025.

For more information on the admissions process:  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions)

**If so, the West Sussex SENDIAS Service can:**

- **explain the admissions process to you**
- **help you to make an informed decision about your child's schools of preference**
- **help you to fill in the online application form.**

**Please contact the SENDIAS Service:**

**Helpline: 0330 222 8555**

**Email: [send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:send.ias@westsussex.gov.uk)**

**[www.westsussexsendias.org](http://www.westsussexsendias.org)**





## **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>. Tel: 0808 802 2000

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support) you can also find help at:

[www.crawley.gov.uk/moneyworries](http://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](http://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).