



Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy term so far for West Green Primary School.

As you know, Ofsted visited the school last week. Many thanks to the parents who completed an online questionnaire and took time to speak to the inspectors. As ever, the children were a credit to yourselves and the school. A very big thank you to all our staff who worked incredibly hard during the inspection. We will let you know as soon as the report is published.

This term we have made an appearance at a girls and boys football tournament for the Crawley Primary League, received a visit from Ensemble Reza, a visit from the West Sussex Fire & Rescue service for our Year 5 class, and we also welcomed The Dogs Trust into school.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break, and we will see you back in school on Monday, 19 February 2024.

Mrs S Chapman

Acting Headteacher

GIRL'S AND BOY'S FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

After taking part in quite a few matches the final overall results were that the boys team placed 8th out of 16 schools, and the girls team improved their place by two points this time.

Both teams did tremendously well and teachers from other schools commented on their sportsmanship.

Special mention to Hayden's dad for coaching the boys each week on the side lines, as well as to all the parents who came along to show their support (in the pouring rain!).

We are very proud of the children as always and the fact that so many have decided to join football clubs both in and out of school.

Miss Jeffery - PE Lead



MUSIC LESSONS

This term our Year 4 class have been continuing to learn the ukuleles, building on the skills they learnt in Year 3. Mr Gilmore has already remarked on the level of progress that they have shown.

Our Year 5 class have been learning to play the cornets and Mr Gilmore has said he is impressed by how quickly they have taken to it.

It is certainly a pleasure to be in school on Friday afternoons with the sound of music coming from the hall. It is such a lovely way to end the week. Well done to both Year 4 and Year 5 for putting so much effort into your music lessons. We are glad you are enjoying it.

In the afternoon of Friday, 22nd March 2024, we will be putting on a concert for Year 4 and Year 5 parents. The times are yet to be confirmed but please save the date!



ENSEMBLE REZA



We were excited to be visited by a group of musicians called Ensemble Reza who introduced us to the world of classical music. The children certainly enjoyed this experience of seeing and hearing musicians playing classical instruments. Their ethos is *“To bring musicians and audiences of different ages and backgrounds together, changing lives through music”*.

They gave their performance of ‘Snow White and the Three Cool Dudes’. It was an amazing performance. Their patron is Dame Judi Dench and if you would like to find out more about them you can visit their website at:

www.ensemblereza.com

WSFRS VISIT FOR YEAR 5



Year 5 were our last class this academic year to be visited by the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service. They learned about fire safety and even got to have a sit in the rescue vehicle. Thank you to the Fire & Rescue Service for finding the time to visit with us again.

GOODNIGHT MR TOM

This term Year 6 have been reading the book ‘Goodnight Mr Tom’ which is about a boy from London who was evacuated to the countryside during WWII. One of our Year 6 children was so inspired by what they are learning in class that they built this model which represents an evacuation shelter. You can see the original in our display cabinet at the front of the school.



Have a look inside...



YEAR 4

This term Year 4 have been learning about the Romans. They have made some very impressive shields, here are a few of them...



THE DOGS TRUST VISIT

This week we were visited by The Dogs Trust who came in to lead an assembly and provide some classroom based workshops. Since 2003, the Dogs Trust Education Team have been delivering educational programmes to young people and children all across the UK. Their programme focusses primarily on two key themes: Responsible dog ownership and safe behaviour around dogs.

In order to understand the issues dogs face in the UK, they take a research-led approach when designing their programmes and interventions. Their goal is to reach a range of audiences in order to influence and motivate changes in human behaviour so that they can see an improvement in overall dog welfare.

At Dogs Trust they are committed to helping and empowering the people they reach to ensure that all dogs can enjoy a happy life.

We hope your child enjoyed their visit.

If you would like to find out more, or make a donation, please visit their website at: <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk>



IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

DIGITAL SAFETY

In March there will be two digital safety seminars run by West Sussex County Council that parents will be able to attend. They will be held on:

- Tuesday, 5 March 2024, between 6:00-7:30p.m.
- Thursday, 21 March 2024, between 6:00-7:30p.m.

The sessions are aimed solely at parents and carers. They are very informative sessions and it will help provide you with information about how to keep your children safe online. School staff have already received their training and even those of us who thought we were quite knowledgeable about keeping children safe online learned a lot of useful information by attending one of these sessions. It was an eye opener and we would strongly encourage you to attend. We will send out further information, and the link to join the session, nearer the time.

There will be a digital safety assembly for the children later on this month. In the meantime please see overleaf a copy of the WSCC Digital Safety Newsletter for parents.

TERMINOLOGY USED BY CHILDREN ONLINE - GUIDE FOR PARENTS

The following information has been sourced from www.internetmatters.org

Children now grow up in a digital age, but how often have we heard a child use a word to describe something that we as adults do not know it's meaning. Here are a few examples, see how many you know...

Beef: To have a grudge or start one with another person.

BRB: Be right back

Clickbait: Baiting for clicks. It's a link which entices you to click on it. Usually referring to YouTube videos with 'clickbait' titles to draw users attention to get more views on a video.

Creeping: To follow someone's social network profile closely, to an excessive degree. Can be known as 'Facebook stalking'. It is not as sinister as it may sound, often creeping is done to catch up with friends, to reminisce about past posts or older content, or to find out more about a friend in whom a person has a romantic interest. This is not always solitary, it can be done by friends viewing and gossiping about another friend's past posts or content.

Dead: In slang terms, it means something that is rubbish or bad.

Fabotage: A slang word, for 'Facebook Sabotage', used to describe hijacking, and meddling with, someone's Facebook account while it is unattended.

Flaming: Sending an offensive or aggressive message to a specific person over the internet.

Griefing: Griefing is when a player in an online game deliberately irritates and harasses other players within the game.

Lit: Slang for when something is really good or fun.

Pharming: Pronounced 'farming', this is a method by which scammers try to get personal/private information from users by directing them to false – or 'spoof' – websites which look legitimate in your browser.

Sadfishing: Sadfishing is a growing social trend where young people make exaggerated comments about their emotional issues to get sympathy from others.

It also means that those who are experiencing real emotional distress may be accused of sadfishing and dismissed by their peers without getting the right support.

Staying safe online



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CHILDREN'S DIGITAL WELLBEING REPORT 2024

The third annual report from Internet Matters focuses on both the positive and negative impacts of the online world on children and young people.

The 2024 report highlights increasing concerns from parents about the time their child spends on devices and the effects on family life, health and concentration.

Notable statistics show that despite 65% of children say spending time online makes them feel mostly happy, 67% of children report experiencing online harms.

Read the article and report:
[Children's Digital Wellbeing: 2024 Report | Internet Matters](#)

ONLINE SAFETY SHOW

Ineqe Safeguarding Group have launched their 3rd episode of the Online Safety Show. A short, 10 minute roundup of important topics regarding our young people's online experiences.

This episode is a Safer Internet Day edition of The Online Safety Show! Inspiring Change: Geolocation Guide & Online Safety Act Explained Delve into the wonders of geolocation and demystify the Online Safety Act with their digital detective.

Watch the episode: [Online Safety Show Home - The Online Safety Show](#)

Staying safe online



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CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a blog post on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the UK and the impact on children.

The blog highlights rising concerns around the risks that AI poses to child, such as: cyberbullying, sexual harassment; generative child sexual abuse material; and the impacts on children's learning.

Read the blog post: [The Children's Commissioner's view on artificial intelligence \(AI\) | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

INSTAGRAM NUDGES

In January, Instagram announced the introduction of "night-time nudges" for teenage accounts, in an attempt to help limit their time spend on the app.

The new night-time nudges will appear when teens have spent more than 10 minutes on Instagram in places like Reels or DMs late at night. The notice will remind teens that it's late and encourage them to close the app and go to sleep.

Read more about the nudges: [Instagram's new 'night-time nudges' aim to reduce teens' time on the app | TechCrunch](#)

For more information: www.westsussex.gov.uk/staying-safe-online

VISITORS COMMENTS

"You have been a pleasure to work with, the school have been amazing"

Parent/carer

"We love coming to your school. The children are always so polite and make us feel welcome."

The Lighthouse Project

"If all classes were like this one [Year 6] then it would make teaching a dream."

Supply teacher for Year 6

"Thank you to all the staff and children for giving us such a wonderfully warm welcome at West Green Primary yesterday. We had a fabulous time performing and hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did."

Jen Withington, Ensemble Reza

STAFFING UPDATES



Mr Wretham visited us a few times towards the end of the Autumn term and got to meet some of the children before he officially joined us in January. He is our new Year 3 teacher and his class have made him feel very welcome.



Ms Shaw has also joined us this term and is the new teacher in Year 2. She is another welcome addition to our team and her class are enjoying getting to know her.



One of our Midday Meals Supervisors is taking some time out to spend more time with her family. She will be missed by the children at lunchtime and we wish her all the best for the future.

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.

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 day will be on Saturday, 16th March 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 \(1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk\)](https://www.1stcrawleyscouts.org.uk) , or search

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.



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 - 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).