



## Term 4 Week 2 Newsletter 2025

Dear Families,

I am delighted to share with you the school's latest Ofsted report, from the inspection that took place in February 2025 (attached in the email and also available on the school website). The report confirms that Western Road continues to be a GOOD school in all areas.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the entire staff team who work relentlessly to provide a safe, nurturing and engaging learning environment for the children. I would also like to thank you as parents and carers who are a key members of the school community. The inspector shared some of your lovely comments with the leadership team and it was heart-warming to hear how much the school means to you all. Finally, thank you must also go to the incredible children who were excellent ambassadors for the school. The inspectors stated the children "describe the school as 'kind', 'welcoming', 'fantastic' and 'fun'"

Thank you to everyone for your support and contributions during our World Book Week activities last week. The children had a wonderful time sharing stories with their peers, visiting different classrooms to read with each other, guessing the 'masked readers' and dressing up as their favourite book characters. The cake competition was a resounding success and has raised £416.28 and those proceeds will fund purchasing books for the school and class libraries! Thank you to the English team to plan the events and everyone who helped throughout the week.

Huge thanks also go to Mrs Hamilton who has raised money through the 'Lost Flowers' card and badge sales at Seedy Saturday and Lewes Climate Hub: *This year's cards feature the artwork from last year's Year Fives - who chose to raise awareness about river pollution by drawing and researching species that use or live in rivers. We were also lucky enough to exhibit this artwork in the window of Lewes Tourist information last summer, and it got very positive feedback from the Lewes community. Like last year's cards, there is a QR code on the back of this year's cards linking to the reports and research the children carried out about their assigned species. This means that anyone who sends a card will be helping to spread the word about the impact of pollution on our waterways, and anyone who receives one will have the opportunity to access detailed information about the wildlife found in British rivers. We are very proud of the children's beautiful work, and are so pleased for this additional opportunity to share it beyond the school gates. We have made approximately £270 and all profits made from this year's sales will be put towards further arts and outdoors enrichment projects at school.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank Year 4 parent Tonka Peeva, who came into school and photographed all of the artwork as part of the production process, and also Year 6 parent Lee Woodgate, who edited the photographs to produce the cards. Both Lee and Tonka dedicated a great deal of time and support to this project and we are delighted with the end result. I would also like to thank all of the other parents and carers who responded to the callout I made some months ago for Photo Shop Users to help with the production of these cards. These projects really would not be possible without the support and skills of our families, and I am always so appreciative of the generosity of our school community with regards to sharing their time, skills and expertise.*

On Tuesday, 25th February, we were treated to visitors from the Bach Choral Society, along with Ed Davey (parent), who sang some of Bach's St Matthew's Passion with the children. Sir John Tomlinson led the singing in German and so the children were able to experience Bach in the

original language with a renowned artist. Thank you so much to the Bach Choral Society and Ed Davey for organising this enriching experience!

### **Music/Computing News**

Thanks to the generous donations from Friends of Western Road, we have been able to purchase a full class set of headphones, plus splitters, for the children to use with the school ipads and laptops. This will allow the children to work on all sorts of exciting music and computing projects, including digital composing using musical software, video making, internet research, touch typing, animation, listening and appraising music, and much more! Thanks from the Music and Computing teams : )

### **Plea from EYFS**

Silver Birch are looking to jazz up their role play with open ended resources to inspire our imagination. If you have any of the following we would LOVE them!

Assorted hats - wedding, riding, bowler, fishing, spy, flying, winter, summer or any other!

Bags - handbags, picnic hamper, small holiday suitcase

Purses or wallets

Glasses - sunglasses or other (plastic please!)

Dolls' clothes, nappies, bottles etc.

Items of clothing for dressing up - waistcoats, scarves...

Wicker baskets - big or small!

### **Term 4 School Value - Pupil Voice**

Our school value for Term 4 is 'pupil voice' and we will focus upon that in our school and class assemblies, in addition to our curriculum. Please do share any examples of your child showing their 'pupil voice' by emailing me ([head@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:head@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk)) by Thursday, 27th March 2025. Thank you.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

We are keen to work with the school community to make sure our school is a place where every child thrives. Our goal is to build a school community that rejects discrimination, values diversity, and fosters mutual respect. If you'd like to join the school's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working party to be in dialogue with staff and school governors please do let us know via [office@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk) and we will be glad to welcome you.

Some parents have started a parent-led Equality, Diversity and Inclusion group. All Western Road parents are welcome to join. Many families don't totally fit society's boxes. This can mean being othered in an environment which is, for example, largely white, expects all families to have a mum and a dad, discriminates against religious minorities, marginalises Disabled people, stigmatises people on benefits, assumes everyone is straight and promotes gender stereotypes. The initial aims of this group are to provide peer support and help the school be more inclusive. Anyone wanting to join please contact Sakina 07870 146335 or Susie 07952 838921.

**Whole school reminder:** As the weather is so changeable, please ensure your child continues to come to school in appropriate uniform and footwear (see below for full details), ***all clearly named:***

- ***Children must come to school in their PE kit and trainers/plimsolls if they have PE that day.***
- ***Football boots/alternative trainers must be worn for girls' football lunchtime club due to the current muddy conditions.***
- **Children should wear their usual black or blue school shoes/trainers at all other times.**

- ***Children should have their hair tied back if it reaches their shoulders.***
- ***Warm (preferably waterproof) coat with hat/scarf/gloves.***
- ***Wellies may be also needed depending upon the weather forecast.***

By having appropriate clothing in school, it helps everyone to enjoy PE to the full as well as being outdoors at break and lunchtimes, outdoor learning time and the Daily Mile. Please do let me know if you need any support in sourcing coats or wellies. Thank you.

Best wishes,

Irèna Wooler

Headteacher





*Please remember that we are a pine nut and nut-free and sesame-free school due to some children having severe allergies. It is imperative you do not send your child to school with any items that contain or may contain pine nuts, nuts and/or sesame seeds. Those items will be removed from your child and returned at the end of the school day to ensure the safety of those with allergies. Thank you.*

## School Car Park - are you doing your bit?

If you are choosing to park your car in the school car park during the day (for example to visit the Grange after school), please ensure you pay to park using the **PayByPhone app, location 807542**.

The money raised by the car park contributes to vitally-needed school funding for both Western Road and Southover schools. Thank you for your support.

Please do not park on the yellow hatched area in the car park AT ANY TIME. By keeping the area clear, it allows for emergency vehicles to have immediate, necessary access to the school site.

## Online Safety information for families



As part of our safeguarding and child protection procedures and the National Curriculum, we continue to teach children the importance on staying safe online and what to do if they see something inappropriate. The National College have produced a range of information pieces that may be helpful for you in supporting your child to use the internet safely. Please use this link [Library | The National College](#) and click on download to access any of the articles.

If you are concerned about your child's use of the internet, please do speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance. Thank you.

## School Calendar



*The dates below are also on Arbor for your child's year group/whole school events.*

*Items added or changed from the previous newsletter will be in italic:*

### **Tuesday, 11th March 2025**

Year 5/6 Swimming

### **Monday, 17th March 2025**

EYFS Muddy Monday

*3.30pm - 5pm Year 5/6 Football match (part of a series of matches already underway)*

***Tuesday, 18th March 2025***

*No swimming - changing room works at Lewes Leisure Centre*

***Wednesday, 19th March 2025***

*9am Celebration Assembly*

*Year 4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace*

***Friday, 21st March 2025***

*Comic Relief - wear something red and bring in a small donation (coins/cash please)*

***Monday, 24th March 2025***

*EYFS Muddy Monday*

*3.30pm - 5pm Year 5/6 Football match (part of a series of matches already underway)*

***Tuesday, 25th March 2025***

*Year 5/6 Swimming*

***Thursday, 27th March 2025***

*4.30pm - 7.30pm Parents' Evening and SENCo appointments (more information to follow regarding booking via Arbor)*

***Friday, 28th March 2025***

*9.30am Fire engine on field (Year 2 Great Fire of London on playground)*

*2pm Parent Forum*

***Monday, 31st March 2025***

*EYFS Muddy Monday*

***Tuesday, 1st April 2025***

*Year 1/3/5 Drumming Workshops*

*Year 5/6 Swimming*

***Wednesday, 2nd April 2025***

*9am Celebration Assembly*

***Friday, 4th April 2025***

*End of Term 4 (3.15pm)*

*FWR Make the Rules Day*

*Talent Show - led by the School Council*

**Friday, 23rd May 2025**

Whole school own clothes day - voluntary donation (cash please) towards Year 6 Patina fundraising please

**Monday, 2nd June 2025**

**INSET 5 - School closed**

**Tuesday, 22nd July 2025**

**1.15pm End of Term 6**

## Attendance and Punctuality



In August 2024, the Government published the statutory guidance on attendance (see link below). As per the guidance, parents and carers are expected to:

Ensure their child attends every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies;

Notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent (e.g. sickness);

Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance;

Book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

If you have any queries, please do let me know and you can read the guidance here:

***Please ensure your child arrives at school on time - the gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am. Any child arriving after this time must be signed in at the School Office, as per our health and safety and attendance policies.***

## Trips and Enrichment Activities



Following the wonderful Indian Dance Workshops this term, we would really appreciate a voluntary donation of **£2.86** towards costs. This is payable via Arbor/Trips.

**Please be aware that any shortfalls from trips/enrichment activities is very kindly covered by FWR. From September 2024, that shortfall currently equals £889.14. Please do make voluntary donations for your child's trips/enrichment activities if you are able to do so. Thank you very much for your support.**

## Reminder - Lewes Foodbank Donations



We continue to support the Foodbank this term and Debbie Twitchen has asked that we focus on collecting tinned products: meat, fish, tomatoes, vegetables and pulses. They also ask that we donate children's drinks and snacks too.

Please do bring any donations to the School Office and we will arrange for a delivery at the end of this term.

Thank you in advance.

## Reminder - school uniform



**Western Road Community Primary School's Uniform consists of:**

- Navy school fleece with school logo (optional but these are very warm and ideal for Winter and Spring)
- *Navy school jumper with or without school logo or navy or mid-grey cardigan*
- White shirt/blouse with long or short sleeves with or without logo or
- White or navy blue polo shirt with or without school logo
- Mid-grey or navy trousers or smart shorts, or
- Mid-grey or navy skirts (or skorts), pinafore dresses or school summer dresses (blue/white check)
- White/navy/grey socks or tights
- ***Plain black or navy school shoes (or plain black or navy trainers with no logos); plain sandals in the Summer terms only.***
- Plain hair accessories (optional and in school colours preferably). **Long hair (past shoulder length) must be tied back.**

PE kit:

- White T-shirt or polo shirt with school logo (or plain)
- Grey or navy shorts or jogging bottoms (plain with no logos)
- Trainers or plimsolls

***Please note, hoodies and jewellery (apart from a wristwatch when appropriate or stud earrings that can be taken out for PE) are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn in school.***

The school also has school caps, rucksacks and book bags available. Please ensure all items of clothing are named including shoes or trainers.

Navy blue polo shirts, fleeces and sweatshirts with the school logo on are all available from Intersport [http://www.gameforlife.co.uk/section.php/781/1/western\\_road\\_cp\\_school](http://www.gameforlife.co.uk/section.php/781/1/western_road_cp_school).

Second-hand items are regularly available at low cost at school fairs and events.

## Reminder - Message from the Bursar, Sarah Clifford

Please ensure your ParentPay accounts for dinner money are cleared at the end of each week, or (ideally) are in credit by a small amount. **School dinners cost £2.97 per day for children in Years 3 - 6.**

Children under 5 are entitled to free school milk each day, given at morning snack time (this is in addition to milk given to children who have school lunches). If you would like your child to receive milk, either as they are under 5 or at an additional cost, please do visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/parents/> for more information and to register your child.

If you think your child might be entitled to **Free School Meals** (regardless of their age) through the **Pupil Premium Grant**, please do look at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/school-life/school-meals/free-school-meals> for more information. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and/or the Pupil Premium Grant, the school will receive additional funding to support them with their learning and enrichment activities.

All school trips and school-run clubs (for example Sewing Club) through Arbor so please do make sure you are able to login. We will continue to use ParentPay for Chartwells payments.

Please do speak with me, Sarah Clifford, or email me [bursar@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk) if you have any queries. Thank you.

## Reminder - Bikes and scooters



Please ensure your child collects their bikes/scooters at the end of each school day. There are a number of bikes and scooters that have been in the bike shed for some time and I'm sure they are missed at home! If you would like to check the bike shed for any missing bike/scooter, please do speak with a member of staff at the white gate at drop-off or pick-up.

## Comic Relief / Red Nose Day - Friday, 21st March



We are taking part in Comic Relief on Friday, 21st March. To mark the day, we are asking that everyone wears something red and brings in a small donation. During the day, children will learn a little about Comic Relief and how the money raised helps people both in the UK and around the world.

Thanks for your continued support !

School Council

## News from Silver Birch (EYFS)

Silver Birch class have come back to school full of excitement and enthusiasm. This term we will be finding out about farms. We have spoken about the children's experiences of farms. The children were able to name several animals that you may see on a farm as well as engaging in some discussions around the role of a farmer. As a class, we have generated questions we would like to find answers to. Questions included 'Why are animals on farms?' 'What machines are used on a farm?' 'How do sheep dogs help the farmer?' and 'Why do they have barns?' We will be finding the answers using a range of resources as well as finding out more information along the way!

## News from Elm Class (Year 1)



Term 4 in year 1 is all about plants and growing. The children have planted seeds to include peas, cucumber and beans. We have sent home an individual runner bean seed for each child to grow their own beanstalk at home. In English we are comparing two stories 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Jack and the Baked Beanstalk'. We have been identifying the similarities and differences between each story in particular the characteristics of the main characters. In computing we are making our own information text using book creator. The children have created their front cover and will add more information as they learn about what a seed needs in their Science lessons.

## News from Cherry Class (Year 2)



Year 2 have made a fantastic start to their new topic, *The Great Fire of London*, and are thoroughly enjoying their learning. They have been busy researching the event, bringing it to life through drama, and are now in the process of writing their own newspaper reports.

In Science, we have been exploring different materials, with a particular focus on those that can be recycled. The children have been using recycled materials to create some wonderful models—thank you to everyone who has sent items in! As part of our Art lessons, the children have been creating stunning pastel pictures of fire, and soon, they will begin designing and building their own Tudor houses, ready for our exciting burning event later in the term.

Please check your emails for a separate message regarding boxes for this project. Thank you for your continued support!

## News from Larch Class (Year 3)



Year 3s have had a great start back to Term 4. We enjoyed our new topic 'Africa' and already had some inspiring shares about the continent. On Mondays, we have had the pleasure of being taught dance by Ms Zara Breeze. The children have explored various movements that are often in some African dances and are learning choreography to a remix of the Lion King's 'Ah Zabenya'.

## News from Willow Class (Year 4)



Year 4 had an amazing time stepping back in history for Roman Day! Dressed in togas, tunics, and even Roman soldier outfits, we truly looked the part. We played *Terni Lapilli* (Roman Tic-Tac-Toe), discovering that the Romans enjoyed simple yet strategic games just like we do today!

Creativity flowed as we designed and crafted Roman shields, which we then put to the test in battle formations. The tortoise (*testudo*) and wedge formations were our absolute favourites, helping us understand how Roman soldiers stayed strong in battle.

To bring Roman mythology to life, we created comic strips retelling the legendary story of Romulus and Remus, exploring how Rome itself was founded.

It was an action-packed day full of learning, fun, and a true taste of ancient Rome!

## News from Elder Class (Year 5)

During the last week of Term 3, Year 5 had a fantastic trip to Battle Abbey! We started with a brilliant workshop about the background story of the battle, all the claimants to the throne and how they related to each other. We were then shown a fascinating array of Anglo Saxon and Norman weapons, including shields, axes, spears, bows, arrows and swords, similar to those that would have been used in the real Battle of Hastings nearly 1,000 years ago.

Following this the children had the opportunity to re-enact the battle itself, taking part as either a Norman or a Saxon soldier, and the history experts on site showed us all how the battle was eventually won by Duke William of Normandy, with Harold being killed in exactly the same spot that we were standing (according to the story).

Later in the day, we took a closer look at the abbey, which was built by William to enable monks to pray for his soul, ensuring he would enter heaven despite all the bloodshed of the conquest. The children also had a lovely time playing on the battle-themed playground and looking around the discovery centre.

As teachers we were so impressed with the children's excellent learning and behaviour throughout the whole day, and especially with their thoughtful contributions and questions during our battle workshop. Well done Year 5!

## News from Oak Class (Year 6)



This week in Year 6, we had the privilege of going to Newhaven Fort to deepen our knowledge about World War II. We handled real artefacts from the Home Front and tried to figure out what they were used for, explored the different exhibitions about different aspects of life in Britain during the Blitz and even ventured through the tunnels deep beneath the Fort!

We learned a lot about the important role Newhaven Fort played during the war and can't wait to apply our new knowledge as we continue to learn about World War II as part of our topic this term.

## Patina Update



## **Patina Update for Year 6 Parents**

There's lots coming up for our Year 6 children this year and it's time to get going with Patina fundraising and events. Here's what's happening so far:

16th March - Western Road sponsored beach clean (Or 23rd if wet. Details to follow)

30th April / 8th May - Football Dream Team tournament

23rd May - Western Road own clothes day

4th July - Patina Moving On Parade and celebrations

Fundraising: each Year 6 child is targeted with raising £20 in any way that they find fun. A sponsored bike ride, a lemonade stand, a toy sale - anything goes. Please talk to your child about what they'd like to do: half-term would be a good time to start! In addition we'll be doing some group fundraising activities such as the beach clean, own clothes day and school bake sales (the target set for group fundraising is £250 and so far we have raised £104 from the Artist & Makers craft table and the Christmas Fair stall). We'll need to submit individual and group funds by May. The fundraising is vital for our school to be able to take part in Patina. It pays for our Patina artist coming to the school and all other central costs to make Patina happen.

From the Western Road Patina Reps

Reminder - football kits (Thursdays)



Children who attend Albion In The Community after-school club on Thursdays should come to school in their usual school uniform and school shoes/plain black trainers. The football coaches arrive with plenty of time to supervise the children getting changed into their kits before the club starts at 3.15pm. Please ensure all kit (including boots, shin pads etc) are clearly named. Thank you.

Reminder: Child Protection and Safeguarding



At Western Road Community Primary, all staff take child protection and safeguarding children very seriously, both in person and online. All staff have been trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection. If you have any concerns about a child's well-being, bullying or e-safety, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mrs Hamilton or Mrs Wooler.

During Assemblies, we have reminded all children that if they are worried or anxious at any time, they can talk to any trusted adult in school and who the DSLs are too.

As a school we are also part of Operation Encompass which is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that there is a simple telephone call or notification to a school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead /Officer (known as key Adult) prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved. Information is shared with a school's Key Adult (Designated Safeguarding Lead or Officer) prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. This sharing of information enables appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child. To find out more information, please see: <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

## Reminder: Health Service



We are pleased to be part of East Sussex Health Group. East Sussex Schools Health Service is a team of public health practitioners, led by school nurses who work with children, young people aged between four and 19 and their families. **They provide support and advice for a variety of physical, sexual and emotional health and wellbeing issues, and will refer to specialised services when needed.**

For full details about the service they offer please visit the website:  
[www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/school-health-service-east-sussex/](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/school-health-service-east-sussex/)

*How can you use the service?*

- Contact the School Health One Point on **0300 123 4062**, available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5pm
- Make a referral online at

- Visit the School Health virtual drop-in, Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 3pm and 6pm to 9pm at <https://nhs.uk/east-sussex-school-health> They can offer support and advice to children, young people and families virtually, face to face or via the phone as well as brief interventions and packages of care where appropriate.

## Western Road Community Primary School



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<http://www.westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Irèna Wooler

Deputy Headteacher: Rea Hamilton

SENCo: Suzy Bennett as Kerry Bedford is currently on maternity leave

**Western Road Community Primary School is a nurturing, creative community where everyone can flourish.**