

Term 2 Week 3

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break and Bonfire Night celebrations. It was great to see so many children in their guernseys on the 5th November and celebrating their Bonfire Societies! Please note for next year, it is highly likely that we will have our INSET day on Friday, 5th November 2027. Before half-term, we also celebrated Harvest Festival with the children performing a range of songs and readings about autumnal traditions around the world. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to Lewes Foodbank and to James Herbert who helped to transport the items too. Thank you also to David and the Year 1 team for organising the FWR Halloween Discos which were great fun and raised much-needed funds for the school. Thank you all for your support.

Thank you to everyone who supported Children In Need this year. We were able to discuss how the charity helps a wide range of children and their families across the UK in assembly that day. I will update you with the amount raised in our next newsletter.

This week, we have celebrated being unique by wearing odd socks and holding an assembly to remember how wonderful it is that we are all different, led by Shelley from the ESCC Mental Health Support Team. As part of our learning this week, we were also fortunate enough to have a visit from Kadeem En Pointe who taught the children the five ballet positions, alongside the resilience and perseverance needed to succeed. Thank you to Catherine (Key Stage 2 parent) who helped to organise the wonderful visit!

Please do keep an eye on your child's Tapestry account to see photographs and snippets of learning that takes place throughout the week.

As the weather changes and becomes cooler, we do have the heating on first thing in the morning to warm up the building before the children come in, as well as immediately after lunch to warm up after being outside. We review the weather each day and manage the heating accordingly. We place great emphasis on spending time outside every day, to allow all children to have the most active break/lunchtimes as possible, along with the Daily Mile. We will only stay inside if the weather is extremely wet. With that in mind, please ensure that your child wears suitable outdoor shoes/trainers (black) and has a warm, hooded, waterproof coat every day. If you are facing any challenges sourcing appropriate coats and/or shoes for your child, please do speak with myself, Mrs Hamilton or Mrs Bedford for support.

I have added to the key dates section of the newsletter below - please do diarise these so you do not miss anything!

Have a lovely weekend,

Irèna Wooler

Headteacher

School Calendar



The dates below will also be on Arbor for your child's year group/whole school events. ***Events shown in ITALIC are additions from the previous newsletter.***

24.11.2026

Year 1, 2 and 5 Wonderdome experience (Hall)

27.11.2026

2.40pm Rachel Fryer piano student performances

25.11.2026

9.15am – 10.15am EYFS September 2027 Open Session

27.11.2026

Artist and Makers evening event

28.11.2026

Artist and Makers event

01.12.2026

9.15am – 10.15am EYFS September 2027 Open Session

02.12.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

03.12.2026

Sussex College Pantomime performance to Years 3 - 6

07.12.2026

10.50am Year 4 Brass Band performance to families (recording will be uploaded onto Tapestry; final session)

08.12.2026

9.15am – 10.15am EYFS September 2027 Open Session

3.15pm Final Outdoor Project of the term

4pm School Choir performance at Glyndebourne

10.12.2026

Year 6 to Preston Manor

11.12.2026

9am Parent Forum (Gallery)

15.12.2026

9.30am EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity (more details to follow)

3.15pm FWR Christmas Fair

16.12.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

1.30pm Key Stage 2 Carols Around The Tree - festive jumpers worn with school uniform welcome

17.12.2026

Christmas lunch - festive jumpers worn with school uniform welcome

18.12.2026

1.15pm End of Term 2

04.01.2027

INSET 4 – school closed; no After-School Clubs

05.01.2027

Term 3 begins

Healthy Living Week begins

06.01.2027

9.15am – 10.15am EYFS September 2027 Open Session

07.01.2027

1.30pm - 3pm Children's eating workshop for families

11.01.2027

Year 5/6 Swimming begins (more details to follow)

12.01.2027

9.15am – 10.15am EYFS September 2027 Open Session

13.01.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

20.01.2027

4 University of Brighton student teachers begin placements

27.01.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

02.02.2027

Zoolab visit to Year 4

10.02.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

12.02.2027

3.15pm End of Term 3

22.02.2027

Term 4 begins

Year 5/6 Swimming continues

Priory Year 10 Work experience sessions

03.03.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

04.03.2027

World Book Day celebrations

Parents' Evening

09.03.2027

Parents' Evening

15.03.2027

Year 5 trip to synagogue

17.03.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

18.03.2027

Year 4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace

19.03.2027

Red Nose Day

22.03.2027

Year 5/6 Final swimming session

25.03.2027

End of Term 4

12.04.2027

Term 5 begins

Year 3/4 Swimming begins (more details to follow)

14.04.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

28.04.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

03.05.2027

May Bank Holiday – school closed; no After-School Clubs

10.05.2027

Year 6 SATS begin

13.05.2027

Year 6 SATS finish

Year 6 BBQ

14.05.2027

Year 6 post-SATS celebration

17.05.2027

Year 6 Bowles residential trip begins

19.05.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

Year 6 return from Bowles residential trip

20.05.2027

Year 6 play auditions

21.05.2027

Year 6 play auditions

25.05.2027

Year 5 trip to the Railway Land

28.05.2027

End of Term 5

07.06.2027

INSET 5 (final one) – school closed; no After-School Clubs

08.06.2027

Term 6 begins

Year 5 trip to Cuckmere Haven

09.06.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

23.06.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

01.07.2027

Year 4 trip to Hever Castle

02.07.2027

Year 6 PATINA

07.07.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

09.07.2027

Sports Day (more details to follow)

16.07.2027

Reserve Sports Day

End of year reports to families (including statutory assessment results)

20.07.2027

6pm Year 6 play; class to arrive at school for 5.30pm

21.07.2027

9am Celebration Assembly

22.07.2026

9.15am Year 6 Leavers' Assembly

1.15pm End of Term 6

REMINDER: We are a pine nut, nut and sesame-free school



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.

Reminder - Healthy snacks / lunches



Please ensure your child brings in only fruit/vegetables OR a healthy cereal bar (we are a nut, pine nut and sesame-free school) OR bread sticks OR rice cakes. The Government also provide free fruit/vegetables for EYFS/Years 1-2 daily too.

We have noticed a number of children bringing crisps to school for their breaktime snack. These are not permitted so please ensure your child has an alternative (as above). We have also shared this with all children during our whole school assembly. Thank you for your support.

Friends of Western Road (FWR) - Treasurer Wanted



🌟 Friends of Western Road Treasurer Wanted – Could you help? 🌟

Friends of Western Road is looking for a new **Treasurer**, and we'd love to hear from any parents or carers who might be interested in getting involved.

If you're reasonably comfortable with numbers (you don't need to be an accountant!) and would like to play a key role in supporting our school community, this could be for you!

What does the Treasurer do?

- Keep track of Friends of Western Road income and spending
- Write cheques for approved spending and expenses
- Provide and bank cash floats at events when required
- Present simple financial updates at our meetings
- Help ensure funds raised go towards activities and resources that benefit our children

Why volunteer?

- Make a real difference to school life
- Meet other parents and be part of a friendly, supportive team
- Flexible and manageable time commitment
- Great way to use your skills (or build new ones!)

You don't need prior experience, and support will be available from the outgoing Treasurer and committee. Many parents find the role rewarding, confidence-boosting, and even fun.

If you're curious, interested, or just want to know more, please get in touch with the outgoing treasurer (Penny Fletcher, Year 5 Parent, 07786 934 686) or The Chair (Megan, Year 4 and Reception Parent 07843 489 602) or anyone on the committee – we'd be very happy to chat.

✨ **Your time and skills could make a big difference!** ✨

Reminder - School Car Park and Safety - are you doing your bit?

Unfortunately we have noticed a number of vehicles parked unsafely around the school entrance. Please DO NOT park on the double yellow lines outside the school. It is hugely dangerous, obscuring places for children to cross the road safely and cutting off lines of sight for other drivers.

As part of being a healthy school, we encourage all families (where possible) to walk/cycle/scoot to and from school each day.

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.

Reminder - Peripatetic teachers at Western Road



It was noted in Parent Forum that there are a number of families who would like to know more about peripatetic music lessons, please do contact the following for more information:

Russ Robinson (violin) Russrobinsonviolin@outlook.com

Create Music | Brighton Dome (piano, keyboard, flute, singing)

Tom Cheek (guitar) Welcome | Guitar Clubs | East & West Sussex

Update - Online Safety Information



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.

As you may already be aware, a grassroots movement called Smartphone Free Childhood is working to support parents and carers who would like to delay giving their child a smartphone until age 14. Within our school community, we have a significant number of parents already making the decision to delay and we continue to support them.

Whilst smartphones can be a very helpful piece of technology for adults, and when closely supervised and for a particular purpose, may be a useful tool for children, research shows that they can expose children to significant safeguarding risks in addition to a number of other negative implications.

Smartphones risks to children include:

➢ Being highly addictive, with the lasting effects on young and developing brains being similar to that of gambling

➢ Being linked to poor mental health, depression and low self-esteem, especially in young teenagers

➢ Exposing children to harmful content including pornography, grooming, bullying and material that is not age appropriate

➢ Reducing attention spans – they are changing the way children's brains develop and fundamentally affecting their ability to concentrate

➢ Robbing children of their childhood. Time spent on a device reduces time spent playing, interacting and developing vital social skills

We are a smartphone-free school. Children in Years 5 and 6 are permitted to bring mobile phones into school, switching them off and handing them into their class teacher to collect in the class box as soon as they enter school via the green gate. The class phone box is then kept in the School Office throughout the day and is taken out to the green gate for the end of the school day. If your child attends an after-school club, they should collect their mobile phone from the after-school club leader.

To find out more, including about the potential age-limit on social media, please visit https://smartphonefreechildhood.eaction.org.uk/raise-the-age

Attendance and Punctuality



In August 2024, the Government published the statutory guidance on attendance. 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.

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



Please be aware that any shortfalls from trips/enrichment activities is very kindly covered by FWR. 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 - Message from the Bursar, Sarah Clifford

The price for a two-course Chartwells school meal from September 2026 is £3.06.

It is important for all those with Key Stage 1 pupils to participate in the main two Census Days to maximise the funding available to you. We also encourage you to take advantage of the free added-value opportunities available, such as themed workshops, parent open days and lunchtime taster pots.

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 £3.06 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 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 the 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.

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 (DLSs): Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Bedford, Mrs Bishop 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. Classrooms also have worry boxes which are checked regularly where children can write/draw their worries, either anonymously or named so staff know to speak to the class and/or individuals.

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/

Family First is changing how the support children and families in East Sussex; helping earlier before problems escalate. Please do use the consultation line **(01323 464655)** for early help and guidance. The service is open:

Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm

Update - 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/

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.vc/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.

You can also use HENRY for support and advice by visiting Find HENRY Support Near You | HENRY

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

Headteacher: Irèna Wooler

Deputy Headteacher: Rea Hamilton

SENCo: Kerry Bedford (Wednesday - Thursday)

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