



Term 1 Newsletter 1

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 1!

I hope you all had a lovely summer and were able to spend time with your loved ones. It is so wonderful to see the children return and throw themselves into their learning. This year, the whole school welcome focus has been about birds, culminating in every child writing their own poetry. The children have been fully immersed in the project through English, Art and Science links, alongside bird spotting in our locality. Thank you to Mrs Hamilton for setting this topic – it has been a super way to start the term.

We welcome our new children who have joined Western Road – some across the school and, of course, ones who have started school for the first time in our Reception class (Silver Birch). The children are settling well and getting to know the routines of the school. We also welcome several new staff members:

Mrs Poppy Martin – school secretary 8.15am – 1pm Monday (Monday – Friday)

Mrs Elinor Harvey-Overton – school secretary 12pm – 3.30pm (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Mrs Joanne Quinn – teaching assistant (Mondays – Tuesdays)

Ms Josie Eleini – teaching assistant (Thursdays and Fridays)

Mrs Donya Zarrabiyah – teaching assistant (Wednesdays and Fridays)

I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Green (Year 3) is expecting a baby in late January! I will, of course, let you know who will take Mrs Green's maternity leave closer to the time. Mrs Bracher welcomed baby Isaac in July – both mum and baby are doing well.

Over the summer holidays, we were delighted to have new toilets fitted in the Reception class, allowing our younger children to have their own space to use which further helps the settling process. As part of the building works, we also have a new health suite which allows children, staff and visitors to have more accessible facilities. It can be found in the Key Stage One corridor, opposite the Year 2 classroom. We have also had the Key Stage Two playground resurfaced with the shed relocated to a more suitable place, allowing to additional playing space. There needs to be some additional work on the flint wall (hence the Harris fencing currently cordoning that area off) which we hope will be completed during half-term. Our huge thanks to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) for funding these projects which are already making a significant difference to the school community.

In addition to the ESCC-funded works, Friends of Western Road (FWR), our incredible PTA, funded new flooring in the Rainbow Room and Gallery, alongside new stools which make the space for flexible and accessible. FWR have also funded beautiful bespoke door labels to mark each door with a British plant, for example Hawthorn Room, with key animals which may be found with each species. As such, the Rainbow Room, used for interventions and therapies, is now called Guelder Rose. Thank you to FWR for funding these projects – they have really made the school environment more user-friendly and vibrant.

Thank you for attending the 'Meet The Teacher' session on 9th September which were repeats of the ones held in July for families who were unable to make that date. **If you have any queries about your child's learning, please do speak with their class teacher in the first instance.**

The 'Meet The Teacher' sessions were followed by a workshop on 'Raising Resilient Children' led by Ms Krijnauw (Year 4 teacher). Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the session. I am so pleased that Ms Krijnauw has offered to hold a repeat of the session via Teams on Thursday, 12th November at 6pm. I will send out details as to how to join register and join the meeting closer to the time but please do add the date to your diaries.

Please ensure your adhere to the school policy of allowing 48 hours absence AFTER the last bout of sickness and/or upset stomach. Stomach bugs spread very easily and have a significant impact on others. Please also remind your children to keep good hand hygiene as we are encouraging in school.

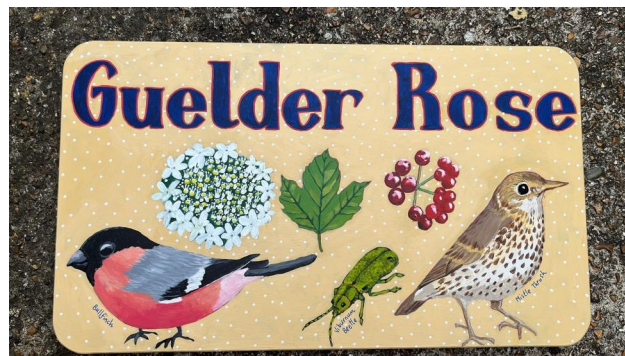
Finally, you are most welcome to come to our Harvest Festival on Wednesday, 21st October at 9am where the children will sing a selection of Autumnal songs. If you are able to, please do send in/bring in any donations for Lewes Foodbank either before Harvest Festival or on the day

as we would like to be able to donate as much as possible and support our local community. Donations will be collected on Friday, 23rd October to be delivered to the Foodbank. Please note, we cannot guarantee that every parent/carer will have a seat for the Harvest Festival due to it being a whole school event.

Best wishes,

Irèna Wooler

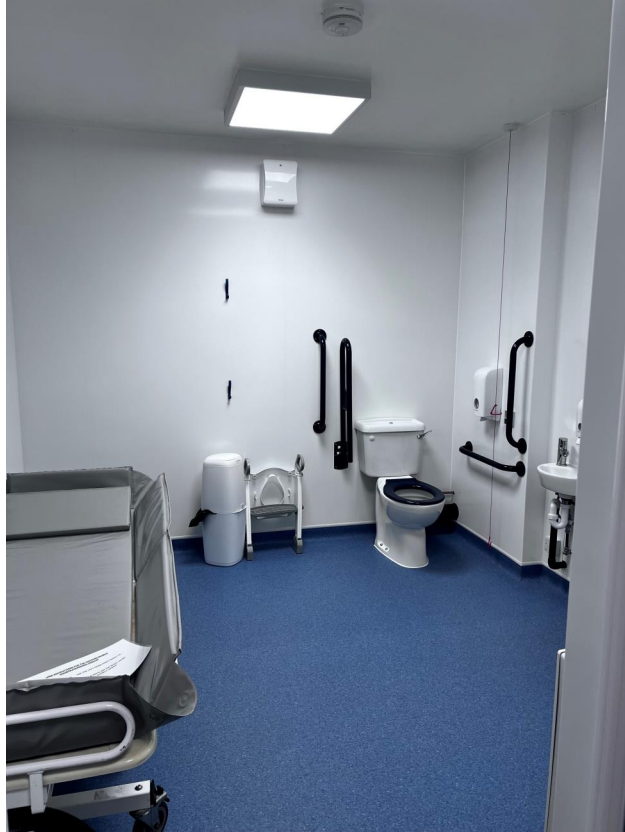
Headteacher



1 - Example of the new room signage



2 - Guelder Rose Room (previously the Rainbow Room)



3 - Health care suite



4 - EYFS bathroom



5 - EYFS bathroom

Hello from the Office Team

Hello Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your lovely words and visits these past weeks. Please let us formally introduce ourselves, as your new office team!

Mrs. Poppy Martin 08:15 -13:00 every day

Mrs. Elinor Overton Harvey 12:00 - 15:30 Tuesday and Thursday

Mrs. Sarah Clifford on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons

A polite reminder from the team, that if you are emailing the office regarding a change of collection arrangement, please do include your child or children's full name and year groups. These messages are presented to your child's class teacher at 14:30.

Trips and Clubs are registered to Arbor for sign up and payment, so please do remember to sign in, but take the opportunity to check your details and those of your children. With particular attention to contact details, dietary and medical needs. These profiles are our primary means of communication, and also support email logins for other platforms such as Medical Tracker and Tapestry.

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 6 Parent, 07786 934 686) or the Chair (Megan, Year 5 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!** ✨

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Global Citizens Project



At Western Road, we are proud to be a community that reaches far and wide. Each of our families brings with them stories, traditions, and connections that make our school a richer and more vibrant place.

This year, we launched a **Global Citizens Project** to celebrate the many links we all have across the globe. Whether through family heritage, places we have lived, languages spoken at home, or experiences in the UK or abroad, we want to highlight the ways our community is connected to the wider world, beyond Lewes. We all need a sense of belonging. When we share our stories and learn from each other, we not only strengthen our sense of community but also help our children grow as open-minded, compassionate global citizens

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>

School Calendar



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

14.09.2026

Brass Sparks sessions starts with Year 4

18.09.2026

Intergenerational Opera sessions start with Year 3

22.09.2026

Year 5/6 Branching Out trip

23.09.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

24.09.2026

2.45pm EYFS Phonics Meeting (Hall, details on Tapestry)

29.09.2026

9am FWR AGM (all welcome)

30.09.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

03.10.2026

FWR event at 'Shy', High Street, Lewes (more details to follow)

08.10.2026

3.30pm - 6.30pm Parents' Evening (more details to follow)

14.10.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

16.10.2026

Show Racism The Red Card day – all children wear red/elements of red, fundraising for the charity

20.10.2026

4.30pm - 7.30pm Parents' Evening (more details to follow)

21.10.2026

9am Harvest Festival

Year 1 and 2 Superhero Day (more details to follow)

23.10.2026

Flu vaccines

FWR Halloween Discos (more details to follow)

Term 1 ends

02.11.2026

Term 2 begins

04.11.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

05.11.2026

Lewes Bonfire Celebrations – NO AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

06.11.2026

INSET 3 – school closed; no After-School Clubs

12.11.2026

6pm 'Raising Resilient Children' workshop led by Ms Krijnauw (Teams)

16.11.2026

Unique Week begins

18.11.2026

9am Celebration Assembly

24.11.2026

Year 1, 2 and 5 Wonderdome experience (Hall, more details to follow)

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

08.12.2026

9.15am – 10.15am EYFS September 2027 Open Session

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

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

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

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

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

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 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.

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, 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](#)

Western Road Community Primary School



Southover High Street,

Lewes,

East Sussex

BN7 1TP

01273 473013

<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.