

Wood End Park Academy

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Autumn 1 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new year! It has already been a busy year.

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Welcome Meeting sessions to find out the key information to support your child at home too. We always appreciate the parent partnership. A reminder we have our half termly Parent Information sessions too that update you on safeguarding and contextual information that will be highly useful for you to know too.

Parent Meetings have also happened for the Autumn term. These meetings gave parents a good understanding of the areas we will be focusing on in the class for your child, especially in reading, writing and maths.

This newsletter will contain several of the already exciting events we have had for your child. A Victorian workshop visited Year 5 (this is an annual event for us); a new Benin workshop was visited by our year 4 pupils. Year 4 pupils also have instrumental lessons delivered by our Hillingdon Music Service. We hope to showcase their work soon!

Thank you for all of your donations for our Harvest Collection. These will go to those in need of such food items. Do keep the contributions coming in! We will be holding our Harvest Assembly which will be open to all parents soon, so you can see the impressive collection. Thank you to our families' donations.

The weather is turning to be colder now- please do ensure your child has a coat to wear as the chill settles in.

Finally- thank you for your support with attendance. Classes collect a yellow star if each child is in the class for that day. These are collected and result in an award.

Ms Johra

Principal



We're working towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts Council England

Committed to Pupils Learning

Please note holidays during school time are not allowed. All term time holidays would be unauthorised and you may be issued a penalty notice (fine).

Events

The Importance of Harvest: A Time for Gratitude and Giving

At Wood End Park, Harvest time is always a special occasion that reminds us of the importance of gratitude, community, and generosity. This year, we have been overwhelmed by the incredible support from our parents and families who have contributed to our Harvest collection.

As we gather and celebrate the season's bounty, we are mindful that not everyone in our community has the same access to basic necessities. That's why all of the generous donations we have received will go directly to our local food bank, making a difference for those who need it most.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We want to extend our deepest thanks to all those who have contributed so far. Your kindness is truly making a positive impact, and it is wonderful to see our school community come together to support such an important cause.

Still Time to Contribute

For those who haven't yet had the chance, it's not too late! We are still accepting donations, and every contribution helps. Whether it's canned goods, dried food, or other essentials, your donations will go a long way in helping families in need this autumn.

Let's continue to show our community spirit and make this Harvest season one to remember for everyone!

WEPA History Day 2024

We are delighted to share the incredible success of this year's History Day! Once again, the whole school came together for this highly anticipated annual event. Both children and staff embraced the opportunity to step back in time, and the enthusiasm was clear from the very start.

Each year group dressed up to represent the historical periods they have been studying, and a great deal of effort and creativity was put into the incredible costumes. The school was buzzing with excitement, with everything from Marvelous Mayans and Historical Toys to World War II soldiers and Victorian ladies and gentlemen. It truly felt like walking through a living museum! The children looked fantastic, and we are so proud of how much thought went into their outfits. A huge thank you to all the parents for your support in helping make this day so special—the costumes truly brought history to life for the children.



Events

Year 4 Workshop: Exploring the Kingdom of Benin

We recently had the privilege of participating in an exciting and interactive two-hour workshop on the Kingdom of Benin!

The session was filled with fascinating knowledge, facts, and hands-on activities, which the children absolutely loved. The workshop gave the children a deeper understanding of the history, religion, culture, and daily life of the Kingdom of Benin, one of the most powerful West African kingdoms from the 13th to the 19th century. The children especially enjoyed learning about the impressive achievements of the kingdom, including its beautiful bronze sculptures, particularly the famous Benin Bronzes and its well-organized government led by the Obas (kings).

This workshop was not just about listening—it was filled with interactive activities that brought history to life! It was amazing to see how excited the children were about learning. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the workshop facilitators for providing such an enriching and engaging experience. They truly brought the Kingdom of Benin to life in a way that captured the children's imagination and curiosity.



3 Tips to Improve Spelling

A mnemonic device is **a memory technique that can help you remember information.**

Let's consider the spelling of island. This word has a silent s and children often forget to add it. How to solve this?

What is an island? It is land surrounded by water. If you remember this spelling trick, you will never misspell the word again.

Physical, for example, confuses a lot of people as they are not sure whether to use f or ph here. You can use this sentence — Pat Had Yummy Strawberry Ice Cream And Lollipops. If you take a look at the initial letters, you'll get the word physical.

2. Break Them Up!

Mostly, we misspell longer words. Because we need to remember longer sequences of letters. If that's the case for you, you can always chunk them down into smaller parts.

Think of the word disappearing in this case. You can break it up in groups like this — dis-ap-pear-ing.

Suddenly, the spelling became much easier!

3. Pronunciations Help with Funny Spelling Tricks

The way that a word is spoken can help you out with the spelling. A very common spelling trick joke goes like this — "When two vowels walk together, the first one does the talking!"

Read has two vowels, e and a walking together where e is the first one. So, read has an -ee sound rather than having the -ay sound.

Coat, boat, team — all of these words follow the same rule.



disappearing is

dis-ap-pear-ing



Events

Year 5 Victorian Workshop

Year 5 travelled back in time to the Victorian era. We were lucky enough to be visited by Freshwater Theatre Company who transformed one of our Year 5 classrooms into a Victorian school.

Children learned all about the lessons in a Victorian school day and even had to start the day with a hand inspection to make sure they were clean and ready to learn! Children then had to practise their handwriting and two unfortunate pupils had to try to write their names with chalk - very tricky.

There was lots of chanting of key facts and spellings which the children definitely enjoyed and they even got to act like Victorian scientists by investigating a potato!

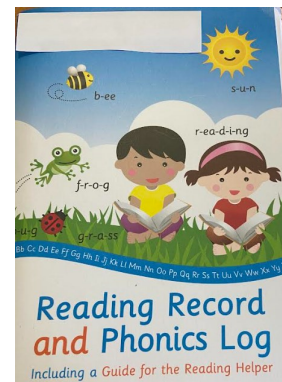
This exciting opportunity will definitely help us deepen our understanding of life during the Victorian era.

Read, Explore, Grow: A Newsletter for Young Readers (KS1) Welcome to our newsletter!

In key stage 1, we celebrate the joy of reading and encouraging young minds to explore the wonderful world of books.

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- . Builds Vocabulary and Comprehension
- . Discussing the story helps them understand the meaning and plot.
- . Sparks imagination: Reading helps children create vivid mental pictures and dream of new adventures.
- . Improves comprehension: Reading improves children's ability to understand and follow stories.
- . Boosts confidence: Reading can boost children's self-esteem and sense of.

Tips for encouraging young readers at home:

Reading aloud to your child every day is a powerful way to nurture their love of learning and prepare them for success in school and beyond.



Let's celebrate the joy of reading together!

Events

In Reception, we recognise the importance of outdoor play when it comes to the impact it has on early years development. Outdoor play enhances a child's learning opportunities and massively benefits children's mental and physical health and wellbeing. Spending time outdoors can have a positive impact on both mental and physical health at any age, so we encourage it from a young age.

Spending time outdoors daily helps keep children physically fit and healthy. Encouraging children to run, jump, climb and chase develops good physical fitness, and aids in critical development such as stability, bone density, and muscle development. Being physically active from a young age can help prevent future health problems.



Being outside helps children connect with nature. This is done through exploration of their natural environment and the world around them using their senses. They have opportunities to learn about different scents and sounds.

Playing outside offers children a chance to explore and process feelings in a situations they can control. The increased space lends itself well to group activities providing opportunities to practice empathy and develop an understanding of others. Outside is the perfect place for children to make friends, helping develop their social and emotional skills, by engaging in group activities and problem-solving.

In Years 1-6, gym apparatus such as beams, boxes, and mats are used to develop key physical skills like jumping, landing, and balancing.

Our younger pupils in Years 1-3 focus on basic techniques, such as jumping off low platforms with controlled landings, using mats for safety. They also practice balancing on low beams, learning to walk steadily with arms outstretched for support.

As students progress to Years 4-6, they tackle more challenging jumps from higher platforms, mastering soft balance landings with bent knees. They also improve their balancing by performing more complex movements on narrower beams, enhancing stability and control.



The staff at Wood End Park Academy held a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September, coming together to support the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. The event was filled with delicious homemade cakes, coffee, and tea, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all who attended. Staff members contributed by baking treats, setting up the space, and encouraging donations for this important cause. The coffee morning not only raised funds for cancer support services but also strengthened the sense of community within the school. It was a successful event, combining generosity, teamwork, and a shared commitment to helping those in need.



Events

The Great Fire of London Workshop

Year 2 had a great opportunity to experience this hand-on workshop. The quality of the workshop was excellent as the whole session was tailored to year 2 objectives, in which every child in year 2 had a role in the unfolding events of September 1666. The workshop leaders all had great energy and character. The children were engaged throughout the workshop.

Through the use of costumes and artefacts, the children immersed themselves in the story of the Great Fire of London, and took steps to stop the spread of "fire" along a row of houses. It was excellent to see that children and adults played a part and it really brought the topic to life! All the staff and children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop!

"I loved seeing the plague doctor. He was SO real!"



This half term, Year 5 felt a swirl of nerves as the classes gathered for their swimming lessons. Standing at the edge of the pool, they watched the water ripple, feeling a lump in their throats. The water looked deep and daunting, and there were worries about sinking or not being able to keep up with classmates.

However, as the lessons continued, something began to change. With the supportive guidance of their instructor and encouragement from friends, they gradually found comfort in the water. Each lesson brought new skills and a growing sense of achievement. By the final week, we had children diving in with confidence, laughing and splashing alongside classmates. What had once felt scary transformed into a newfound passion, proving that facing fears can lead to incredible growth and joy.



In nursery for Black History month we have been looking at the artist Lubaina Himid. Her work is known to be colourful and large. Lubaina won a big art award called the 'Turner Prize'. We created a collaborative piece of art that is inspired by Lubaina Structures.



Information



Please note all payments for trips, workshops and clubs must be made on parent pay.



Please provide your child with a named water bottle for school. No glass bottles allowed.

Proper hydration allows pupils to focus better and stay productive longer.



VERY IMPORTANT:

WEPA APP FOR SCHOOL UPDATES

We are aware some parents have still not downloaded the school app. We will be communicating important information throughout the Year via our app, so it is imperative all parents and carers download this at your earliest convenience by following the steps below:

Step One:

For Apple devices please use

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/piota-schools/id1333103848?mt=8>

For Android devices please use

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.piota.schools&hl=en_GB

Step Two:

Type in 'Wood End Park Academy'

Step Three:

Go to 'More' then 'Settings'

Step Four:

Go to 'Notifications' Please tick your child's year group.



Wood End Park Academy

School Dates for 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2024

*Staff Development Day	Monday 2 nd September 2024
Term Starts	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024
*Staff Development Day	Friday 25 th October 2024
Half Term	Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November 2024
Term Ends	Thursday 19 th December 2024
*Staff Development Day	Friday 20 th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Term Starts	Monday 6 th January 2025
Half Term	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February 2025
End of Term	Friday 4 th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May 2025
Term Ends	Friday 18 th July 2025
*Staff Development Day	Monday 21 st July 2025
*Staff Development Day	Tuesday 22 nd July 2025

Staff Development Days – Pupils do not attend