

# Wood End Park Academy

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January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

## A successful Start to the Spring Term!

As we embark on the term, I extend a warm welcome to all the families. I hope you enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating break over the winter, and I am delighted to see our enthusiastic pupils get on with their learning back in the classroom.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for the unwavering support and partnership we have enjoyed with you throughout the Autumn Term. Your contributions, whether through volunteering, attending school events, or simply providing a supportive home environment, have been invaluable to our school community.

This term already has been a period of significant achievement for our pupils. I am incredibly proud to announce that our school emerged victorious in both the Federation Maths Challenge and the Dodgeball event. These successes are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship of our pupils. Thank you to the staff who worked with the pupils involved too.

We were also fortunate to host a delegation of educators from South Korea during the term. Our visitors were deeply impressed by the many aspects of our school, including:

- **The warm and inclusive atmosphere:** They were particularly struck by the genuine warmth and kindness shown by both pupils and staff, creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all.
- **The high-quality teaching and learning:** Our visitors observed lessons with great interest, noting the engaging and creative teaching methods employed by our staff, and the high levels of pupil engagement and enthusiasm.
- **The focus on the holistic development of each child:** They were impressed by the breadth of opportunities available to our pupils, including music, art, drama, and sports, which contribute to their well-being and overall development.
- **The strong partnership between school and home:** Our visitors were keen to learn about the ways in which we work in partnership with parents to support our pupils' learning and development.

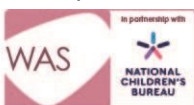
The feedback from our esteemed visitors was a significant source of pride for the entire school community. It serves as a powerful reminder of the exceptional work being undertaken by our dedicated staff and the remarkable achievements of our pupils.

Looking ahead to the Spring Term, we have a number of exciting events and initiatives planned. These include:

- **Music Exhibition** after school on **Tuesday 4th March**
- **World Book Day** will be celebrated on **Friday 7th March** - do help your child to get their costume ready!

We are committed to providing a rich and stimulating learning experience for all our pupils, and we look forward to working closely with you to ensure their continued success. Parents Meetings will be after school on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th February. Straight after half term.

Ms S 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

## Korean Visitors

We were thrilled to welcome a group of visiting teachers from Korea to Wood End Park Academy this month! Our school was selected to host these educators, who spent time supporting our pupils both inside and outside the classroom. The visitors not only helped enrich our lessons but also shared fascinating insights into Korean culture, including traditional customs, language, and even some fun activities.

The children had a wonderful time learning from their new friends and were inspired by the global perspectives they brought. It was a memorable experience for all, and we are grateful for the opportunity to connect with such a vibrant and diverse culture!

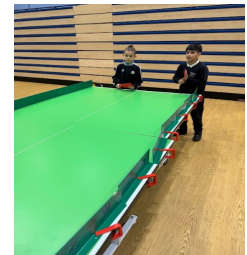


Wood End Park Academy children triumphed at the park federation tournament. Our students showcased exceptional skills and sportsmanship. Congratulations to the children on this fantastic achievement!



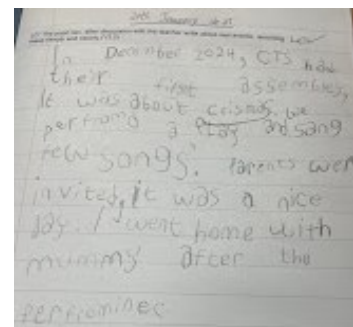
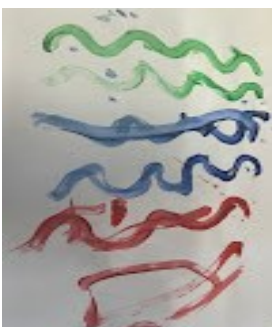
Wood End Park Academy's year 5 and 6 children showcased incredible skill and enthusiasm at a polybat/table cricket event.

Their outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship were even recognized by a teacher, who praised them for inspiring and motivating children from other schools.



Mark making is the first natural step towards learning to write and draw. It is an act of creating lines, dots and patterns. Children are encouraged to make marks using a variety of tools and materials i.e. painting, colour, mud, sand, pencils etc.

At Wood End Park Academy's SENd Centre, we have daily 'mark making' lessons. These lessons are adapted to meet a wide range of abilities. Some children are able to form letters and numbers independently whilst others can make simple patterns/trace with and without adult support.



# Events

## **Big Spell**

We are excited to continue our promotion programme, *The Big Spell*, which helps improve our students' spelling skills across the school. Each half term, the children are tested on 25 statutory spelling words that are appropriate for their age group. These words are given out at the start of the term so the children have plenty of time to practise and perfect their spelling. We're thrilled with the progress our students have made so far, and we'd like to congratulate the winners from last half term: 2EA from KS1 and 6ZK from KS2! They demonstrated excellent spelling skills and hard work. Now, we're looking forward to seeing who will be the champions in Spring 1! Keep up the great work, everyone!



## THE BIG SPELL

At the start of every half term, all children will be taking part in 'The Big Spell'. Children will be tested on 25 spelling words. The class who has the most children achieving 21+ will get an extra break time.

Let the spelling competition **COMMENCE**

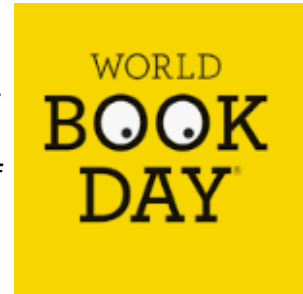
**Online safety** — Please remember when using the internet on your devices, we should never share our personal information. Especially on social media or on any gaming consoles/websites which you may play online. This will include details such as your name, address and which school you go to. If you see others not following the e-safety rules, please make the right choice and remind them to keep them safe too. Parents, it is vital that you install parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices to manage internet safety in your home. If you haven't already, it would be useful to set up a user account for your child on the main device they use and make sure other accounts in the household are password-protected so that any younger children can't access them by accident.

# Events

## The Importance of Reading

*“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body” Richard Steele*

Reading allows us to be transported from our own world to another. Between the pages of a book, we can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from our own. We can also learn new words and phrases, experience a range of emotions, and acquire skills and knowledge.



The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child’s education, social and cognitive development, their well being, and their mental health.

At Wood End Park Academy, we understand how important reading is to a child’s development in every single subject. Please continue to support us by ensuring that your child reads their book at home every evening.

As part of our celebration of reading, we will be marking World Book Day on Friday 7th March. This day is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all that reading has to offer! Children are invited to attend school dressed as their favourite book characters. If possible, it would also be great for children to bring in a copy of the book so they can share this with their peers.

We will be completing various activities throughout the day to celebrate that Wood End Park

## Florence Nightingale Workshop

Year 2 were delighted to welcome experts into school to host a workshop on Florence Nightingale. They learned about the timeline of Florence’s life and enjoyed travelling with Florence to Scutari hospital and role-playing scenes from her life. The children were over the moon when they were re-enacting the Scutari hospital with the children taking on roles such as patients and nurses.

The workshop was a great stimuli for our **History topic** and **English** unit which is to write a Biography about Florence Nightingale

*“We were super impressed with the Florence Nightingale workshop. The actress was very good at keeping the children involved in such brilliant learning. There were visual elements as well as practical parts which allowed the children to have hands-on experience. It was a superb introductory session in our history topic as it got the children interested and focused on their learning.”*

**The year 2 team.**



# Events

Messy play is a great way for children to explore their senses, using their hands to explore different textures. It is also a great opportunity to teach them different describing words like 'slippery' and 'slimy' as well as action words.

## What are the benefits of messy play?

- Sensory play does not always have to be messy but sometimes getting your hands dirty can be really good for your child's development.
- Children learn through experimentation and discovery, so messy play is the perfect way to encourage your child to explore new textures and manipulate different materials through touch.
- Messy play with open ended materials like spaghetti, jelly, or play dough helps children learn to play independently, increases attention span, provides opportunities to problem solve, and builds self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Messy play can also support your child's language development. As your child plays, you can narrate their actions and describe what they're doing. This teaches them to use words for description and introduces new vocabulary.
- For example, you might use words for textures like 'squishy', 'lumpy', 'soft' or 'crunchy' as they play as well as action words like 'splash', 'scrunch' or 'squash'.



## Messy play ideas

There are all sorts of things you can use for messy play. Here are some suggestions:

- Dry pasta, paper and glue
- Jelly
- Pom poms and clothes pegs
- Bubble bath water and bath toys
- Measuring cups and dried or cooked porridge oats
- Sticky tape and sponges
- Cold, cooked spaghetti and mud



Edible messy play can be especially fun. Using safe foods for messy play like jelly and cooked spaghetti means children can also have a taste, providing more language opportunities.

## Congratulations to Our Maths Challenge Stars!

Three Year 6 students were chosen to represent our school in a maths challenge, competing against nine other schools. These students were selected for their outstanding mathematical ability demonstrated during Phase 1 of the challenge, where all Year 6 students tackled various maths challenges.

### **A huge well done to Akshaya, Viaan, and Aksayan!**

They approached each challenge with a fantastic attitude and performed exceptionally well. The challenges included estimating, creating shapes, and solving square number problems. Their impressive teamwork and skills earned them **85 points**, resulting in a tie for first place with West Drayton Academy. In the tie-breaker, they narrowly missed the top spot and came **second** overall.



# Events

## **Celebrating the Rights of the Child in WEPA!**

Exciting news! We've selected our Rights Respecting Ambassadors, a group of pupils from each class who will be working to make our school an even better place. They will be champions for children's rights, helping to ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and respected. We can't wait to see the positive impact they have! Look for their photos in the next newsletter and check out their amazing display board on the Rights of the Child.

The Ambassadors are elected to be promoters of pupil voice; their job is to help ensure that Wood End Park Academy is a safe and happy place for all to learn in. They are also champions of rights and they ensure that the rights are promoted and discussed in their classes.



## **Toscana Strings return to WEPA!**

We were delighted to welcome Toscana Strings back to our school for their second visit, treating us to a magical performance of The Nutcracker.

WEPA children were enthralled by the beautiful classical music and the graceful storytelling brought to life by the amazing musicians and the talented ballet dancer.

The marvellous performers created a captivating atmosphere, blending classical music and dance in a way that truly engaged everyone.

What made the performance even more special was the opportunity for the children to take part, making it a memorable and interactive experience. This performance was a delightful moment for the children to enjoy live classical music and ballet — which included famous pieces of music such as Danse des Mirlitons from Tchaikovsky's, The Nutcracker.

We are so grateful to the performers for sharing their talents with us and hope to welcome them back to our school again in the summer!



# Events

## Doctors Visit

This term Reception is learning about people who help us. We have learnt about Firefighters, Police, Teachers, Vets and Doctors. The children were so excited about having a Doctor come and visit us. Doctor Basil was really friendly and spoke about how doctors help everyone. He spoke to the children about how there are different doctors who treat different parts of the body. The children were fascinated by the different equipment that doctors have. Doctor Basil had his doctor's bag and was able to show the children his stethoscope, thermometer, blood pressure machine and reflex hammer. The children were able to hold and look at all of his equipment. The Reception children have really enjoyed learning about people who help us and are excited for next term.



## **Exciting Preparations for Our First-Ever Music Exhibition!**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our teachers and children are eagerly preparing for our upcoming Music Exhibition on Tuesday, 4th March. This will be a truly special event, as it marks the first time we have hosted a Music Exhibition at our school. In previous years, we have celebrated learning through Geography, Art, and Dance Exhibitions, but this is our first dedicated showcase of the wonderful musical learning taking place.

Music plays a vital role in our curriculum and this exhibition is part of our commitment to ensuring that children can perform and share their creative journey. Throughout the term, the children have been developing their understanding of the key elements of music, including rhythm, tempo, pitch, dynamics, and more. Through singing, playing instruments and composing, they have been building their confidence and musical skills—now they cannot wait to perform for you!

The Music Exhibition also builds on our growing artistic repertoire. Recently, we were privileged to welcome a string quartet to our school—twice! This was another first for us and a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience live classical music.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you and sharing the joy of music with our school community.



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

Step Two:

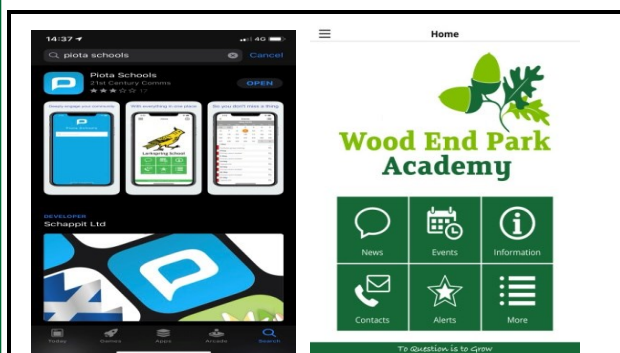
Type in 'Wood End Park Academy'

Step Three:

Go to 'More' then 'Settings'

Step Four:

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



## School Dates for 2024/2025

### Autumn Term 2024

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

### Spring Term 2025

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

### Summer Term 2025

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

Staff Development Days – Pupils do not attend