

Wood End Park Academy

Judge Heath Lane, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 2PD
Tel: 020 8573 7829 - website: www.woodendpark.academy



March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and fulfilling term at Wood End Park Academy, I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to each and every one of you. Your ongoing support and active participation in school life continue to make a tremendous difference to our children's learning experience we cherish here at Wood End Park.

Thank you for the time you have taken to be part of our school events. Our parent meetings and your attendance is always valuable, we are able to work together in supporting the development of your child. Your presence at these meetings demonstrates the shared commitment we have towards ensuring that every child thrives, and I truly appreciate the conversations you would have had about your child's progress and next steps.

A huge thank you also goes out to everyone who attended and supported our World Book Day celebrations. Seeing so many parents joining in to watch the children's parade was truly wonderful. Encouraging a love of reading is important in our educational approach, and it was wonderful to see such enthusiasm from both pupils and families. Your involvement in these events not only makes them more memorable but also reinforces the importance of books and storytelling in children's lives. Thank you for your efforts getting the pupils prepared for this day.

This term, we have also had the privilege of coming together as a school community to celebrate a variety of cultural and religious festivals. Thank you to those who were able to attend our Easter assembly. The support from parents and carers in attending these celebrations underscores the inclusive spirit of our school, where we value and respect the diverse backgrounds that make our community so special.

As we now look ahead to the next term, I encourage you to continue your involvement in school activities - we will have the Celebration of Culture to look forward to. Your partnership is key to creating an environment where children feel supported and inspired to achieve their best. We have many exciting initiatives and events planned, and I look forward to sharing these with you in the coming weeks.

Once again, thank you for your dedication, enthusiasm, and collaboration. On behalf of all the staff at Wood End Park Academy, I wish you a restful and enjoyable break with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next term, ready for more learning, growth, and shared successes. Our first day back is **Tuesday 22nd April**

Ms Surjeet Johra
Principal



2021-2024



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

Dear Parents/Carers

A reminder that pupils in year 4 are required to take part in the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in June. This government assessed check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12 which is important for success in mathematics.



The MTC is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions which are randomly generated. After the practice questions, your child will have 6 seconds to answer each question that appears on screen. On average, the check should not take longer than 5 minutes.

We would like your support to prepare your child for the check, continuous practice of the times tables at home is beneficial for your child so that they can rapidly recall facts when necessary to accurately perform calculations.

As we are fast approaching the assessment period, we have devised some helpful hints to support your child with their practice at home:

1. Start with Skip Counting

If your child struggles with reciting their times tables, why not practice skip counting first? Your child will begin skip counting in key stage 1. Take your child's times tables learning back to basics by grouping counters and practising skip counting using a physical representation until your child feels comfortable.

2. Use Visual Aids

Once your child is secure with skip counting using physical counters, you can begin to use visual aids such as number lines or 100 squares to support them. It's important to focus on one times table at a time so that your child doesn't get overwhelmed or confused, but marking off multiples on a 100 square can be a great way of helping your child to spot patterns in times tables. Why not hang up a multiplication square somewhere so that your child can see it every day?

3. Repeat, Repeat, Repeat

Once your child has learnt a times table fact, it's crucial that they continue to practice it so that they are secure. It can be useful to focus on a set of five times table facts and swap in new ones gradually rather than simply moving on and abandoning the facts they have previously learnt.

4. Make it Fun!

Children love to learn in a variety of ways, including through music and song or through movement and games. No matter how your child likes to learn, try to make their times table practice exciting and engaging for them. You could sing rhymes or songs together to help them memorise their facts, play card games or even have fun exercising together!

5. Make it Stick

While learning through games and songs is great, sometimes children just need to write down their times tables to make them stick. It's been proved that the act of physically writing something down helps our brains to commit facts to memory. Although your child won't be using pencil and paper to complete the actual MTC, jotting down their times tables is a useful way to revise. You can mix it up by having them write on a whiteboard, using different coloured pens or even by writing in chalk on the pavement.

6. Increase Their Speed

Once your child is confident in their accuracy in recalling times tables facts, it's time to work on speed. In the MTC, your child will have 6 seconds to answer each question. Many children love a challenge – why not start by giving them 15 seconds to answer a question and then decrease the time limit gradually? This is also a great way of building their confidence as many children will be able to recall facts quickly and will enjoy the feeling of having to wait for the timer to run down. You could also give your child a set of questions to complete in a set time, such as 1 minute, then tally up their correct answers and find their average speed. It's important to remember that your child should be using instant recall skills rather than spending time working out the answers.

7. Use Technology

As the MTC is completed digitally, either on a computer or tablet, it makes sense for your child to practise in the same conditions.

Websites:

Multiplication Tables Check Practice

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check> <https://urbrainy.com/mtc>

8. Practice Everyday

Rote learning, like daily multiplication practice, is shown to be effective.

Mrs Gill

Events

Year 6 adventurers transformed into mini-citizens for a day at Brunel University! Our bright sparks dove headfirst into the 'Young Citizens' trip, exploring everything from Fire Services, London Transport Safety Team and other fascinating interactive exhibits. With their impeccable behaviour and boundless enthusiasm, they impressed everyone, earning glowing praise from the organisers. It was a day filled with laughter, learning, and a whole lot of 'aha!' moments, proving that our future leaders are already shining brightly!

Mr Bansal

Year 6 Team Leader

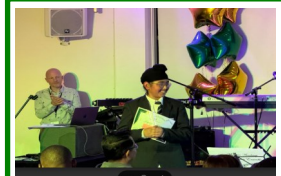


Year 2 recently visited the Iver Environmental centre. This provided children with a rich and memorable learning experience that was closely linked to their science learning. Children had the opportunity to dissect a seed and learnt all about the parts of a seed. Furthermore, children were able to see different plants in the natural environment and thought about how different materials were made from plants.



Finally, children learnt all about pollination in a fun and creative way. Children were excited and happy to progress their science learning at the Iver Environmental centre.

"I really enjoyed learning about different parts of plants. My favourite part was learning about different pollinators"



Well done to our Year 6 performer who represented Wood End Park at our musical Federation event. We are so proud of you!

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

Important Online Safety Information Session for Parents

Keeping our children safe online is a top priority. We're hosting two vital information sessions on **Tuesday 6th May** to equip you with the latest online safety knowledge and government guidelines.

Session Times: 9:05 am and 2:45 pm in the KS2 Hall

Why is this session so important?

The online world offers incredible opportunities for learning and connection, but it also presents potential risks. This session will cover key areas such as:

- . Understanding the online platforms your children may be using.
- . Identifying and managing online risks, including cyberbullying, inappropriate content, and online predators.
- . Setting appropriate boundaries and guidelines for online use.
- . Practical strategies for monitoring and supporting your child's online activities.
- . Up to date information about guidelines from the governor.
- . **The Importance of Screen Time Management:** We will discuss the impact of excessive screen time on children's development and well-being and provide strategies for reducing and restricting screen time.

The government provides resources and advice, that include information about age restrictions on social media platforms and how to report harmful content.

We strongly encourage all parents and guardians to attend one of these sessions. Your participation is vital in creating a safe and positive online environment for our children and to aid in the healthy management of their screen time.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6th May.

The Importance of SEND Sensory Trays

Supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a top priority. One of the most effective and accessible tools for this is the sensory tray. Sensory trays provide a hands-on engaging experience that supports children with a range of needs including autism, ADHD, sensory processing difficulties and communication challenges.

What is a Sensory Tray?

A sensory tray is a specially designed activity station filled with materials that stimulate the senses. These trays can contain a variety of textures, colours, and objects, such as sand, water beads, rice, fabric, scented items, and small toys. The goal is to create a multi-sensory experience that encourages exploration, communication, and regulation.



The Benefits of Sensory Trays for SEND Pupils:

1. Supports Sensory Regulation

Many SEND pupils experience sensory processing difficulties, meaning they may be over- or under-sensitive to certain stimuli. Sensory trays allow children to engage with different textures, sounds, and smells in a controlled way helping them regulate their sensory experiences.

2. Encourages Communication and Language Development

For children with speech and language delays sensory play can be a valuable tool. The hands-on nature of the trays encourages descriptive language, turn-taking, and social interaction. Teachers and support staff can use the trays to introduce new vocabulary and prompt conversations.

3. Develops Fine Motor Skills

Manipulating objects within the tray such as scooping, pouring, pinching, or squeezing and helps strengthen hand muscles improving fine motor skills essential for writing and everyday tasks like buttoning a shirt or using cutlery.

4. Promotes Emotional Wellbeing

Sensory play can have a calming effect on children who struggle with anxiety or emotional regulation. The repetitive actions involved in sensory play such as sifting through sand or squeezing a stress ball can help pupils self-soothe and manage stress.

5. Encourages Engagement and Focus

For pupils with ADHD or attention difficulties sensory trays provide a structured yet engaging activity that helps them concentrate. The tactile experience captures their attention and supports longer periods of focused play and learning.

How to Use Sensory Trays in a Primary School Setting

Tailor to individual needs and consider the specific sensory preferences of each child. Some may enjoy soft and squishy textures while others may prefer dry and grainy materials. Incorporate learning themes where the sensory trays can be linked to the curriculum such as using letter-shaped objects for literacy or small world play for storytelling.

Ensure accessibility and position trays at appropriate heights and provide tools like tweezers or scoops for children who may struggle with direct hand contact.

Monitor for sensory overload as some children may become overwhelmed. Providing a quiet space or offering alternative textures can help manage their experience.

Encourage independence and choice by allowing pupils to explore the trays freely fostering confidence and self-expression.



Conclusion

Introducing sensory trays into a primary school's SEND provision can significantly enhance pupils' learning and wellbeing. By engaging multiple senses these trays provide vital support for sensory regulation, communication, motor skills, and emotional development. Schools greatly benefit from making sensory play a regular part of their inclusive practice ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.

Maths Matters! Your Guide to Supporting Your Child's Maths Journey

This newsletter is designed to provide you with helpful hints and tips to support your child's maths learning at home. We understand that maths can sometimes feel challenging, but with the right strategies, we can make it an engaging and rewarding experience!

Why "Show Your Working"? It's More Than Just a Mark!

You've likely heard your child's teacher emphasise the importance of showing their working. It's not just about getting marks; it's about:

Partial Credit: Even if the final answer is incorrect, a clear method can earn partial marks in assessments.

Error Detection: Writing down the steps allows students to easily review their work and identify mistakes.

Clarity of Thought: It helps organise thinking and makes complex problems more manageable.

Tip: Encourage your child to write down every step of their calculations, even if they think they can do it mentally.

The Power of Pictures and Diagrams

Maths can be abstract, but visuals make it real!

- . Diagrams like bar models and part-whole models help children visualise concepts, especially in fractions and problem-solving.
- . These visuals break down complex problems into simpler, more understandable parts.
- . They provide a concrete representation of abstract ideas, making learning more effective.

Tip: Encourage your child to draw diagrams to represent maths problems. You can even draw them together!

Try Smaller Numbers for Big Problem Solving

When faced with a complex word problem, simplify it!

If a problem feels overwhelming, replace the large numbers with smaller, more manageable ones.

This allows your child to identify the required operation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division).

Once they understand the process with smaller numbers, they can apply it to the original problem.

Example:

"36 widgets cost £280; what does one widget cost?"

Try: "2 widgets cost £10; what does one widget cost?" (This makes it clear that you need to divide: $£10 \div 2$).

Real-Life Maths: Involve your child in everyday maths, such as measuring ingredients while cooking or calculating change while shopping.

Maths Games: Play board games, card games, or online maths games to make learning enjoyable.

Times Tables Practice: Use songs, rhymes, or online resources to reinforce times tables memorization.

Positive Attitude: Encourage a positive attitude towards maths and emphasize that mistakes are a part of learning.

Resources:

BBC Bitesize KS2 Maths

MathsFrame

Topmarks Maths

We hope these tips are helpful! Working together, we can help your child build confidence and excel in maths.

Events

On Friday 7th March Wood End Park Academy celebrated World Book Day. There were so many excellent costumes on display during our costume parades celebrating pupils' (and staff members') favourite books and characters. It was great to see so many parents and families attending to support the children.

Prior to World Book Day, pupils were lucky enough to take part in online author talks.

Nursery and Reception pupils enjoyed a session with the lovely Lucy Reynolds who spoke all about her book: *We Are Family*. In KS1, Michelle Robinson and Tom Knight led a fantastic session all about *When Fish Finger Froze*. A brilliantly fun talk which our pupils really enjoyed. KS2 pupils spoke with the wonderful Loretta Schauer who helped pupils to create their own crow characters. Pupils loved drawing along with Loretta and Year 5 have even bought copies of her book to read as a class!

On World Book Day pupils from Nursery to Year 6 started their celebrations with exploring stories from a range of different cultures including tales from Jamaica, Brazil, Germany and China.

Then it was time for our much anticipated class reading swap. This gives pupils the chance to read with peers outside of their year group. Our pupils really enjoyed sharing their reading skills with each other and it was wonderful to see the older children supporting our younger pupils with their reading development.

Pupils and staff had a fantastic day and can't wait to carry on developing their love of reading and books!



A Spectacular Celebration of Music at Wood End Park Academy

On Tuesday 4th March, Wood End Park Academy hosted its first-ever Music Exhibition, a remarkable showcase of talent, dedication, and musical creativity. The event was a collaborative effort, with all class teachers and Learning Support Assistants working tirelessly to prepare the children for this special occasion. One class in each year group was transformed into a stage, highlighting the diverse musical skills of our students.



The program featured an array of performances that captivated the audience. Reception class delighted everyone with their joyful singing, while Year 1 showcased their xylophone skills with a charming rendition of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*.

Year 2 brought energy and rhythm with a dynamic performance of Kenyan drumming and Year 3 impressed with their vocal talents in *The Cauliflower and Broccoli Song* and *The Power Song*.

Year 4 presented a beautiful version of *Frère Jacques*, while Years 5 and 6 delivered a stunning performance of *Let's Call the Whole Thing Off*, accompanied by Year 6 students on guitar and drums.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement as children eagerly shared their learning with parents and the school community. The event was met with enthusiastic applause and overwhelming praise from attendees. Many parents took the opportunity to complete the event survey, leaving glowing comments such as:

"Brilliant show!" "Amazing performance!" "Really enjoyed the performances!" "More exhibitions like this, please!"

This highly successful event not only showcased the incredible musical talents of our students but also reinforced the importance of music in education. The school looks forward to hosting more events like this in the future, celebrating creativity, collaboration, and the joy of music.

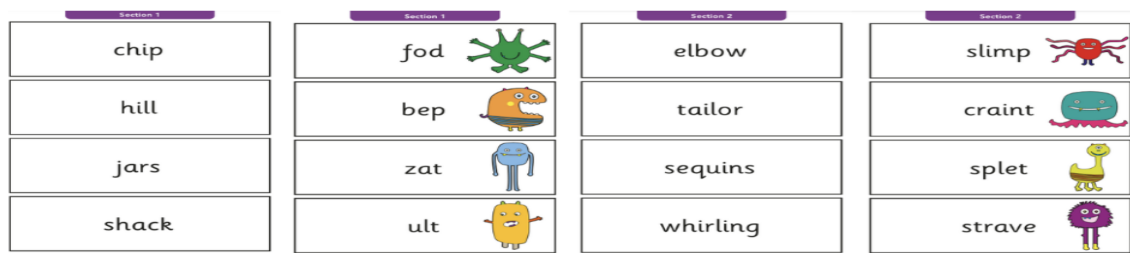
Events

How to prepare your child for the Phonics Screening Check

Teachers use the phonics screening check to assess children's phonics skills learnt in Reception and Year 1. It usually takes place in the summer term of Year 1.

What does it test?

The phonics screening check tests each child's ability to read and pronounce words. Some of the graphemes used represent a number of different phonemes. For example, the grapheme c can represent both the hard c pronunciation, as in 'cat' and the soft c pronunciation 'cell'.



Being able to read the words and pseudo-words (alien words) depends upon the child:

- . having a secure knowledge of the letters of the alphabet
- . being able to manipulate the sounds in words
- . being able to recall basic decoding to read unfamiliar words.

What does the Phonics Screening Check involve?

The check contains 40 words and your child will read up to four words per page to their teacher. The whole process will take about 10 minutes. Although the check is compulsory, it is carried out one-to-one by the class teacher in a very relaxed environment. The check also includes nonsense words that are phonetically decodable but are not real words. These check children's ability to apply their phonics knowledge when decoding words, making sure they cannot guess the word.

How can you help your child prepare for the check at home?

Sharing books

Reading phonetically decodable books at home is very useful for developing children's phonic skills.

- . Before your child starts reading, look at the cover and title together. Encourage them to think about what the book might be about to get them engaged and in the right frame of mind to read.
- . Talk about the book as you read, recapping and asking questions as you go to check your child's understanding of what they're reading.
- . Point to the words as your child reads, encouraging them to try every word to the very end (children learning to read often neglect suffixes).
- . If they're struggling with a word, help break it down into individual sounds, then blend them together. Breaking words down into syllables can also help. With longer or compound words, support children to identify elements of the word they might know or find easier to decode, for instance, rain/ing, kind/est, foot/ball. Cover up part of the word and encourage children to read it in smaller chunks.
- . If your child is still struggling, telling them the word is OK.
- . Finally, don't forget that praise is motivating for children as they read.

Make practice fun!

Here are some quick, fun games you can play at home using the focus phonemes in your child's reading books. These will all help to increase confidence reading and blending sounds.

- . Write down all the phonemes on separate pieces of paper and get your child to practise reading them quickly, one after the other. Mix up the order to make sure your child isn't reciting them!
- . Stick up different phonemes around a room and ask your child to hop to one phoneme, skip to one and jump to another as you call them out.
- . Get your child to write as many words which include the focus phonemes as they can in 30 seconds. Make it easier or harder by giving them more or less time.
- . Choose six phonemes and give each one a number. Roll a dice and ask your child to say the phoneme that the dice lands on.

Events

Young Musician Showcase – A Night of Talent and Celebration

On Wednesday 12th March at 6:30 pm Western House Academy hosted the highly anticipated Young Musician of the Year event, bringing together talented students to showcase their musical excellence. The evening was a true celebration of dedication, skill and passion for music.



We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 performer - who represented our school with remarkable proficiency in playing the tabla. His outstanding performance demonstrated not only technical skill but also a deep understanding of rhythm and musical expression. His talent and hard work were evident, making him a standout performer of the night.

Alongside him, other young musicians delivered impressive performances, each displaying their dedication to their craft. The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and admiration as the audience applauded every act.

The event was a resounding success, highlighting the exceptional musical abilities within our federation. Congratulations to all the performers for their hard work and achievements. This inspiring evening reaffirmed the power of music in bringing our school communities together and we look forward to many more such celebrations in the future.



Wood End Park Academy School Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term

*Staff Development Day	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
*Staff Development Day	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Term Starts	Thursday 4 th September 2025
*Staff Development Day	Friday 24 th October 2025
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October 2025
Term Ends	Friday 19 th December 2025

Spring Term

Term Starts	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February 2026
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026

Summer Term

Term Starts	Monday 13 th April 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May 2026
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026
*Staff Development Day	Monday 20 th July 2026
*Staff Development Day	Tuesday 21 st July 2026

*Staff Development Day – Pupils do not attend

Wood End Park Academy year 6 children played in a football match v Botwell house. The children displayed great skills, determination and perseverance in the game. This was reflected in an impressive 12-0 victory.



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:

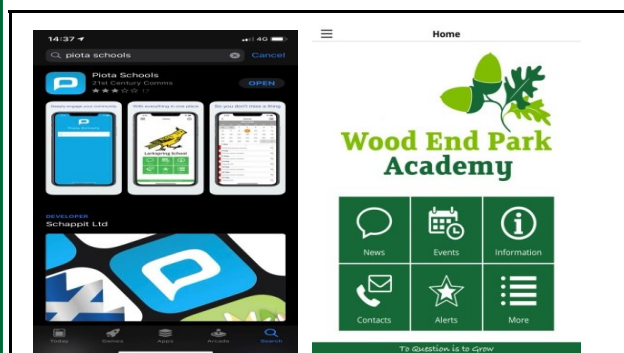
Type in 'Wood End Park Academy'

Step Three:

Go to 'More' then 'Settings'

Step Four:

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



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