



Wellesley Park Primary School

Headteacher: Carly Wilkins
Wellesley Park Primary School
Homefield, Wellington
Somerset, TA21 9AJ

10th February 2023



Headteacher's Comment

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank parents, staff, pupils and governors for taking the time to warmly welcome me back to school, from my maternity leave. I am thrilled to be back – although my little boy may think differently about this! I have had lots of waves and smiley faces from your children, as I pop into classes to see their learning; they continue to be keen to share their new knowledge. I am very much looking forward to the rest of the academic year, building on the progress to date.

As you know, at the end of this half term, Mr Upham will be leaving us to return to Lyngford Park Primary School. I know that Mr Upham would love to stay with us and that he will be very missed by everyone. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Wellesley Park.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Hartley-Criddle for diligently driving forward my vision for the school, in my absence. She has worked conscientiously to ensure the very best for our pupils, staff and school community.

We also welcome back Miss Atri, who has returned to our school office team from maternity leave - we have missed you!

The installation of our new fire doors has now been completed. We are looking forward to the painting and decorating as the concluding part of this project, during half term.

Thank you to the PTA and volunteers for the Valentine's Disco. It was very much enjoyed by all the children that attended and was another great success.

Finally, I wish you and your family an enjoyable half-term break and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 21st February.

Best wishes,

Mrs Wilkins
Headteacher

Message from Mrs Hartley-Criddle - Deputy Headteacher

We have had a very busy half term here at Wellesley Park - with so many fabulous events and learning taking place. Highlights for me have been listening to our clarinet musicians and the singing sessions in the hall, fire-safety presentations, Fizz-Pop and Open The Door assemblies, cake sales, super students and, of course - our valentine's disco! I know that next half term will bring just as much fun and excitement to your children's learning - just as it should.

It has been wonderful to welcome Mrs Wilkins back this week and I hope that we haven't tired her out too much - I know that the children have all been so pleased to see her!

As I have said before, we will all miss Mr Upham as he returns to his previous school after half term - but I know that we will stay in contact with him and that you will all want to join me in wishing him the very best of luck and a huge thank you goes with him - from us all.

I hope that you all have an amazing half term with your friends and family - please stay well and return to us safely for Tuesday 21st February.

Mrs Hartley-Criddle
Deputy Headteacher

Attendance - by class for this half-term

Gruffalo	92.98%	Matilda	94.44%	Galadriel	95.82%
Jasper	96.73%	BFG	97.93%	Thorin	93.82%
Mrs Tiggywinkle	96.37%	Hufflepuff	92.36%	Akela	95.38%
Peter Rabbit	96.79%	Gryffindor	98.06%	Bagheera	90.25%

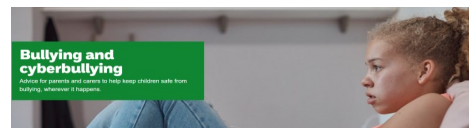
Well done Gryffindor class for achieving the highest attendance this half-term.

Safeguarding

Bullying and Cyberbullying

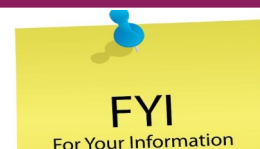
The NSPCC have provided advice for parents and carers to help keep children safe from bullying, wherever it happens.

Please use the following link: www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/



Wider Community Information Links

- Government update regarding new emergency phone alert system: www.gov.uk/alerts
- Warning regarding misuse of spray deodorant: www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-derbyshire-62078939
- Childline toolbox which provides calming games and activities to support children with worries, concerns or significant trauma events: www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/



Car Parking

Please can we remind parents and carers that the school car park is for staff use only at all times. Please do not drive in to the school grounds, including for dropping off/collecting to and from breakfast and after school club.



There should also be no parking, under any circumstances, on the zig-zag lines at the entrance of the school. This could endanger the lives of children on their way to and from school. There have been incidents where children have run from vehicles in front of staff cars driving in through the school gates.
Many thanks.

Leaving The School Premises

Please can we remind parents and carers to leave the school grounds promptly after collecting children at the end of the school day. This is for safeguarding reasons and to ensure that parents, carers and children are off site before the gates are locked. Also, this safeguards children who attend Dukes and after school clubs.

Many thanks.

Policy Updates

Please note following policies have been updated and can be found on our school website:

- Toileting and Intimate Care
- Positive Behaviour
- Homework
- Anti-bullying
- Admissions Policy
- Equalities Information and Objectives

School Vacancies

Please see our school website for a list of our current job vacancies: www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk/our-school/vacancies

Message from the Wellesley Park PTA

This term has seen the return of the monthly Bake Sales and Year 6 gave us a tremendous start to these raising over £100! Well done to everyone who donated cakes and of course to everyone who bought and enjoyed them. We look forward to the next one on the 24th February when we know Year 5 will also do us proud.

We hope everyone enjoyed the Valentines Disco, it was so great to see all the dance moves and the children having fun with their friends. In the future we hope to space these out 3 times a year around each half term holiday with the next disco being in May.

The PTA have been busy behind the scenes this term planning events for the rest of the year – and we have some exciting things coming up!

Please make sure you have these dates in your diary:

- 17th March – Superwoman Sale
- 24th March – Bingo
- 30th March – Break the Rules
- 5th May – Crowns and Colour
- 25th May – Disco
- 17th June – Summer Fair
- 14th July – Strawberry Evening

More information will be coming out regarding all these events very soon.

If you'd like to be involved in any of these, please message us, look out for requests for volunteers or pop along to a meeting.

As we hit the halfway point of this year we would like to thank you in helping us raise an amazing total of £1975.73 so far! We are now able to donate £100 to each class to use to enhance learning experiences this year and have already heard some amazing ideas the teachers have for spending these funds.

Once again thank you to all parents, school staff and volunteers for participating in and supporting our fundraising efforts. Everything we do goes back into enhancing the children's experiences whilst at Wellesley Park; whether it is for trips/visits, additional extras in the classroom or those big spends on much desired equipment to enhance learning and play. We couldn't do it without you.

EYFS / KS1 Panto Visit

On Thursday 12th January, EYFS and KS1 were treated to an amazing live production of Beauty and The Beast, performed by M&M Productions.

The children were so excited to watch and take part in this exciting production and their cheering could be heard across the whole school!

We would like to make a special point of thanks to our PTA who enabled us to offer this opportunity to our families at a reduced cost. It really was worth it and the children can't wait for another show next year!



Preschool - Wellesley Park Explorers

This term has been very busy in preschool. Our topic has been 'fantasy' which we have explored through reading stories and singing songs. The children have loved learning stories including The Gingerbread Man, 3 Little Pigs and Superworm, and have been heard retelling the stories throughout their learning and play.

The wintry weather has enabled us to explore the frozen garden and experience the effects of the colder weather on the world around us and our bodies. We are getting better at putting on our coats, scarves and gloves as we go off on our adventures to the forest school.

Our story this week is the Three Billy Goats Gruff. We all helped to make a river for the billy goats to cross, using lots of blue materials such as feathers, pipe cleaners, finger paints, tissue paper and lots more! In the afternoon after making our river, we made a bridge over the river using large building bricks and planks of wood.



Reception/Year 1

We can't believe how fast this term has gone, how is it half term already? What a busy and fantastic term of learning it has been.

The biggest hit this term in Reception has been the wolf. In both our Talk 4 Writing story and non-fiction text, the wolf was the star of the show and the children were captivated by his antics, trying to steal some sheep and goats from a local farm. The children created some amazing non-fiction writing about the wolf, and then had a go at writing about their own animal of choice.



In Year 1, the children started learning The Magic Porridge Pot story and loved making and tasting their own porridge. They have been looking at including more complex features in their writing including similes and prepositions.



In Maths, Reception have been looking at numbers 6, 7 and 8, and also making pairs. Children had great fun playing a lucky dip pair game, and even had a go at matching some pairs of socks after reading a story all about an odd sock named Simon - so they can definitely help you with the washing now!



In Year 1, children have been working on place value to 20 and have looked in detail at the teen numbers, recognising the difference between 10s and 1s. They are confidently able to represent them in different ways, using part-whole models and diagrams to support them.

For everyone, although cold, it has been great to get out and use the outside area. We have been using the frost to practise our writing and both the Receptions and Year 1s have been looking at using different materials – the Receptions to build a fence to protect the animals from the wolf and the Year 1s to test the strength of building materials.



We hope you all have a restful half term and see you all refreshed for Spring 2!

Year 1/Year 2

What a start to 2023! We started the new year by welcoming Miss Floyd as Peter Rabbit Class Teacher and have loved sharing our learning journey with her.

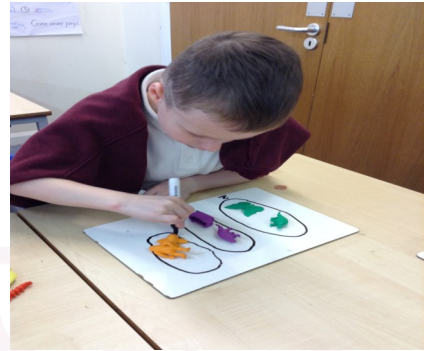
Our topics this term have included materials, Florence Nightingale, writing persuasively and much more.

One of the highlights this half term has been the INCREDIBLE pantomime performance that visited us in January. The characters were so funny and we loved being able to join in with our best 'boo-ing' and 'hiss-ing'.

Another highlight has been conducting different investigations in Science. We explored the outdoor learning area to find and identify different materials, tested the suitability of different (edible) building materials and explored which materials bend, squash, rip or twist. It's been great to be so hands on.

In our writing, we have split into new writing groups so that we can really focus on the skills we need to practice. Year 1 children have been looking at The Magic Porridge Pot and really enjoyed making their own porridge last week. Children in Year 2 have been creating suspense in their story writing and even created their own creature to feature in their writing.

With so much learning going on, it's no wonder we're all ready for a half term rest! Wishing all families a safe and happy break and we look forward to seeing you after the half term holiday.



Year 3

This half term Year 3 have been looking at newspaper reports and had a go at writing their own based on the teachers being replaced by aliens.

They have really enjoyed the Orienteering Geography topic and have produced some amazing maps using keys and symbols.

We have been looking at multiplication and division in Maths which although some have found tricky they have worked really hard and persevered.

In PE, the children have been focusing on gymnastics which includes travelling and sequencing.

Well done on a great half term!



Year 4

What a fantastic end to the half-term we have had in Year 4! In English, we have been treated to some amazing suspense stories where the children have drawn upon many of the features of the genre which we have covered. Finally, this term, we have learnt the features of Cinquain poems and written our own.

In Guided Reading we are thoroughly enjoying the fantastic book *The Wild Robot* by Peter Browne. The main character Roz the robot is fast becoming a firm favourite. Her experiences on the island she has found herself marooned on, take account of her environment and the animals that live there. This links well with our Science unit on Living Things and their Habitats. We have recently explored our wonderful outside space looking at the impact of man-made structures on our environment. This will lead on to us further investigating food webs next half-term.

In Maths, we have concluded our multiplication and division unit, though of course these important operations will continue to be a focus throughout the year. It is really important that all the children keep on practising their Times Tables ready for the National Year 4 check in May.

We are now looking forward to our residential at Charterhouse. The activity programme has been finalised and you should have seen the kit list sent out on Class Dojo. Please let us know if you have any questions or need any more information at this stage.

Have a lovely break everyone.



Year 5

Wow, what a busy half term it has been for Year 5.

Year 5 have been swimming every Monday and have had a great time. In just a few short weeks, they have made such progress and it has been great to see them all joining in with such enthusiasm.

In Maths, we are just coming to the end of topic on multiplication and division where we have multiplying 2, 3, and 4-digit numbers, dividing using the bus stop method and exploring remainders. After half term we will be going back to fractions.

Over the last couple of weeks in English we have been focusing on a suspense tale called *Zelda Claw*. The children have really got excited by this and have loved creating suspense using the different elements of the suspense writer's toolkit. We are looking forward to writing our own versions very soon.

In Science, we have been learning all about Materials, their properties and grouping in them different ways. We have conducted many experiments and have focused on Independent, controlled and dependent variables. In one of our experiments we became lunch box designers. We tested different materials to see which one kept our ice frozen the longest.



We were lucky enough to receive a visit from Ali, a Community Safety Manager from Network rail. She spent time with the children discussing how to stay safe when using the railways and the possible dangers. The children really enjoyed taking part in her quizzes and some of us even got to dress up.

As part of our History we have learnt all about the Tudor Monarchs and the War of the Roses. We have loved finding out how gruesome the Tudors could be and how 'bloody Mary' got her nickname.

We hope that you all have a lovely half term and looking forward to a fun-filled Spring 2 term.

Year 6

Year 6 have had an extremely busy term; every child has shown tremendous resilience and determination towards their assessments and overall learning.

In English, we have completed some excellent newspaper reports linked to our History topic (Benin). During our Tale of Fear unit, we have incorporated a range of features into our short burst writing. These include: onomatopoeia, expanded noun phrases, using precise language and simple sentences to build suspense.

In Maths, the children have done an excellent job with their decimals learning. We are moving onto understanding the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We are learning strategies to help answer reasoning and problem-solving questions alongside making links to previous learning. We are fascinated by the book *Skellig* and have enjoyed dissecting the themes that are permeating throughout the text. We have been investigating light as part of our Science unit; ask you children to explain their knowledge of reflection, refraction and absorption of light.

We had a visit from the National Railway Safety team to learn lots of interesting facts about railway stations, tracks and how to stay safe. We welcomed a visit from Telling a Tale productions who discussed bullying and the impact of kindness. In PE, the children have taken part in gymnastics and hockey this term with our specialist coaches. The children have spent time creating detailed clay Benin Bronzes in Art.

We hope you have a lovely half term break.

