



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

18th March 2022

Acting Headteacher's Comment



Dear Parents and Carers,

How lovely it is to see some sunshine and lighter evenings – there is a real sense of summer approaching this week and I can definitely note a bit of a 'spring' in our children's steps!

As always, this has been an incredibly busy couple of weeks – full of wonderful learning and great experiences for our children. It was a joy to see our Year 4s return from their residential trip – full of funny anecdotes and memories to last a lifetime. I think that they are all slowly recovering from their exhaustion now – well, the children might be, I'm not so sure the staff have quite yet!

I would however, like to extend a huge thank you to all of our WP staff, who helped to ensure that this successful experience happened – from the office team organising finances and risk assessments, to the supporting staff who attended and put in so many extra hours, for the children in their care – thank you!

This week our pre-school had a light-touch Safeguarding audit – which they passed with flying colours and were praised for their knowledge of all safeguarding procedures, ensuring that our pre-school children are kept safe at all times. Thank you to the pre-school team for this.

Parents' evening was a really positive experience once more. It was lovely to see our school busy with parents and carers – I am looking forward to a lot more school/parent interaction over the coming months - Covid willing. It is something I am sure we have all missed, over the last couple of years.

As you have been made aware from Mrs Wilkins' letter, emailed out earlier this week, I am now standing in as 'Acting Headteacher'. I am sure that many of you will understand that this is a role new to me, but I have a great team at WP and across The Castle Partnership Trust, so I know that there will always be someone I can turn to, when advice is needed! I also know that you will all be supportive too, which is a lovely feeling, and I am sure that this year will just fly by.

In the meantime, I wish Mrs Wilkins the very best of luck for the safe and healthy arrival of her new baby — she will be greatly missed, but I know she will keep a caring watch over us all at WP!

Please do have a really lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes,

Mrs Hartley-Criddle

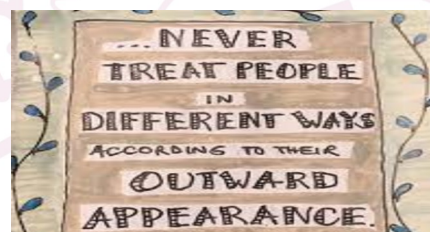
Attendance - by class for the period 14/02/22 to 25/02/22

Gruffalo	95.11%	Matilda	97.41%	Galadriel	94.79%
Jasper	100%	BFG	97.75%	Bagheera	98.96%
Kipper	96.09%	Hufflepuff	96.95%	Akela	98.91%
Mrs TW	98.50%	Gryffindor	97.50%		
Peter Rabbit	89.50%	Thorin	94.90%		

Our Wellesley Park School Value for this half-term - Integrity

Why do we sometimes treat people differently? Is [this](#) ever right?

choose
Kindness



Online Safety

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties.

From the continuing impact of COVID-19 to the war in Ukraine, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent.

National Online Safety have put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of tips such as encouraging your child to ask questions, setting limits and to emphasis hope. Please find this attached with the newsletter.



SEND Information

This newsletter's focus is – **Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)**



EBSA is a term used to describe children and young people (CYP) who experience challenges in attending school, due to negative feelings (such as anxiety) – which can lead to reduced attendance and have a significant impact on academic success.

Nationally, it has been noted that more CYP are experiencing EBSA, as a knock-on effect of the pandemic, as they struggle to get back into familiar and predictable school routines. Helping these children to feel safe in school, ensuring that they feel listened to and cared for is extremely important; as ongoing and persistent absence for school will in itself, lead to further and continued anxieties, as the children fall behind on their learning and lose touch with their peers and friendships.

At Wellesley Park, we work extremely hard to ensure that we support both the child and their families, appreciating that an anxious child can also be very distressing for both parents and carers alike. When a child experiences EBSA it is extremely important for family members to remain calm, in control, stick to known routines and minimise the amount of 'adult' talk to the child (or in ear-shot of the child!) regarding anxieties / triggers / the impact on the adults / how it is making the adults feel etc, as this will only add emotional-load to the child's already heightened state, and negate any progress being made in other areas.

At school, we try to support families by putting in place a support plan, discussed and agreed with both home, school and the child. These plans may include some or all, of the following: regular teacher check-ins / more specific pastoral check-ins / meet and greet at the start of the day / 'special' morning jobs / PFSA referral (Parent and Family Support Advisor) / Tuning In To Kids (TiNKs) course for parents / school nurse / positive action reward systems / and, for the rare more extreme and ongoing cases: Emotional Literacy Support Advisor sessions (ELSA).

Information for parents: These weblinks contain great advice and support for both CYP and their parents/carers, including downloadable documents and booklets to share with your child:

Parents/Carers EBSA Guidance - www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Page/19956

Older Children and Young People EBSA Guidance - www.supportservicesforeducation.co.uk/Page/20034

School Car Park

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. Thank you.



Previous Newsletters

Previous issues of the newsletter can be found in the 'News and Events' section of our school website: <https://www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk/all-newsletters.htm>

Wellesley Park Primary School Facebook Page

Have you visited and followed our school Facebook page? We regularly post updates, news, events and other information. Please see the link to our page and click on 'follow' to link our posts to your newsfeed: <https://www.facebook.com/WellesleyParkPrimarySchool>



Reviewed Policies

The following policies have recently been reviewed:

Uniform Policy	SEND Policy	Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
Online Safety Policy	Complaints Procedure	Drugs Incident Policy
Children in Care Policy	Educational Trips and Visits Policy	Charging and Remissions Policy
Accessibility Policy	Data Protection Policy	Visitors to the Trust Policy

Copies of all policies can be found under the Policy section of our school website - www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk/key-information/policies.htm

Job Vacancies

We currently have the following job vacancies:

- Midday Supervisor - 4.17 hours per week. Monday to Friday, 12.30-1.20pm, Term Time.
- Duke's Out of School Club Assistant - 5 hours per week. Thursday 3-5pm and Friday 3-6pm, Term Time.

Further details and the application form will be available on the Vacancies section of our school website: www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk/our-school/vacancies



Red Nose Day Donations

Thank you to those who have already donated towards the Comic Relief appeal.

Please can we remind you that you are able to donate via ParentPay by visiting the following link: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=7066>



Support for Ukraine - Non School Uniform Day - Friday 25th March

On Friday 25th March, we will be showing our support to the people of Ukraine with a special non-school uniform day.

Children are invited to come into school dressed in blue and/or yellow clothing - the colours of the country's flag - and we will be collecting £1 minimum donations on the day.

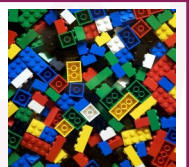
We appreciate that this will come soon after Red Nose Day, however many of the children have expressed an interest in trying to raise money for this worthy cause, and we join them in wanting to show our care and support as a school. We will be keeping discussion around the Ukraine situation low-key and age-appropriate, with an emphasis on supporting the refugees.

Thank you for your support.



Lego Donations

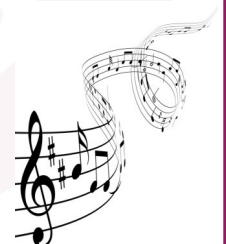
We are desperately in need of more Lego at school, this is for use in our Lego Therapy intervention for social communication. If you have any to spare, that you would be willing to donate to us, this would be greatly appreciated by us all - even a small amount, from a few families could make a real difference! Please bring any donations to the school office. Thank you! :-)



West Country School of Music - Music Tuition

The West Country School of Music (WCSM) will be delivering an assembly to KS2 children on the afternoon of Monday 21st March, regarding music tuition that is available for those wishing to learn an instrument in school.

On the following day, Tuesday 22nd March, a representative from WCSM will be in the school hall for a drop-in session at pick-up time (between 3.00-3.30pm), to answer any parent queries. ****UPDATE: this is Covid dependent, as one of the team are currently poorly. We will confirm on Monday for you...**



Pre-school

The Pre-school children have been very busy looking at things that grow!

We have noticed how some things change when they grow - our frog spawn has developed in to tadpoles and our beans now have roots and shoots.

It is great fun measuring each other to see who is the tallest and to see how much we have grown. We get bigger but we don't change in the same way that frog spawn and beans do.

Our class room is currently bursting with life - we have tadpoles, beans and caterpillars all growing. We also had a very unusual visitor, called Slowest! Slowest is a giant African land snail. He is quite heavy! Slowest is a very healthy eater - he likes lots of different vegetables. Did you know that snails have a foot?

We are looking forward going on some walks soon to see what else we can find growing and if it is changing as it grows.



Reception

This week in Reception, we have been learning how to take one number away from another. We started with some teddies on a chair and then we took some away - so the children could physically see how to do it. Then they had a go using counters, working out the answers, and writing the number for the answer.

A new sound we learnt was 'nk'. The children enjoyed writing words with the ending and writing some sentences.

Our Talk for Writing story for the next few weeks, is The Gingerbread Man. We have started to learn the story and put actions to it too. Next week we will be doing lots of different activities linked to the story.



The children had a super time during Outdoor Learning, playing games and finding evidence of Spring outside. They then drew the different things that they found.

Congratulations to Paisley who received a medal and a certificate at the Gymnastics club she attends. She very expertly showed the class how she would balance on a beam!



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning in a very practical way this week! We learned about capacity and volume and how to show this in various containers using water. We then learned to measure the capacity of the containers. Mrs Brown definitely needed a mop!

The children have also written some animal alliterative poetry. We will pop some examples to show you on the next newsletter, when we have written them up neatly.

In DT this week, we have begun making our space helmets. We are using papier mâché to make them. Jaspers and Kippers loved the task and worked extremely well with their partners. Both Mrs Brown and Miss Winsor were very impressed (their tidying up was also fabulous — phew!)

In our assemblies, we have been working hard to demonstrate integrity, we have been reflecting on our actions and the actions of others and how we can show integrity in our daily lives.

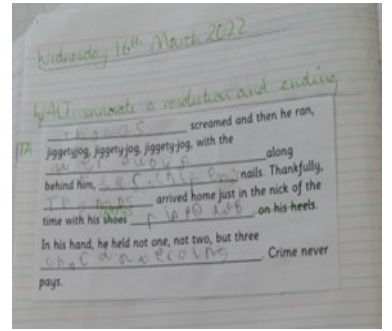
Another super week for Year 1 - well done Jaspers and Kippers!



Year 2

We cannot believe we are already half way through this term—the children have all been working super hard and we are really impressed with them all!

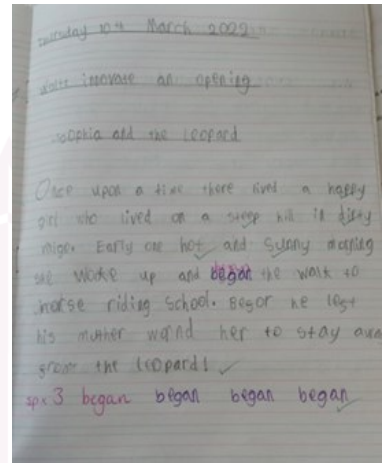
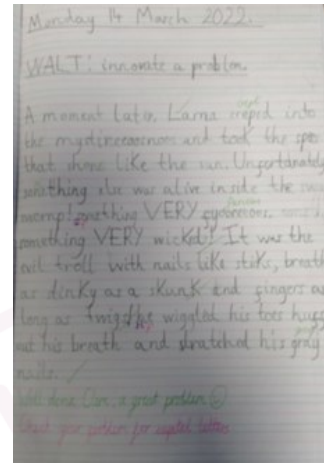
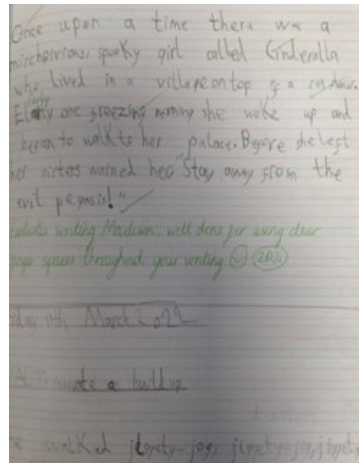
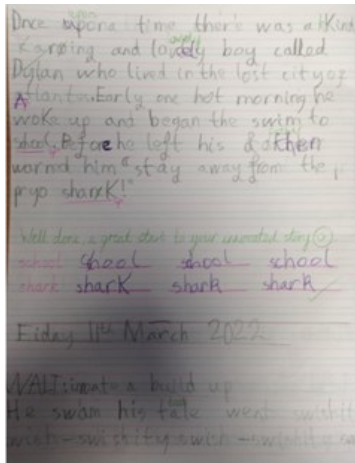
In English, the children have been completing some fantastic innovating of the story 'Kassim and the Greedy Dragon' The children have come up with really creative ideas to make the story their own. They have created suspense and used lots of similes throughout their stories to describe their characters. They have been working extremely hard on remembering to include full stops and capital letters—an ongoing challenge!



In Maths, the children really enjoyed looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We introduced lots of new vocabulary vertices, edges, faces and vertical lines of symmetry. We are now starting fractions where the children will be looking at recognising and finding a half, quarter and third.

In Geography this term, we have been looking at finding Wellington on a map. We are also identifying human and physical features that are local to us.

Please remember to be reading at least 4 times a week with your child. Book changing days are Tuesday and Friday. We are continuing to do our weekly spelling quiz on a Friday morning so please keep practicing these at home and using Spelling Shed.



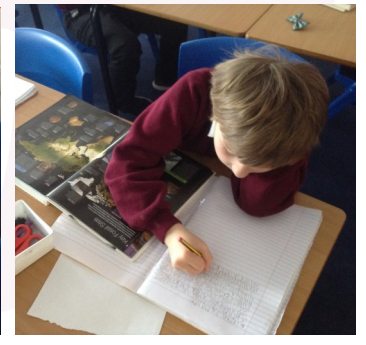
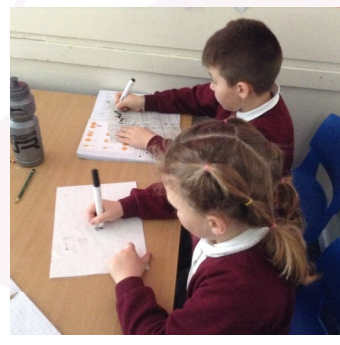
Year 3

Year 3 have been busy finishing off our Nail Soup stories.

The children spent a few days making up their own stories based around collecting something, or building something. We were really impressed with their imaginations! Some children collected animals for a zoo and others collected names from around the world. We are now moving onto poetry and will be doing a performance poem over the next few weeks.

In Maths, we are looking at fractions of amounts. Many of the children are finding this tricky, so please support at home if you can. Here is a fun clip for parents: www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=PgrF1TYXP6Y

In Science, we are looking at healthy eating in relation to providing our bodies with the right nutrients to be healthy. The children enjoyed discussing what their favourite foods to eat are.



Year 4

WOW! Well, as you know, this past fortnight has been very busy for Year 4. We had the most amazing time away at Charterhouse - we conquered fears, tried new activities and had a blast! The children ALL made us so proud, showed great teamwork, determination and manners and this was commented on by the staff working with us at Charterhouse. Well done everybody!

We were so lucky to be able to complete all of the following activities within our short stay:

- Low ropes
- Archery
- Night walk
- Pond dipping
- Rocket building (and firing!)
- Climbing
- Campfire
- Bush craft

Please see the small selection of pictures – more can be found on Class Dojo and there will soon be a short video to follow.

We have also been very busy on our return to school, we are making great progress in all areas of our learning. Our swimming is coming on brilliantly and the children have all grown in confidence with this.

In English, we have been enjoying arguing reasons for and against, whilst exploring discussion texts – many children thought of some persuasive arguments for the question “Should Year 4 go to Charterhouse every half term?!”

In Maths, we are finishing our unit on fractions, by finding fractions of an amount, using bar models or diagrams to help us where needed.

Another favourite so far this term has been learning about the Romans in our History unit, and though we think they were quite ruthless with their attacking strategies, we now understand how they were able to take over such a large empire.

Well done Year 4 for such a great few weeks – keep up the good work!



Year 5

We have had a very busy week in Year 5, writing our innovated text for a suspense story! We have really enjoyed learning how to use suspense techniques in writing to create tension through description of the weather, character's thoughts and feelings and lulling the reader into a false sense of security.

In Guided Reading, we finally finished our book, Varjak Paw! We loved how the ending showed Varjak's new-found confidence to save the stray cats from the Gentlemen. We learnt a lot about how the theme of failure and success was woven into the story, as well as the vocabulary the author used to keep us hooked into reading on. Next week, we will be reading a new adventure novel called 'Brightstorm', which we hope, will be just as good!



We continued our work of fractions in Maths this week by looking at multiplying fractions with integers. We have now mastered how to find common denominators to add and subtract fractions.



In Science, we have been recapping our learning from Year 3 on Rocks and soils and have been learning how to recognise rocks that are igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. We have also investigated which rocks would be best used for different purposes.

In D&T, we have begun our topic of cooking and will be exploring cooking techniques for flatbreads originated from Turkey. This links nicely into our Geography topic of exploring geographical differences between Somerset and Turkey.

Year 6

In Year 6, we have had a great couple of weeks of learning.

In Maths, we have completed our learning on fractions, decimals and percentages and have moved onto algebra. The children have really embraced this new topic and enjoyed experimenting with different rules to reach algebraic solutions. Alongside this, we are beginning to consolidate previous learning in preparation for the upcoming assessments after Easter.

In Guided Reading, we are beginning to discover more about the man in the garage and continue to develop our understanding of the themes which permeate through the text. Through this amazing book, we have begun to explore the poetry of William Blake, a favourite poet of one of the main characters in the book.

We are continuing to develop our understanding of effective newspaper reports and are currently innovating the model text. We are reviewing and securing our understanding of spelling and grammatical concepts.

In History, we are coming close to the end of our Benin topic and have been identifying what makes a successful Empire. As always, we have enjoyed French sessions with Madame Wilson, Art with Mrs G and outdoor learning with Miss Gardner.

Soon, you will receive communications regarding our SATs breakfast sessions. As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns via Dojo.

