



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

19th October 2023



Headteacher's Comment

We have reached the end of our first half-term of the academic year. What a busy and productive half-term!

Parent Consultations

Thank you to parents and carers who attended our parent consultations this week. I hope that you enjoyed meeting your child's class teacher and hearing about how your child has settled into their new class. It was really lovely for the children and teachers to share their learning with you. The feedback received from both staff and parents has been overwhelmingly positive.

These consultations are a key part of keeping you informed of the things that your children are learning. Just a reminder that all long-term curriculum documents and year group planning is available on our website so that you are able to keep up to date with what your children are learning.

Fund-Raising

Thank you to everyone for the support you showed on Yellow Day for awareness of Mental Health. Also thank you to all those who sent in goods for the Harvest Festival, you were so generous. We were delighted to take these donations to "Wellington Warm Place" and Trussel foodbank, who work out of the local United Reformed Church here in town - these were so appreciated.

Open Days

Over the past few weeks, we have opened up our school to prospective new parents looking to join our Wellesley Park community from September 2024. These comprised a presentation about our school followed by a tour with our Year 6 House Captains.

Our Year 6 House Captains were absolutely amazing. They were absolute champions of our amazing school and parent feedback was extremely positive. It was wonderful to meet so many new families – thank you to all the families for coming.

Attendance Matters!

Well done and thank you to everyone who is doing all that they can to ensure children are in school everyday and on time. Currently our attendance stands at **96.2%** which means we are on track to achieve our target of 96% by the end of the year. Please help us get to our target, together we can do it. Obviously the more the children are in, the more they will learn and progress - something that we all want!

As always, I thank you for your continued support in all we do. We hope you all have a great half term when it arrives on Thursday. A reminder that Friday 20th October and Monday 30th October are INSET days. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 31st October.

With best wishes, as always

Mrs Wilkins

Attendance - by class for this half-term

Peake	97.16%	Norgay	98.14%	Shackleton	94.18%
Darwin	94.34%	Sharman	93.94%	Earhart	95.38%
Henson	96.30%	Attenborough	97.77%	Armstrong	92.26%
Cousteau	97.76%	Spruce	95.76%	Bell	95.81%
Kingsley	96.19%				



Online Safety

What parents/carers need to know about Snapchat

Snapchat has been around for over a decade, with the number of users not only growing rapidly each day, but the age of new users are also getting younger. Snapchat now has over 750 million daily users, allowing people to send disappearing messages to each other, as well as edited images.

Snapchat, along with many other social media providers, have since released a feature for it's users to interact with an Artificial Intelligence (AI) chatbot. The chatbot, known as 'My AI', has been designed to help users with various tasks during messaging. Although this is a useful tool, there are potential risks to young people who use the new feature. So, what can this AI chatbot do? And how can you ensure it is used responsibly? Find out with the Childnet's guide - www.childnet.com/blog/what-do-i-need-to-know-about-chatgpt-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/



Childline - Information for Schools and Families

Childline provides support to children and young people online, on the phone, anytime.

The Childline website provides information and advice on a wide range of topics that children and young people may be worried about.

It also has wellbeing resources like the calm zone, art box, mood journal, games and a mental health first aid kit that children can use to work through their feelings and experiences.

"Ask Sam" allows young people to write in with their question or problem and a few letters each week are answered on the website providing advice on specific issues.

The Childline message boards provide peer support for young people to share their experiences, ask a question and seek support from other young people in similar situations. All messages are anonymous and are checked by a moderator before being posted. There is one to one direct support to children and young people who contact them.

When young people get in touch with Childline, on the phone, via email or through online chat, they speak to a volunteer Childline counsellor who is there to listen. Childline counsellors are trained to make young people feel heard, empower them to make positive changes, and safeguard them against abuse or neglect.

For further details please visit the Childline website - <https://www.childline.org.uk/>



HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

Good

Okay

Bad

Anxious

Depressed

Overwhelmed

Somerset Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund is designed to provide short-term urgent financial help to Somerset residents who are struggling to afford household essentials such as buying food and paying for prepayment meter energy bills.

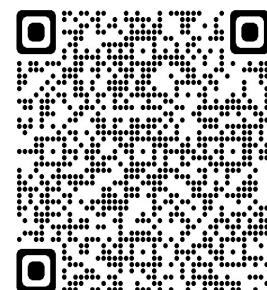
Examples of what the Household Support Fund can pay for:

- Supermarket food vouchers
- Energy top up vouchers (for use with pre-payment meters)

For more information and to apply, please go to www.somerset.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults/somerset-household-support-fund/ or scan the QR code above.



Struggling with bills?
Support is available...



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



Orville and Wilbur Wright

“If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again”

What advice would you give someone who experienced a knockback or fall down?



Pre-School - Wellesley Park Explorers

Wow, what another busy few weeks we have had at Pre-School. Lots of new learning opportunities explored while incorporating the lovely autumnal weather. The children enjoyed looking at pumpkins and scooping out the insides, while using their language to describe the textures of the pumpkin. Some said it was cold and others said it was slimy.

The autumnal sensory tray with pine cones, coloured rice, conkers and egg boxes has developed counting skills while exploring textures and using our senses to look and touch. The children have loved group singing and have taken a real interest in the ‘current bun’ song - this has helped with our communication and language, sharing and mathematical skills.

The children have also enjoyed experimenting with colours and discovering that when colours are mixed together they make another colour. This sparked lots of curiosity and conversation. We have also been focussing on numbers one to five on our Maths table with various mathematical activities which has promoted children to recognise numbers, count quantities and group objects.

Have a lovely half-term and we can’t wait to welcome you back to Pre-School for lots more fun filled learning opportunities for our little explorers.



Reception

The Reception children have been busy learning lots of new things in their Mathematical Development. They have been copying and making repeated patterns using beads, pegboards and natural materials. We have also made body patterns, for example, by doing: clap, stamp, clap, stamp and nod, jump, nod, jump. We are finding all about the numbers 1, 2 and 3. The children are learning to recognise these numbers as sets of objects, spot patterns and numerals. We have also been learning about finding '1 more' and '1 less' than a number.

The children are enjoying their Phonics lessons and are doing lots of word blending. We have been doing oral blending, such as, 'Can you touch your... b-a-ck? Can you nod your h-ea-d?' The children are starting to sound out and blend simple words to read them as well as segmenting (breaking down) words in order to spell them.



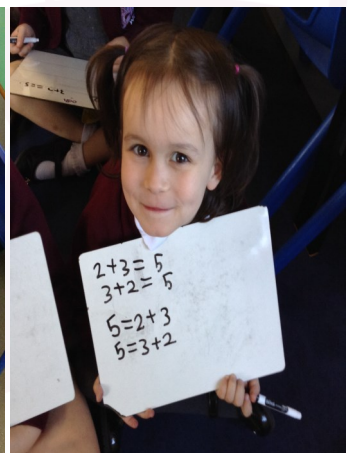
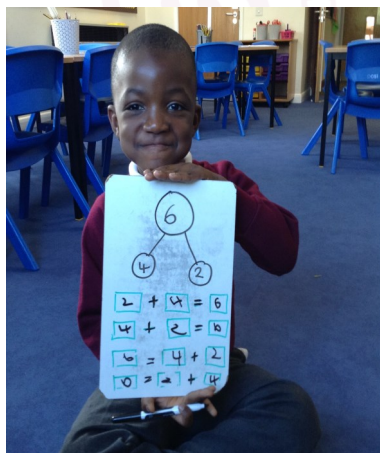
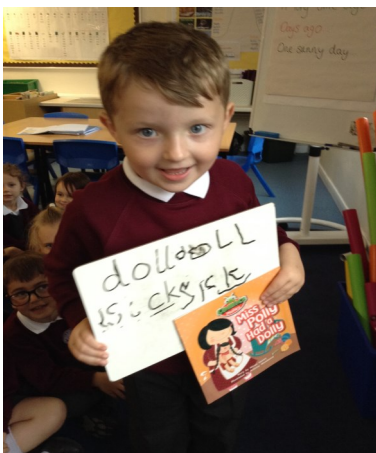
Year 1

What a fantastic first half term we've had! Our daily and weekly routines are well established, and although very tired – the children have continued to work hard throughout! It was lovely to meet you at parents evening this last week of half term, and thank you for your continued support and encouragement with your child's home and school learning.

In English, we have retold and written our innovated "Three Fluffy Mice" story, and have also created our own defeating the monster tale. We're getting good at identifying nouns and adjectives in sentences now, and are working hard to remember to include adjectives in our writing to make it more exciting.

In Maths, we have finished our unit on Place Value, and have been looking at the part-whole model and the corresponding 4 addition number sentences we can write for this, as well as learning how the bar-model can be used to represent the part-whole model. It's really important that the children have a sound grasp of the number bonds that make 10.

In Science, we have continued to learn about the properties of materials and why materials are used for certain purposes. In History, we have looked at how toys have changed from when our grandparents were 5 and 6 years old. We have really enjoyed learning and performing the song "Hey You" in music, and using the Boomwhackers to help develop a rhythm to accompany the pulse (beat) has been very exciting. Maybe you could ask your child to sing and perform it to you in both rap and song form?!



Year 2/3

This half-term Year 2/3 have been learning all about the Stone Age in History. The children have looked at how living in the Stone Age might be different from how we live now.

The children have been making comparisons between their way of living and the Stone Age including homes, how they dressed and what they ate.

This week the children had the opportunity to make and taste Stone Age bread. They made the bread using seeds and dried fruits and considered how this is different from how bread is made nowadays. The children compared a regular loaf of white bread to the Stone Age bread. All of the children were able to join in and had lots of fun doing the 'taste test' of the



Year 4

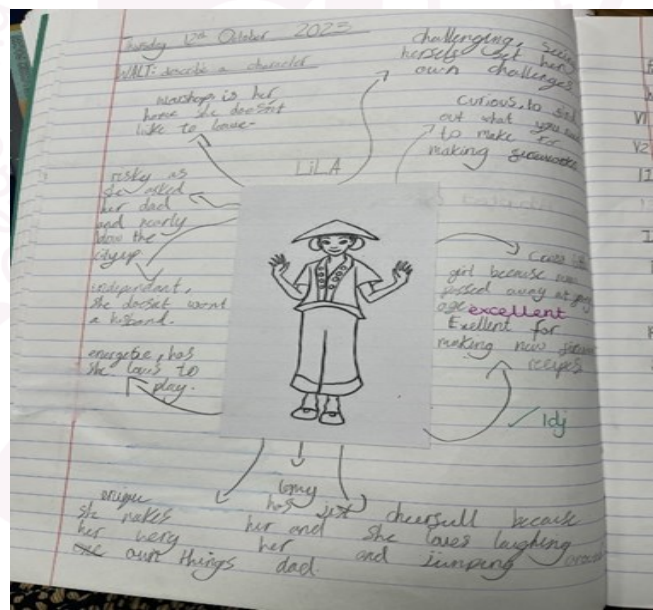
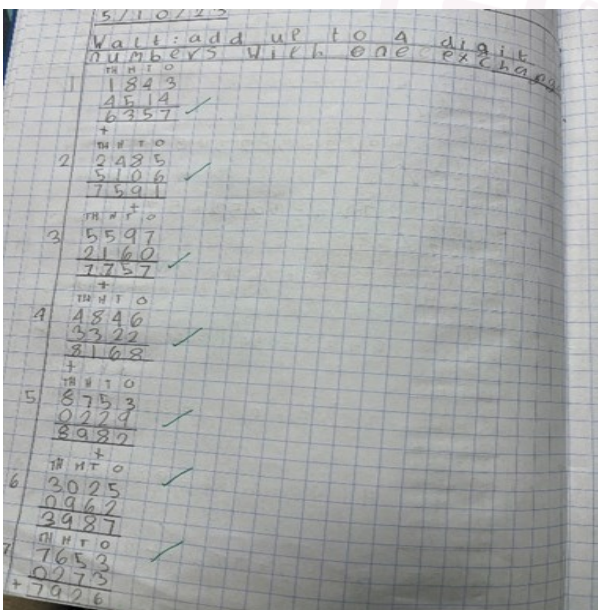
We cannot believe we are already at the end of the first half term, it has been amazing getting to know all the children and seeing their fantastic attitude to their learning.

In English, we have focused on settings and using a range of features to create a setting description which hooks the reader into their writing. The children have just finished their hot writes, and they have blown us away. We move onto suspense writing next half term, which we know the children are really looking forward to.

We have begun our new book 'Firework Makers Daughter', where we are being exposed to new vocabulary and learning what it means. So far, we have really focused on the main character, Lila, where we have used evidence in the text to infer and create character maps. We are looking forward to carrying on this book after half term.

We have been very busy in Maths, completing the Place Value and Addition & Subtraction units. The children have shown great resilience and it has been wonderful to see so many lightbulb moments. We move onto Multiplication & Division after half term.

Next half term is shaping to be an exciting one, where we will be learning about Counties in Geography, Sound in Science, Mechanisms in DT and Dance in PE.



Year 5

The last few weeks have been very busy for Year 5. The children have produced some wonderful work and have shown amazing resilience.

In English, we have finished our unit on journey tales, the children have written some fantastic stories, and have been very excited to share them with their teachers, they should be very proud of themselves! We have now moved on to our next unit, where we will be focussing on explanation texts, this week the children have all enjoyed creating their own machines that will make their lives easier.

In Maths, we have come to the end of our addition and subtraction unit, and we have moved on to multiplication and division. All the children have worked incredibly hard in maths and shown some brilliant progress!

In History, we are coming to the end of our unit on WW1, the children have loved learning about the war and have shown so much interest. In autumn 2 we will begin geography, where our topic will be biomes.

In Science, we will continue with our topic on space, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Earth and why we have seasons, days and nights.

The children have also shown amazing progress in their swimming. They were challenged to complete a whole 25 metre length of the pool, where they all succeeded and did incredibly well.

Well done Year 5, we hope you have a lovely half-term!

Thursday 5th October 2023

WALT: innovate our ending

That night, she decided to camp out under the stars that shimmered so brightly that it could blind eyes. The next morning, she got up and bounded to her frail boat. Luckily, Tortuga was only nine hours away. As soon as Aylla got there, she searched the whole island for the man. Finally, she found him on the beach. She showed him the eight things he studied that got so long she gave up. In the foggy morning, she saw the man was dead.

Thursday 5th October 2023

WALT: innovate our ending

Carefully positioning the head in the sack, Hepicus raced off to convert the horrible, vile queen. On Hepicus' return, a surprised and irritated Dedeon demanded, "Show me the head!" Cautiously Hepicus opened the sack, without thinking Dedeon snatched the stained, horrifying head. In a blink of an eye her whole body perished into the sunlit sky. Hepicus became the new queen, who would bring harmony in Athens.

Wednesday 11th October 2023

WALT: explain day and night and the movement of the sun across the sky

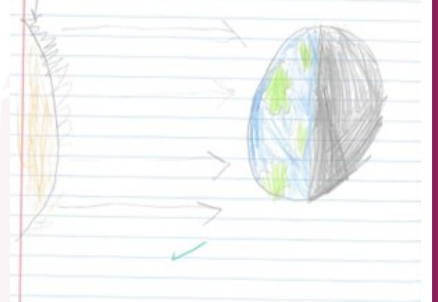
We live on planet Earth. Light comes from the sun. The Earth rotates on its axis. Once a day, when the sun shines on our part of Earth we call it day time. When our part of the Earth spins away from the sun we call it night time.



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Year 6

Year 6 have made a fantastic start to the year and have shown us what mature, hard-working and resilient individuals they all are. We are looking forward to watching them continue to flourish throughout the year.

In English, we have completed our Talk for Writing suspense unit. The children created excellent stories based on the traditional tale of Hansel and Gretel. They used a wide-range of techniques including pathetic fallacy, personification, dramatic dialogue and show not tell. We are now writing persuasive letters to the witch to release Hansel and Gretel.

We have now finished our place value topic in maths and have moved on to using the four operations. The children's resilience was tested with tricky long multiplication and division, however, they took everything in their stride and we are now using the techniques to solve problems.

In Science, we are approaching the end of our unit on The Circulatory System. The children are eagerly awaiting our Heart Dissection at the end of the week! Year 6 will get to see everything they have learnt about this important system in real-life!

We travelled back in time during our history lessons and experienced what life would be like in a Victorian prison. We picked oakum and experienced the shot drill, the tread wheel and silence and isolation - we don't think there are any volunteers to go back to the 1800s just yet!

