



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

21st Jan 2022

Headteacher's Comment



What a whirlwind start of term we have had - following a very busy start, all children have returned to school focussed and ready for lots of learning, enthusiastic and working hard!

We have had lots of exciting learning going on across the school already and I cannot tell you often enough, what a privilege it is for me to see how well the children engage and how high they aspire to, every day. Of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing team of staff we have here at Wellesley Park and to them - especially over the last few weeks of illness / Covid - I am extremely grateful. Every staff member has been considerate, flexible and accepting of changes to their working day - even at short notice, so thank you! Thank you also, to all of our children, for being so understanding. I appreciate how difficult it has been at times, but your maturity and consideration for others has shone through - well done everybody!

COVID update:

Reminder that as of Monday 17th January, self-isolation can end after a period of 5 full days if you/your child test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6. For example, if your child tests negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day, with a 24-hour break between each test. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either test is positive, then you should continue to self-isolate until a negative result from two LFD tests, on consecutive days, or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

We continue to have positive cases within school this week. It is really important that if your child is displaying any symptoms at all you get them tested before sending them in to school.

Staff update:

Sadly, Ms Bladwell, our Year 1 Teaching Assistant, has left to embark on an exciting new adventure with her family, as they relocate to pastures new. We wish her and her family, every success in their new home (island!!) and schools!

Miss James, our Outdoor Leader, will be leaving us at the end of the half term, for personal reasons. She will be much missed by both staff and our pupils. We are currently advertising for an Outdoor Leader so that we can continue to offer our fabulous outdoor learning provisions.

I know that you will join me in wishing them both, the very best of the luck and in thanking them for their hard work and dedication.

We are however, delighted to have recently appointed Mrs Andrews and Mrs Acott, who will both join our fabulous Teaching Assistant team, before the end of this half term. Mrs Andrews will be supporting in our Year 2 classes, and Mrs Acott across Year 1.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank all of you - as parents and carers - for being so understanding yourselves. It has been a tough few weeks with staff absence, but you have all been so supportive of us whilst we tried to maintain learning and keeping your children happy and safe in school! Hopefully, we are through the worst of it now and we can return to normal.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

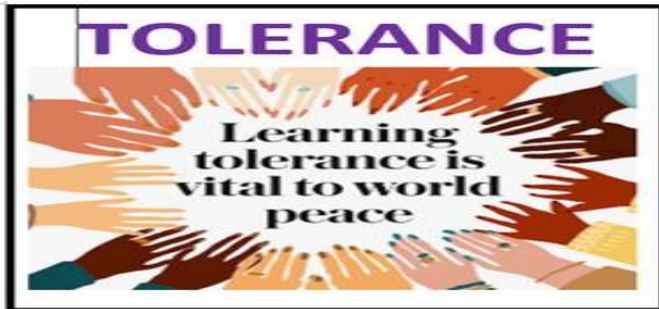
Mrs Wilkins
Headteacher

Attendance - by class for the period 04/01/2022 - 14/01/2022

Gruffalo	81.8%	Matilda	87.5%	Galadriel	93%
Jasper	90.2%	BFG	88.4%	Bagheera	88.5%
Kipper	89.5%	Hufflepuff	86.3%	Akela	88.1%
Mrs TW	92.2%	Gryffindor	96.8%		
Peter Rabbit	90.2%	Thorin	91.3%		

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

So far this term, we have had two whole school assemblies. The first was a 'Welcome Back to WP' and the second was an introduction to the concept of tolerance. We watched a great Youtube TED talk which you can watch too - www.ted.com/talks/cole_blakeway_we_are_all_different_and_that_s_awesome. Maybe you could discuss it with your child.



How can I show genuine tolerance towards others?

New Parent Governor Announcement

Following the recent Parent Governor election, I am delighted to announce that Mr Grant Darbyshire has been elected, unopposed, as Parent Governor to the Governing Body. We warmly welcome Grant to our team and look forward to working with him.

We would like to thank everyone for their interest and support.

Wellington Pantomime

We are extremely proud of our three WP pupils, Ruby, Lois and Darcy, who will be in the cast of this year's Wellington Pantomime, Treasure Island!

The pantomime performances are from 26th to 30th January at Wellesley Theatre. Tickets are available online via the Wellington Arts Association website - w-a-a.co.uk, by phone - 01823 240063, or can be purchased in person at Odette's Tea Room.

Good luck girls, you will be great!



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.

Many thanks.



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 below and click on 'follow' to link our posts to your newsfeed.

<https://www.facebook.com/WellesleyParkPrimarySchool>



Message from Emmaline Hartley-Criddle - Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo

Healthy eating: Food Scanner App (Public Health England)

The NHS Food Scanner app brings food labels to life and helps you make healthier choices. Simply scan the barcode to see how much sugar, saturated fat and salt is in your food and drink, then choose one of the healthier swap suggestions.

The app is part of a healthy eating campaign and the 'scan, swipe, swap' take-home pack has plenty of resources to help encourage children to build healthier habits for life. Find the resources here: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/topics/healthy-eating/overview>

Safeguarding

Parenting Support - a great site for any parent/s to go to for information and support: Parenting can be rewarding, but it can also be challenging. We've got parenting tips for all stages of your child's life, as well as advice on how to deal with difficult situations: www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/

E-Safety – for more information around specific apps that your child might be engaging with, please remember that our school website has some really useful information on: www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk/safeguarding/online-safety-information.htm

SEND – In each newsletter, we will be looking at a different special educational need and providing some 'go to' links for families of children with this condition. The reasons for this are multiple:

- To support families who have a child already diagnosed / or are in the process of being diagnosed, with this need;
- To educate the wider school community, about the wide-ranging special educational needs that we both experience and support, at WP;
- To continue building a school community that is knowledgeable, inclusive and supportive towards all children with SEND, at WP.



This week's SEND focus is: DCD – developmental coordination disorder (formally known as Dyspraxia):

Overview: It is believed around 5% of the population have DCD and that it is 3-4 times more likely in boys. It is also known to run in families as well, from generation to generation. It is a physical condition, affecting coordination / organisation / sequencing and it can also be 'verbal', affecting a child's speech and language abilities – such as working out which words to use / how to say them / processing speed / organising and sequencing ideas / memory and volume – all of which most of us manage to coordinate successfully without even having to think about it!

For children with DCD (verbal and/or physical) life can be extremely challenging and unfair and meeting 'normal milestones' can be very difficult, such as: walking / jumping / swimming / cycling / hand-to-eye coordination / ball skills / handwriting...the list goes on and on. Sadly, these children are often labelled as clumsy / unclear speakers (mumblers) / weak at sport / messy workers. They are often rarely picked for sport teams, or peer games on the playground. Children with DCD may feel negatively about their poor handwriting, feel unfairly reprimanded for talking too loudly in class, unable to learn the rules of a game quickly, or blamed for being unintentionally too rough with their peers.

It is crucial to remember, that these children will not be doing these things on purpose, or to annoy anyone – they are just struggling with the control and organisation of their own bodies. These children therefore need extra time, support, understanding and recognition for what they find hard to change and, over time, to achieve.

Diagnosis: If a child displays *many* of these traits, then a combined referral to OT/SLT/PT may be suggested. Although a diagnosis will not change, or 'fix' life for a child with DCD – it may help them to be understood, and more importantly - to understand themselves.

Weblinks for parents/carers:

Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia) in Children - www.nhs.uk/conditions/developmental-coordination-disorder-dyspraxia/

Tips for Helping Children with Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder - www.sensationalkids.ie/tips-for-helping-children-with-developmental-co-ordination-disorder/

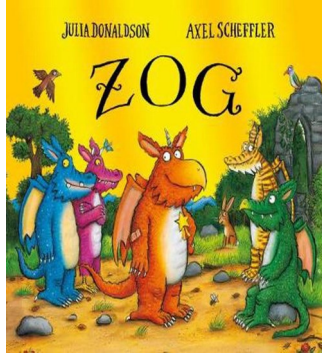
If you have any questions or concerns relating to your child, regarding DCD – then do please contact me via the school office.

Best wishes to you all – have a super weekend!

Mrs Hartley-Criddle

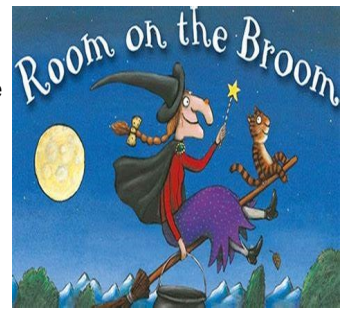
Pre-school

What an amazing start to Spring term! We have been exploring fantasy through Supertato, Zog and Room on the Broom (so far!). The children have been potato printing and practising scissor skills creating stick puppets for Supertato week. We have a rather fine collection of 3D collage dragons flying about in our classroom and some of the children at the end of the week could retell the Zog story with very little prompting. We have been using pictures to build a story map of Room on a Broom. Way to go!!



During Zog week, Pre-school had a visitor leave something very precious in their care... four Ice Dragon eggs! All the children discussed the best place to keep the eggs safe. As there were several different thoughts about this, we put one in the freezer to 'keep it cold', one outside because 'it's a frosty day', one beside the heater and one in our main room so 'we can keep it safe'.

Everyone kept a close eye on the proceedings - frequent checks were made and duly reported to staff and peers. The following morning, many of the children immediately went to check on their changes, baby dragons!

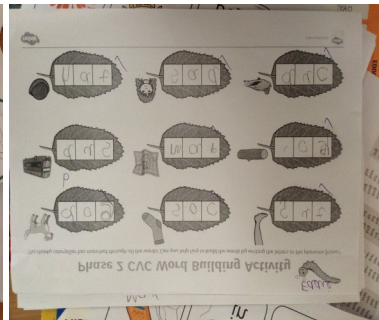
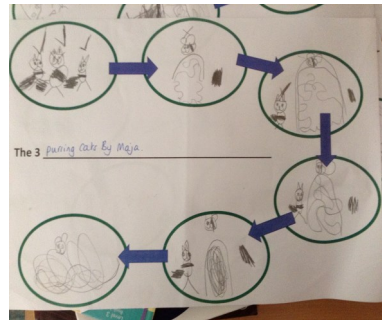


Reception

This week, we have been busy learning how to combine two numbers to make a bigger number. We also planned our own versions of The Three Billy Goats Gruff, which was lots of fun.

In Phonics, we have been revising our CVC words and writing about goats and the troll from the story.

In Outdoor Learning, the children had to use their Maths skills to find leaves, twigs, stones and then make different shapes.



Year 1

The first few weeks of Year 1 have flown by! We have managed to cram in a lot of learning over the past few weeks!

In English, we started our new text of The Magic Porridge Pot by having a breakfast morning and trying porridge with our choice of topping! We have focused on setting description with our story writing this time and have been learning about and using similes and our senses to describe!

In Maths, we started with place value to 20, understanding that numbers beyond 10 are made up of tens and ones. We used the base 10 equipment to show this with numbers from 10 to 20. We then moved onto addition to 20 where the children have been learning strategies to add by making 10 first, then adding the remaining amount.

In History, we have begun our Explorers unit, looking at Neil Armstrong and Ranulph Fiennes to begin with. We have discussed their expeditions and how these have had an impact on our lives.

In Science, we have started looking at animals and the categories they can fit into including mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians!



Year 2

What a fantastic start we are having to the Spring term!

In English, we have introduced our new non-fiction text to persuade someone to 'Buy a Talking Papaya'. We have been focussing on the four different sentence types; exclamation, statements, questions and commands. The children have been writing their own different sentences to try and persuade the reader.

In Maths, we have started looking at our new topic multiplication and division. The children have been doing some fantastic work, focussing on making equal groups and using arrays to help them work out the number sentences - both repeated addition and multiplication sentences.

In History, we have been learning about significant people from the past: Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. Both women were very important and influential in the Crimean war working as nurses and improving hospitals. The children have been looking at Florence Nightingale's life and how she changed the hospitals by focussing on making them cleaner and giving the soldiers healthy food.



Year 3

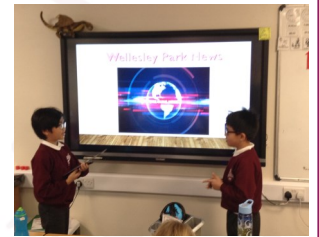
Year 3 have had a great start to the Spring term. We are looking at newspaper reports in Literacy and the children enjoyed being reporters and were able to interview characters from Little Red Riding Hood. They were able to then write an introduction using the 5W's.

In Maths, the children have started to practise multiplying 2 digit numbers by 1 digit using concrete resources and then moved on to using the grid method for multiplication.

Our Science, this half term, is about the human body and the children have learnt that animals without a backbone are called invertebrates and animals with a spine are called vertebrates. They have also looked at the role of the skeleton and why it is important that we have a skeleton.

Our History unit follows on from the Stone Age that we studied in Autumn and we are now looking at how people lived in the Bronze Age to Iron Age. This week we looked out how bronze is made and what it was used for.

In RE, we are learning about Judaism and this week we learnt the story of Sarah and Abraham and how they made a covenant with God.



Year 4

Year 4 have begun the new term showing great resilience as they embrace new curriculum learning areas and adapt to slightly different support staff available to them due to absence. We have started swimming on a Monday and although everyone is at a slightly different ability level, it is great to hear the pupils encouraging and supporting each other. These skills are essential as we move closer to us going away together on our residential trip.

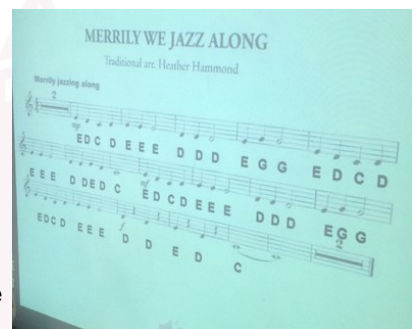
Some cold but sunny days have meant that pupils have been able to practise their football skills out on the playground and even on the grass this week during PE. Teamwork is obviously a key element of becoming a great footballer alongside technical skills involved with passing, dribbling and shooting will all be covered. Let's hope the weather stays dry.

In Maths, we are continuing to practise our Times Tables as much as possible and this is alongside learning other strategies for solving multiplication and division calculations. The children are beginning to realise how important it is to know your times table facts when trying to solve a problem such as $29 \div ? = 4$ remainder 5 ($4 \times 6 = 24$ is useful here). Please keep working on Times Table learning activities / challenges at home using TT Rockstars, charts stuck to a wall or even rapping / singing along to a tune in the car! We will endeavour to provide you with some more resources on Class Dojo to help with this.

Children are still working hard to ensure correct punctuation when writing speech within a text and the best examples of presentation will be shared with you weekly on Class Dojo. We realise that there are quite a lot of details to remember, but we want to praise those who remember all the necessary Capital Letters, commas, inverted commas and other necessary punctuation. To aid with character description, children are also doing lots of performing in the classroom to bring the speech elements of their writing to life. This has enabled them to come up with some great ideas showing the character's actions, to accompany the words actually said.

In Science, our focus is on Living Things and we started by exploring the similarities between a giraffe and a mouse and then how an octopus is different in that it does not have a backbone. This week, we looked at plants rather than animals and managed to get outside to use a classification key to identify different trees from the leaves. We then had a go at creating the start of our own classification key for all plants.

Finally, we are hoping to bring our learning in Geography about local physical and human features together with our learning in Computing of recording audio, to make our own Podcasts later this term. Watch this space or should I say, "Keep your ears open!" as we become 'Podcast Pioneers' at Wellesley Park. Perhaps, we might even get some clarinet tunes on this too!



Year 5

It has been a really busy time in Year 5 over the last couple of weeks.

In English, we finished writing our warning tales and produced some fantastic stories as our end product. We then began our new unit on newspaper writing; exploring the key features of a newspaper report. We really enjoyed reading all the different sections: from current news, to what's happening with wildlife and who is doing well in the sporting world. We even had a good go at the crossword, some of the questions really got us stumped

In Maths, we have been learning different methods to use when multiplying and dividing. We all liked the bus stop method for division. We are continuing to work on our times tables knowledge. A tournament has now gone live on Times Table Rock stars for the children to take part in. They can choose to go class vs class or child vs child.

In History, we have been learning all about the Tudors, specifically Henry VIII - we are learning about him as a King and how he broke Rome. We are looking forward to learning about other Kings and Queens in Tudor times as the term goes on.

In Computing, we have been looking at vector drawings, and how to create pictures on computers, just out of shapes. We are looking forward to creating our own next week!



Year 6

Year 6 have had an excellent return to the New Year! In English, we have begun our new unit based on the model text - The Gas Mask. Our focus is setting, and we have been getting to grips with prepositional phrases, hyphens, using the weather to set tone and using contrast to engage and intrigue the reader to name but a few.

In Guided Reading, we have been enthralled and at times, disgusted, by the many amazing stories of survival against the odds in David Long's book - Survivors. The children have encountered stories from around the globe in what is a true adventure book!

In History, we have begun to explore our new unit of The Ancient Civilisation Of Benin in West Africa. Art this half term will also link to History where the children will be getting to grips with sculpture and making their own. The children have just completed their DT unit on paper sculpture - demonstrating excellent resilience and creativity in this.

In Maths, we are near conclusion of our unit on Area and Perimeter with the children having calculated and estimated areas of squares, rectangles, triangles, and parallelograms in addition to calculating volume of 3D shapes. Being able to apply the correct formula in these links well to our Algebra unit which comes later in the term. Next, we will be venturing into the world of decimal numbers!

We are pleased to confirm that we have sufficient numbers for our residential to Mill on the Brue to go ahead. A second payment has now been added to ParentPay - please let us know if you have any queries.

Final reminder that our P.E. and Outdoor Learning now takes place on a Monday. Whilst the weather remains unpredictable, the children should ensure they have enough layers, waterproof coats and appropriate footwear with them.

