



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

29th September 2023

Headteacher's Comment



Welcome back! I can't believe that we are at the end of September! The start of the new school year has been an absolute delight: the children are calm and have settled quickly into their school routines. On my walks around school, it has been lovely to hear everyone speaking with enthusiasm about their learning, as well as the different opportunities that they have already participated in so far this year.

This term, you will have noticed that we have increased the number of enrichment clubs on offer – such as: choir, art club, football, gymnastics, media club, Forest School, tag-rugby, etc. We have had a really positive uptake for these sessions. Thank you to all the staff who have put their energies into providing these wonderful, additional opportunities for our children.

This half-term, our assembly theme is resilience: *keeping going even when we encounter difficulties*. We have discussed that it is not an easy thing to do, but it makes a huge difference. It's also something we can learn to get better at! We can develop resilience through practice, a bit like we develop muscles in our body when we exercise.

Year 6 House Captains

I would like to give a special mention this week to our newly appointed Year 6 House Captains:



Blackdown

Henry
Darcy

Exmoor

Natalia
Finley

Quantock

Isla
Henoch

Mendip

Millie
Hattie

I know that they will do a fantastic job and take their roles and responsibilities very seriously - they are so proud to wear their new 'House Captain' badges!

Parental Engagement

Each year we reflect on what works well and what we can improve on. I am keen to further strengthen our feedback to you, about your child's education. You are invited to a 'drop-in' session to see your child's work at 2.45 pm, on the last day of each half term. These will commence on Thursday 19th October. There will also be formal parents' evenings on the 17th and 19th October.

Headteacher's Comment cont'd

Attendance

As you'll know from our previous newsletter, improving attendance is one of our key priorities for this year. Before the pandemic, we achieved higher attendance than most school nationally. This has declined in recent years. Last year our overall attendance was 94.5%.

Our aim is that every child will have attendance higher than 96% of all possible sessions (mornings and afternoons) each year. It has been proven that excellent attendance is linked with greater academic achievement and progress. Pupils who have regular absence, patterns of unauthorised absence, broken weeks of attendance and high levels of absence for minor illness are unlikely to achieve their academic potential.

So far, our whole school **attendance figure is at 94.9% - below our target of 96%** so we still have some work to do. We thank all our parents/carers for continuing to update the school office where your child has been unable to come into school. Jackie Bagnell, our Pastoral Worker, is happy to help support families. Please contact the school office if you would like to set up a meeting.



100%	Excellent Attendance
Above 98%	Good Attendance Pupils with attendance above 98% have had less than 4 days of absence in the year.
Below 96%	If your child's attendance drops below 96% you will receive a letter highlighting this.
94%	If your child's attendance drops to 94% you will receive a letter and be asked to attend a meeting.
92%	If your child's attendance drops to 92% the Pastoral Manager and/or Education Safeguarding Officer (EWS) will become involved.
90% and below.	Persistent Absentee (PA) as defined by the Department for Education (DfE). Pupils with 90% attendance have had 19 days of absence over the year Pupils with this attendance level are missing a month of school per year and may drop academically. Parents of pupils with this level of attendance may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice or have legal action taken against them.
85%	Exceptionally Low Attendance/Persistent Absentee Students with 85% attendance have had 29 days' absence over the year. These pupils are missing 6 weeks of a school year; it will be very difficult for them to keep up with work and they are likely to drop further academically – meaning that the attainment gap will have widened. It is highly likely that a Fixed Penalty Notice will have been served and should attendance not improve significantly after this, a referral will be made for legal action to be taken against parents for failure to ensure that their child attends school regularly.

Thank you for your support, we are all looking forward to a successful academic year.

With best wishes,

Mrs Wilkins

Attendance - for 06.09.23 to 22.09.23

Peake	92.48%	Cousteau	98.01%	Darwin	93.17%
Sharman	95.82%	Shackleton	96.57%	Kingsley	97.38%
Armstrong	96.28%	Henson	96.72%	Bell	96.31%
Norgay	98.08%	Spruce	90.19%		
Earheart	96.50%	Attenborough	97.99%		

Message from Sarah Vine, Wellesley Park PTA Chair

Disco tickets for the Halloween Disco are now on sale. Please go to the PTA website to book your child's ticket - www.pta-events.co.uk/wellesleyparkpta



**HALLOWEEN
DISCO**

Reception to year 3
19th October
5:30-6:30pm - £4 entry
fancy dress optional
(Entry includes bag of treats,
drinks, facepaint and
glow sticks)
Children do not need to bring any
money on the night

We would like to invite all year
4, year 5 and year 6 to a

**Halloween
Disco**

6:45-8:00pm

on 19th October 2023

**£2 entry - fancy
dress optional**

Refreshments available to buy
on the night

The **PTA AGM** will be taking place on **Tuesday 17th October at 6pm** in the school hall. Everyone is welcome to attend so please do come along if you can.

World Mental Health Day - 10th October

World Mental Health Day is about raising awareness of mental health and driving positive change for everyone's mental health. It's also a chance to talk about mental health, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling.

This year Wellesley Park will be celebrating by raising money for this great cause - helping to get the right support, at the right time, for those in need - by **wearing as much yellow as possible** and **contributing a small amount to our 'Hello Yellow' fundraising page**.

We have set a small target of £100, which would be achievable if every pupil, approximately, donated just 30p! Obviously any more than that would be simply amazing, but all contributions - no matter how larger, or small - would be so welcomed and appreciated!

So, please start planning your child's wardrobe - with as much, or as little, yellow as you can manage. Ideas could include:

- hair accessories
- face paint
- clothing
- shoes
- ribbons
- nail varnish

The more yellow the better (just make sure that your child can be 'un-yellowed' for the next day in school please!)

You are welcome to make your donations as soon as you like, and the page will remain live until our final count on Friday 13th October.

Link to use for your donations:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/emmaline-hartley-criddle-1695738456034?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Femmaline-hartley-criddle-1695738456034&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Many thanks.



**STAND
OUT &
SHOW UP**

Wear yellow this World Mental Health
Day, 10 October and show young people they're
not alone with their mental health.

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

Pre-school - Wellesley Park Explorers

We have had a busy but exciting start to the new academic year. We have welcomed lots of new children and existing ones too. They have all settled amazingly while enjoying exploring the Pre-school environment and building attachments with both teachers and peers.

We have been very fortunate over the Summer to gain some new furniture and resources which the children are making great use of - they are especially enjoying our new cosy/reading area.



This term our topic is 'All about me.' The children have been engaging in lots of activities, such as using various mark making tools and mirrors to have a go at drawing their own faces. They have also been helping to make play-dough and creating their faces/favourite animals, exploring with paints and media and enjoying lots of water play.

The children have taken particular interest in the book 'Shark in the Park' and love joining in at group times.

On the Maths table we have been focussing on numbers one to five and using various resources to support children's counting, but also recognising the numbers and being able to group objects one to five.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be exploring Carnival and Halloween. We can't wait to explore and carve some pumpkins!



Reception

The Reception children have settled beautifully into school and are really enjoying their learning. They are also enjoying going to the hall for their lunch and have fantastic fun at playtime!

We have been learning about the sounds letters make (phonemes) and how to write them down (graphemes). We already know 's' 'a' 't' 'p' 'l' 'n' 'm' 'd' and are blending them to read simple words!

In our Mathematical learning we have been sorting and matching. We found lots of conkers in our outdoor area and have been using these to compare different sets, using words like 'more' and 'less' to describe them.

We have been learning the story of The Little Red Hen. We use a story map to help us tell the story out loud. We have learnt some actions to help us retell the story. See if you can work out from our photos which ones show the actions: Once upon a time.... and so she did! knead the bread plant the corn.



Year 1

What a busy start of the year we've had! All the children have settled in fantastically well to our daily and weekly routines, and are really embracing working hard and trying their best in this very important year! Well done to all the children.

In English, we have learnt the story of "The Three Little Pigs" using their story map. They have also been learning and identifying nouns as well as beginning to use adjectives to describe them. We've got songs and actions to help us remember what a noun and adjective is – and the children will love it if you ask them to sing it to you! We've also innovated our own story about "The Three Little Mice".



In Maths, we have consolidated our understanding of place value, and we have been explaining our reasoning. We have compared groups of objects or numbers using the language 'greater than' 'less than' and 'equal to' – AND we have learnt the mathematical symbols for these.

In Art, the children have begun to look at the primary colours ready to use these in our painting topic.

In Science, we are looking at materials, and have explored their textures as well as investigating some of their properties. We've learnt new vocabulary such as transparent, rigid, elastic and brittle.

In History, we are looking at how toys have changed within living memory – the children thought Mrs Saunders was as old as a dinosaur when she told them she was born before the internet, mobile phones and ipads were invented!

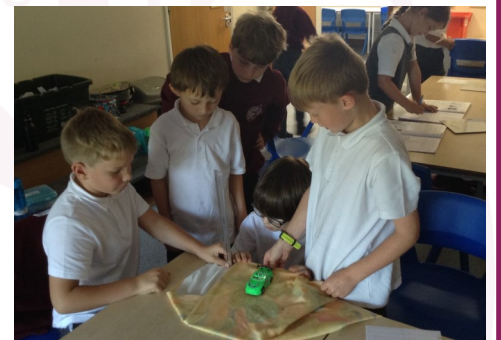


Year 2/3

What a brilliant start to the year for Year 2 and Year 3!

We have been learning all about the stone age in History but also in many of our other subjects including some brilliant Art with Mrs G. The children have explored what it would be like to live in the stone age and how tools and homes progressed as it got warmer.

In Science, we have been investigating friction with a toy car on different material surfaces. The children have shown great investigation and observation skills and have worked well in teams.



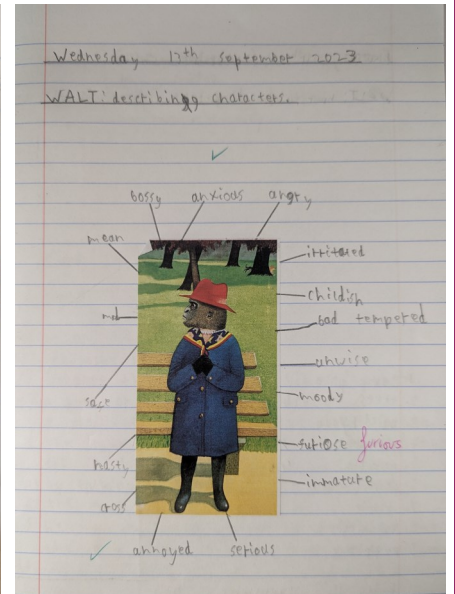
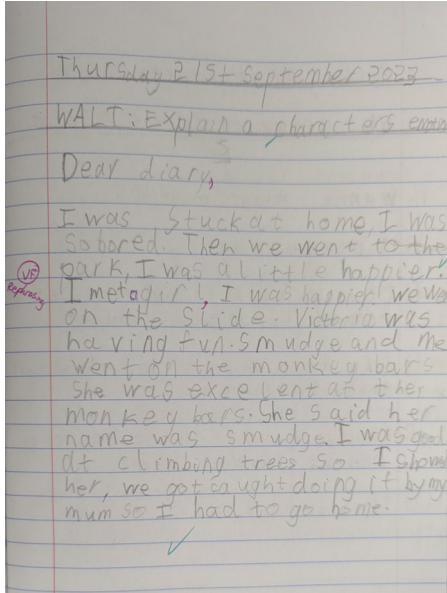
This term we have been lucky enough to have Outdoor Learning each Wednesday afternoon for both year groups. The children have enjoyed building bug homes and being able to explore outside, even in the rain!



Year 4

What a great start it's been to Year 4 so far, with all children settling in well into their classes. The children have already begun to show us their excellent resilience in lessons and we can't wait to see all the amazing work they produce throughout the year.

We started the term off celebrating Roald Dahl Day, with a particular focus on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. The children produced excellent images in the same style as Quentin Blake, learning to draw in his unique way. For English, they then wrote their own diary entries as Charlie when he enters the factory, using many adjectives to describe what he could see, smell and hear!



All children have been thoroughly engaged with our guided reading book, 'Voices in the Park', hearing the same day repeated from 4 different perspectives. They have shown off their reading VIPERS skills through lots of discussion and questioning in the classroom, analysing each character that gets introduced.

As well as being drawn into a good book, the children have been observing the effects sugar can have on teeth (or in our case, an egg!), as we begin learning about the human digestive system in Science. This discussion continued into History, as we start our topic on Ancient Greece and their way of life.

Year 5

Wow! What an amazing start to Year 5 we have had. The behaviour for learning is fantastic and Year 5 should be so proud of all the work they have done so far, we are very much looking forward to the rest of the year!

Year 5 have started their swimming lessons every Monday, they have been having a great time. It's been amazing to see them all joining in with such enthusiasm, and mastering each skill.

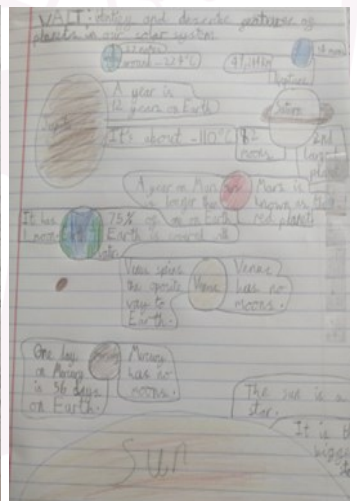
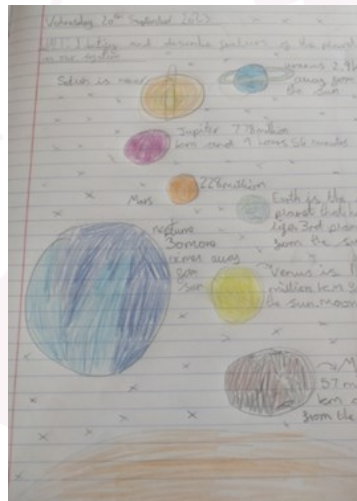
In Maths, we are coming to the end of our topic on place value, where the children have been working super hard with numbers up to 1,000,000.

Over the last few weeks in English we have been focusing on a journey tale called Perseus and Medusa, the children have enjoyed reading this, and we are looking forward to writing our own journey tale very soon.

In Science we have been learning all about space, the children have shown so much enthusiasm in this subject and created some amazing work on the solar system!

In History we have been learning about World War 1, the children have loved learning about what life was like in the trenches, and are looking forward to learning more over the next few weeks.

Well done Year 5, keep up the hard work!



Year 6



We have had a wonderful start to the year! This week, everyone enjoyed visiting Wellington School to watch their production of Matilda the Musical. Our Year 6 children have shown tremendous resilience and determination towards their learning - especially in their assessments last week. We are really impressed by their overall attitude and we are looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

In Maths, we have been developing an in depth understanding of Place Value and will be moving onto the Four Operations next week.

In English, we are identifying and using a range of features within suspense writing; the children have enjoyed using figurative language, personification and pathetic fallacy to enhance their writing and build tension for the reader. We will be moving onto the innovate stage of our Hansel and Gretel text this week. We are currently reading 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell as part of Guided Reading, the children are making fantastic predictions and inferences about the characters. We have been able to understand a range of new vocabulary and investigate a wide range of writing techniques.

In Science, we are continuing to investigate the heart and circulatory system. The children were particularly interested by the chambers and the four main components of blood including their role within the body.

Our Victorian History work has involved understanding the key changes in crime and punishment throughout the ages.

Finally, the children have created some amazing artwork based on Picasso for our Year 6 display boards.

