



## Term 2 Week 5 Newsletter 2024

Dear Families,

As we edge towards the end of the term, we have a number of exciting events to look forward to:

### **Nativity (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2)**

*Thursday, 12th December at 9.20am and Friday, 13th December at 1.30pm*

**Please be aware, this is not a ticketed event but it is usual that one or two parents/carers attend one of the performances rather than both.** Please ensure your child knows which performance you will attend so they know in advance and are not disappointed if they cannot see you! On the Friday, 13th December performance, you are welcome to take your child afterwards (approximately 2.30pm, siblings too) once they have changed back into their school uniform. However, we can also keep your child until 3.15pm as usual if that is more convenient.

## **FWR Christmas Fair**

*Tuesday, 17th December at 3.15pm - 4.45pm*

FWR are kindly hosting the Christmas Fair on Tuesday, 17th December which will be a wonderful community event for everyone to enjoy. We will dismiss the children at the white/green gates as usual and then re-open the gates for everyone to come into the School Hall for the Fair.

## **Carols Around The Tree (whole school)**

*Wednesday, 18th December at 1.30pm*

**Please be aware, this is not a ticketed event but it is usual that no more than two parents/carers attend due to available space in the Hall.** As per the email sent earlier this term, EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children will sit in front of the stage and so may not be as clearly visible as the older years. This is due to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 having already performed the Nativity this week. Children (and families!) are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers/a festive accessory with their usual school uniform if they so wish.

You are welcome to take your child afterwards (approximately 2.45pm), however, we can also keep your child until 3.15pm as usual if that is more convenient.

## **EYFS Reading and Resilience**

*Wednesday, 18th December at 9am*

Parents and carers of children in EYFS are warmly invited to a workshop with Miss Jones and Ms Ferber to discuss how we help the children to learn to read and build their resilience, as part of our school values. Please do come along if you are available!

## **Cross Country**

Thank you to all the parents who came out to support Tuesday's cross-country event. We cannot attend these events without you and are forever grateful to you for volunteering your time. We had a record of 50 Western Road participants this year and there were 312 students in total from 7 local schools competing. Western Road did incredibly well with 8 students finishing in the top 3. Thank you to Mrs Sakaki for helping to organise the event and supporting the children in their efforts!

## **School Council**

The School Council and Debating Group had a fantastic visit to Lewes Town Hall. We were interested to find out about the role of the councillors as well as learning how decisions are made in the locality. The children asked lots of questions and were fascinated to find out lots of information including facts about the building, the ornaments and pictures inside, the mayoral chains and how the work that happens in the town hall is carried out.

Sam (Year 4) wrote:

*Last Monday the school council went to visit the town hall to learn about the town and how the council works. We met the mayor and she talked about her job and what she does. She wears a necklace called the Chain of Office and it was very heavy and made out of pure gold. She looked as bling as a queen.*

## **Term 2 School Value -Resilient**

Our school value for Term 2 is 'resilient' and we are delighted to celebrate Imogen (Year 5) who carried the flag for her Brownie pack in the Lewes Remembrance Sunday parade this year, being respectful and quiet during the wreath laying ceremony. Congratulations Imogen!

**Whole school reminder:** As the weather is so changeable, please ensure your child continues to come to school in appropriate uniform and footwear (see below for full details), ***all clearly named:***

***Children must come to school in their PE kit and trainers/plimsolls if they have PE that day.***

**Children should wear their usual black or blue school shoes/trainers at all other times.**

***Children should have their hair tied back if it reaches their shoulders.***

***Warm (preferably waterproof) coat with hat/scarf/gloves.***

***Wellies may be also needed depending upon the weather forecast.***

By having appropriate clothing in school, it helps everyone to enjoy PE to the full as well as being outdoors at break and lunchtimes, outdoor learning time and the Daily Mile. Please do let me know if you need any support in sourcing coats or wellies. Thank you.

**Whole school reminder: Please remember that we a nut-free and sesame-free school due to some children having severe allergies. It is imperative you do not send your child to school with any items that contain or may contain nuts and/or sesame seeds. Thank you.**

**Whole school reminder: Please do not park on the yellow hatched area in the car park AT ANY TIME. By keeping the area clear, it allows for emergency vehicles to have immediate, necessary access to the school site. Thank you.**

Best wishes,

Irèna Wooler

Headteacher



## School Calendar



*Items added or changed from the previous newsletter will be in italic:*

### **Monday, 9th December**

EYFS Muddy Monday

Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics

Final Choir Club of the term

### **Wednesday, 11th December**

9am Celebration Assembly

*9.45am Nativity dress rehearsal (Years 3 - 6 to watch Nativity)*

*4pm School Choir performance at Glyndebourne (leave school to arrive at Glyndebourne 12.15pm)*

**Thursday, 12th December**

*9.20am Nativity (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2)*

**Friday, 13th December**

*1.30pm Nativity (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2)*

**Monday, 16th December**

No Choir Club

EYFS Muddy Monday

Year 5 and 6 Gymnastics

**Tuesday, 17th December**

*3.15pm - 4.45pm FWR Christmas Fair*

**Wednesday, 18th December**

*9am EYFS meeting - reading and resilience*

*1.30pm Carols Around The Tree (whole school, see email sent 29.11.2024 and information above; Christmas jumpers welcome)*

*2.30pm Year 1 families invited to see the class woodwork*

**Thursday, 19th December**

*9.15am - 10.00am Polly's piano students' concert*

*School Christmas lunch - Christmas jumpers welcome*

**Friday, 20th December**

1.15pm End of Term 2

*Christmas jumpers welcome*

**Monday, 6th January 2025**

**INSET 4 - School closed**

**Monday, 2nd June 2025**

**INSET 5 - School closed**

**Tuesday, 22nd July 2025**

**1.15pm End of Term 6**

## Attendance and Punctuality



In August 2024, the Government published the statutory guidance on attendance (see link below). As per the guidance, parents and carers are expected to:

Ensure their child attends every day the school is open except when a statutory reason applies;

Notify the school as soon as possible when their child has to be unexpectedly absent (e.g. sickness);

Only request leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and do so in advance;

Book any medical appointments around the school day where possible.

If you have any queries, please do let me know and you can read the guidance here:

***Please ensure your child arrives at school on time - the gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am. Any child arriving after this time must be signed in at the School Office, as per our health and safety and attendance policies.***



## Artists and Makers Fair 2024



**ARTISTS & MAKERS FAIR**

**FRI 29 / SAT 30  
NOVEMBER**

**2024**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Opening Night**  
Fri 29th Nov, 6pm-8.30pm

**Main Fair**  
Sat 30th Nov, 9am-5pm

80+ stalls, gifts, art, food & fun  
**Lewes Town Hall**

Find out more at –  
[www.artistsandmakersfair.com](http://www.artistsandmakersfair.com)

 [artistsandmakers](https://www.instagram.com/artistsandmakers)

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Artists and Makers Fair last weekend - the Town Hall buzzed with energy and excitement throughout! I want to thank the team who worked tirelessly to plan and organise the event, enabling a wide range of artists to showcase their work and raise a staggering £24,000 for school funds.

I am truly grateful to everyone who helped in any way with the event and, in particular, Cloud, Fiona, Jane, Jo, Katy and Maxine who are absolute superheroes.

The money raised, along with other FWR events, means we can continue to develop the Gallery art space, invest in a Key Stage 2 outdoor classroom and support Forest School along with many other projects that enrich our children's experiences.

Thank you!

## Reminder: Arbor - School Trips and Club Payments



Thank you for your patience regarding the trip and club payment transition to Arbor.

We have really valued the feedback we have received to help make this transition smoother moving forwards. A reminder that ParentPay should only now be used for paying for school meals.

Remember that in order to pay for trips and clubs in Arbor, you must confirm your child is attending. If, for whatever reason you cannot do this, please do contact me at [bursar@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk) and I will do the necessary to push through the payment promptly. Sometimes turning your phone into landscape mode will give you options you can't see in portrait.

If the date of the trip or club has elapsed, you will no longer be able to confirm attendance. Again, please drop me a line with your child's name and club/trip, and I can push this through.

For those of you it has worked seamlessly for, we hope you agree that having the trip added to your child's calendar has been useful.

As we become a bit more familiar with the setup process, trips will start appearing within a much broader timeframe. Clubs, swimming reminders, INSET days, photo days and Parents Evenings, will all start appearing in this calendar, making Arbor a 'one stop shop' for all things Western Road!

If you are having difficulty logging into Arbor, please do let us know and we will try our very best to resolve your issues.

Thank you,

Sarah Clifford

School Bursar (my working days are Mondays - Wednesdays)

### Reminder - Lewes Foodbank Donations



Thank you so much for all the donations given for Lewes Foodbank for Harvest Festival last term.

We continue to support the Foodbank this term and Debbie Twitchen has asked that we focus on collecting tinned products: meat, fish, tomatoes, vegetables and pulses. They also ask that we donate children's drinks and snacks too.

Please do bring any donations to the School Office and we will arrange for a delivery at the end of this term.

Thank you in advance.

## Reminder - school uniform



### Western Road Community Primary School's Uniform consists of:

- Navy school fleece with school logo (optional but these are very warm and ideal for Winter and Spring)
- *Navy school jumper with or without school logo or navy or mid-grey cardigan*
- White shirt/blouse with long or short sleeves with or without logo or
- White or navy blue polo shirt with or without school logo
- Mid-grey or navy trousers or smart shorts, or
- Mid-grey or navy skirts (or skorts), pinafore dresses or school summer dresses (blue/white check)
- White/navy/grey socks or tights
- ***Plain black or navy school shoes (or plain black or navy trainers with no logos); plain sandals in the Summer terms only.***
- Plain hair accessories (optional and in school colours preferably). **Long hair (past shoulder length) must be tied back.**

### PE kit:

- White T-shirt or polo shirt with school logo (or plain)

- Grey or navy shorts or jogging bottoms (plain with no logos)
- Trainers or plimsolls

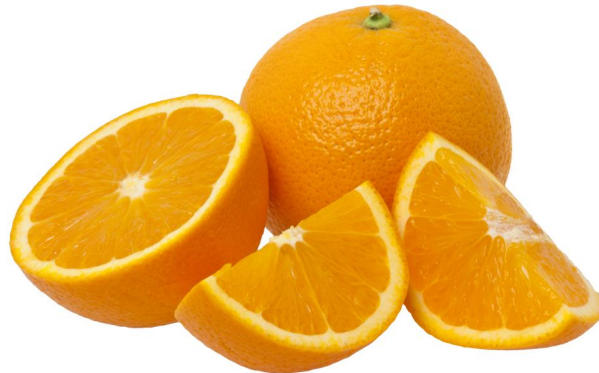
***Please note, hoodies and jewellery (apart from a wristwatch when appropriate or stud earrings that can be taken out for PE) are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn in school.***

The school also has school caps, rucksacks and book bags available. Please ensure all items of clothing are named including shoes or trainers.

Navy blue polo shirts, fleeces and sweatshirts with the school logo on are all available from Intersport [http://www.gameforlife.co.uk/section.php/781/1/western\\_road\\_cp\\_school](http://www.gameforlife.co.uk/section.php/781/1/western_road_cp_school).

Second-hand items are regularly available at low cost at school fairs and events.

## Reminder - Message from the Bursar, Sarah Clifford



Please ensure your ParentPay accounts for dinner money are cleared at the end of each week, or (ideally) are in credit by a small amount. **School dinners cost £2.97 per day for children in Years 3 - 6.**

Children under 5 are entitled to free school milk each day, given at morning snack time (this is in addition to milk given to children who have school lunches). If you would like your child to

receive milk, either as they are under 5 or at an additional cost, please do visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/parents/> for more information and to register your child.

If you think your child might be entitled to **Free School Meals** (regardless of their age) through the **Pupil Premium Grant**, please do look at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/education-learning/schools/school-life/school-meals/free-school-meals> for more information. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and/or the Pupil Premium Grant, the school will receive additional funding to support them with their learning and enrichment activities.

From this term, we will put all school trips and school-run clubs (for example Sewing Club) through Arbor so please do make sure you are able to login. We will continue to use ParentPay for Chartwells payments.

Please do speak with me, Sarah Clifford, or email me [bursar@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk) if you have any queries. Thank you.

## Reminder - Bikes and scooters



Please ensure your child collects their bikes/scooters at the end of each school day. There are a number of bikes and scooters that have been in the bike shed for some time and I'm sure they are missed at home! If you would like to check the bike shed for any missing bike/scooter, please do speak with a member of staff at the white gate at drop-off or pick-up.

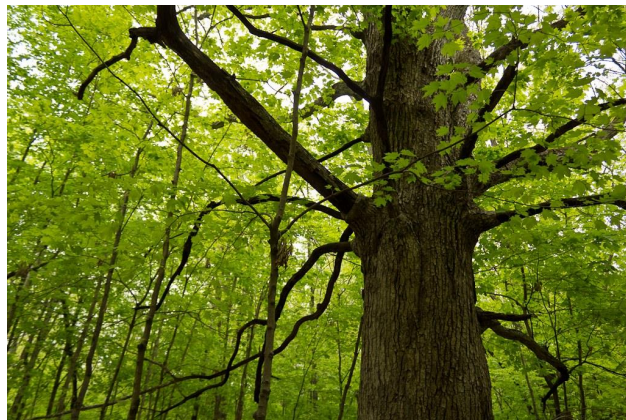
## News from Silver Birch (EYFS)

We have thoroughly enjoyed this term's learning. We have continued to think about 'Celebrations!' We were interested to find out about Diwali. The children enjoyed listening to the story of Rama and Sita and how good won over darkness! The children were particularly keen to make representations of the mean Ravana. We made models, paintings and clay models. The children also made beautiful Diwa lamps which will look beautiful when lit.

Our learning topic has moved on to thinking about Christmas. We have been learning about why Christmas is an important time of year for Christians. Our learning was enhanced with a wonderful visit to Trinity Church, Southover, where we listened to the Christmas story and found out a little about what happens in a church.

We have also been discussing how many people celebrate Christmas and the festive period. Over the next coming weeks we will be learning about Hanukkah. Whilst talking about celebrations, we have been thinking about similarities and differences between the ways in which different important events are celebrated. What a lovely, exciting, colourful and joyful term of learning!

## News from Elm Class (Year 1)



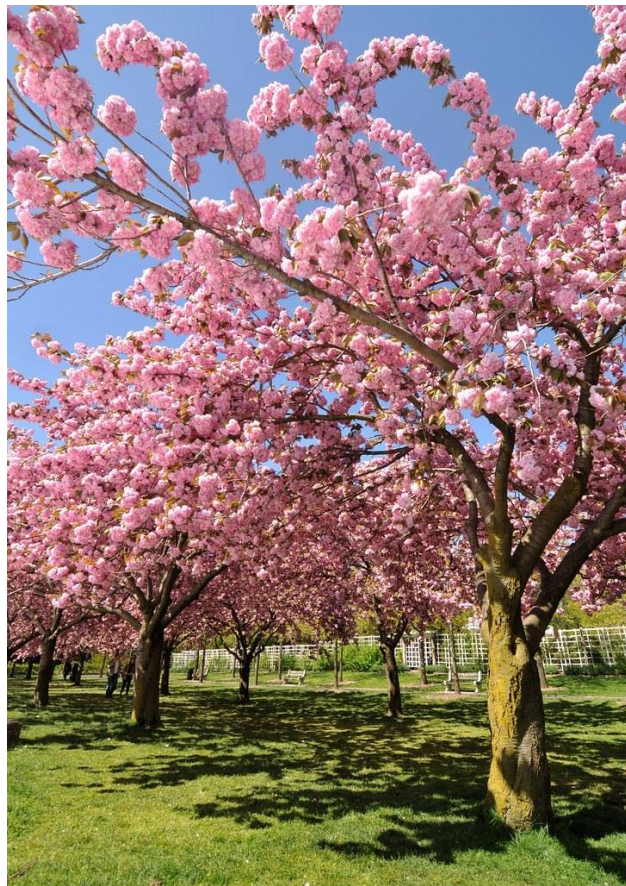
Year 1 have had an extremely busy Term 2. In Art this term we have been focusing on Van Gogh's 'Starry Night', however we have also been learning about various artists to include Kandinsky, Yayoi Kusama and Jackson Pollock. The children have enjoyed learning about their lives and have produced artwork inspired by the own artist's work.



In Computing the children have become news broadcasters. They initially chose a planet to speak about, selected images and factual information to share with the audience. They were then filmed against a green screen sharing their factual information with their chosen images to create the broadcast.

We are looking forward to showing our parents the children's wooden Christmas houses on Wednesday, 18th December at 2.30 to 3.00pm (after Carols Around The Tree).

## News from Cherry Class (Year 2)



In Year 2, students have been exploring the fascinating world of science and history through exciting hands-on activities. They've been conducting ice experiments, testing how quickly ice melts in different temperatures and learning about the science behind freezing and thawing. As part of their history lessons, the class has been researching the incredible adventures of Ernest Shackleton and his polar expeditions, discovering how he and his crew braved the harsh conditions of Antarctica. To bring their learning to life, the students even embarked on their own "expedition," using their imaginations to journey through icy landscapes. Afterward, they



wrote detailed diary entries about their adventures, reflecting on the challenges and triumphs of their journey—just like real explorers!

### News from Larch Class (Year 3)



To celebrate our topic of learning, Year 3 had an Ancient Egyptian Day. The costumes were creative and eye catching. We had a mix of pharaohs, gods and mummies. Thank you to the parents for such splendid fancy dress, the children were proud to show off their outfits. We had several activities planned over the day which included making clay sarcophagus's, virtual tours of ancient tombs and playing senet (traditional board game that was found in King Tutankhamun's tomb).

## News from Willow Class (Year 4)



In Year 4, we continue having a fantastic term with many exciting learning opportunities. One of the highlights has been our tremendous Brass Band performance. The children practised hard, and it truly paid off as they performed with confidence and skill. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and teamwork, and we are very proud of their musical achievements!

In PE, we have been focusing on building our fundamental movement skills. The children have been thoroughly enjoying a variety of activities that help develop their coordination, balance, and agility. A favourite this term has been hopscotch, where they were working to improve their hopping and jumping skills.

As part of our Geography topic on Extreme Weather, we had a visit from the Lewes Fire Service. The firefighters shared valuable insights into the infamous Lewes floods, explaining the impact it had on our town. We learnt about the flood prevention measures that have been put in place to protect the area. It was a great way to bring our topic to life, and the children were fascinated by the real-life application of what they have been learning.

In Art, we have been exploring various weather types through a range of creative techniques. The children used collage, watercolour, and pen and ink to capture the different moods and elements of weather, taking inspiration from other artists. From stormy skies to sunny days, the students experimented with texture and colour to express a range of weather patterns.

In Science, we've been exploring electricity by creating circuits and testing materials for conductivity. The children had a great time experimenting with different materials to see which

ones are conductors and which are insulators. They learned that some materials, like metals, allow electricity to flow, while others, like rubber or wood, do not. The hands-on experiments were a great way to reinforce their understanding of how electrical circuits work!

### News from Elder Class (Year 5)

Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful photography workshop on Thursday, 28th November. Thank you very much to parent and photographer Maxine Silver, who worked with the children to take photographic portraits of each other using DSLR cameras. The children were able to do choreograph head and body shots to capture their subjects with objects they had brought in to represent their hobbies and interests, considering angles, lighting and other aspects of composition. It was very engaging and informative for the children to learn how to use DSLR cameras and apply their creativity to the photography. They got some stunning shots!

### News from Oak Class (Year 6)



This week, Year 6 have been working hard on their stop motion animations in Computing. After recapping our learning from Year 5, we meticulously planned our different stories, making sure that they linked to our 'Victorians' topic. We then carefully made our resources, before using the stop motion app to create our animations. All of the children's projects are very innovative, involving time-travelling aliens, suffragettes and even the Crimean War!

Reminder - football kits (Thursdays)



Children who attend Albion In The Community after-school club on Thursdays should come to school in their usual school uniform and school shoes/plain black trainers. The football coaches arrive with plenty of time to supervise the children getting changed into their kits before the club starts at 3.15pm. Please ensure all kit (including boots, shin pads etc) are clearly named. Thank you.

Reminder: Child Protection and Safeguarding



At Western Road Community Primary, all staff take child protection and safeguarding children very seriously, both in person and online. All staff have been trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection. If you have any concerns about a child's well-being, bullying or e-safety, please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs): Mrs Hamilton or Mrs Wooler.

During Assemblies, we have reminded all children that if they are worried or anxious at any time, they can talk to any trusted adult in school and who the DSLs are too.

As a school we are also part of Operation Encompass which is a police and education early information safeguarding partnership enabling schools to offer immediate support to children experiencing domestic abuse. Operation Encompass ensures that there is a simple telephone call or notification to a school's trained Designated Safeguarding Lead /Officer (known as key Adult) prior to the start of the next school day after an incident of police attended domestic abuse where there are children related to either of the adult parties involved. Information is shared with a school's Key Adult (Designated Safeguarding Lead or Officer) prior to the start of the next school day after officers have attended a domestic abuse incident. This sharing of information enables appropriate support to be given, dependent upon the needs and wishes of the child. To find out more information, please see: <https://www.operationencompass.org/>



## Reminder: Health Service



We are pleased to be part of East Sussex Health Group. East Sussex Schools Health Service is a team of public health practitioners, led by school nurses who work with children, young people aged between four and 19 and their families. **They provide support and advice for a variety of physical, sexual and emotional health and wellbeing issues, and will refer to specialised services when needed.**

For full details about the service they offer please visit the website:  
[www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/school-health-service-east-sussex/](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health/school-health-service-east-sussex/)

*How can you use the service?*

- Contact the School Health One Point on **0300 123 4062**, available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5pm
- Make a referral online at

- Visit the School Health virtual drop-in, Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 3pm and 6pm to 9pm at <https://nhs.uk/east-sussex-school-health> They can offer support and advice to children, young people and families virtually, face to face or via the phone as well as brief interventions and packages of care where appropriate.

## Western Road Community Primary School



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East Sussex

BN7 1JB

01273 473013

<http://www.westernroad.e-sussex.sch.uk>

Headteacher: Irèna Wooler

Deputy Headteacher: Rea Hamilton

SENCo: Suzy Bennett as Kerry Bedford is currently on maternity leave

**Western Road Community Primary School is a nurturing, creative community where everyone can flourish.**