

Principal's update

Are parents the most under-used resource in schools? For behaviour, attendance and children's learning, research shares the benefits of engaging the whole school community. What can't we achieve when everyone is pulling in the same direction? **When parents are involved in their education, children do better on a wide range of measures.**

These positive effects include:

- Better behaviour
- More confidence and greater self-esteem
- Higher attendance rates
- A lower risk of exclusion
- More enthusiasm about learning
- Better results

When schools and parents listen to each other and work together, they have a really positive impact on attainment and pupil well-being. This is why it is so important that we work in partnership, from a child's first day at school right through to when they leave.

At West Drayton, we are fortunate to have great links with parents, and we are committed to further strengthening these links. Our parent information sessions have been well received - thank you all who have attended.

Finally, if you have yet to do so, please sign up for the PIOTA app - this is our main source of communication. The website includes lots of information about the school. If you have any queries, please contact the office - let us know what the query is about so that we can direct you to the appropriate respondent.

Reminder: Edison Close is a Private Road

The local authority has confirmed that Edison Close is a private road. Residents have recently put up "private road" signs to remind everyone that cars can't park there without their permission - not even for 5 minutes.

We kindly request that you do not park on Edison Close during school drop-off and pick-up times. Your cooperation will help us maintain a good relationship with our neighbours and ensure the safety of all our children. If you're having difficulties at drop off and pick up, please contact the office.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



Dates for your diary

22nd - 24th September

Y6 PGL

24th September

Y2 Information Meeting
3:30 pm

26th September

Y4 Information Meeting
9:00 am

30th September

Book Fair

3rd October

Flu Vaccination

6th - 10th October

Help at Home

8th October

School Photography

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 4OR with 99.32%

2nd place: 4W with 99.31%

3rd place: 2BR with 97.7%

It will be a non-uniform day for 4OR on Friday 27th September! Well done!



Instagram



Piota App*

@WestDraytonAcademy

Special Menu
Favourites Day

**Thursday
2nd October**

Sticky BBQ Chicken
Halal Sticky BBQ Chicken
Vegan Hot Dog with Ketchup
Baked Wedges
Sweetcorn & Baked Beans

Dessert
Waffle
Mixed Berry Sauce

BM3Halal/Non

pabulummm
HONESTLY GOOD FOOD

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all schools including WDA.

This year, **all** children can benefit from free school meals, not just KS1.

Any school with 90% uptake of school dinners can receive extra funding. This is calculated on one day called a 'census day' - the next census day is Thursday 2nd October.

We need as many children as we can to have a school dinner on this date. We request all parents to participate and encourage children to choose school meals on **Thursday, 2nd October**.

Remember:

The meal is free, it will save you money

**The meal is hot and nutritious
It will save you time**

and...

School receives additional funding to spend on the children.

We work closely with our catering team who carefully plan and prepare meals for our children. These meals are prepared not only to fulfil the dietary requirements but something that is thoroughly enjoyed by children. If you have any questions please contact the school office team.

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Great Athletes Event

We are thrilled to share that for this year's Great Athletes Event, the athlete visiting us is the Team GB track athlete Victoria Ohuruogu! Victoria is known for her prowess in 400m relay race and won bronze medal in 2024 Olympics!

On the event day, all pupils will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit run by their athlete, a terrific way to get all children excited about sport and realise that getting moving is really fun! Their athlete will then share their incredible sporting journey, a story of resilience and determination in a fun and interactive assembly. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions in a Q&A session with their inspiring role-model at the end!

Fundraising for the event will begin next week when the children will be bringing home a sponsorship form. The money raised for the event will help us to purchase new sports equipment and improve levels of physical activity in our school!



Household Support Fund

The cost of living continues to be a challenge for many households. To help those most in need, the government provides funding to local councils through the Household Support Fund (HSF). This grant is designed to support vulnerable households. A significant portion of this fund is often targeted at families with children who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), providing them with additional support, such as food vouchers during school holidays.

How to Apply: Families who maybe eligible can complete a form using this link: [Apply for the Household Support Grant](#). Families who are currently eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) are also requested to complete the form.

We encourage all families who believe they are eligible, apply for Free School Meals. For more information contact the school office.

PE Days

It is important for children to bring their PE kit on their PE days. Children are supported with PE items where required, however, they can miss 1 x breaktime for not bringing their PE kits to school. We request parents to support children with PE kits. On the days when they have PE in the morning they can come to school wearing their PE kit and can change into their uniform after their PE lessons. On the days when they have PE in the afternoon, children must come in their full uniform and bring their PE kits to school to change. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please click on the link to find out the PE days for your child's class. [PE Timetable](#)

Clubs 25/26

At West Drayton Academy, we run a number of before and after school clubs. Our school clubs have been running successfully for a number of years, offering a wide range of enriching activities for our students. From creative pursuits like Art and Crafting, to team sports like Basketball, Football, and Dodgeball, there's something to spark every student's interest.

Clubs are a fantastic way for children to develop new skills, build confidence, and make new friends outside of the classroom. This half-term, our offerings include activities such as Board Games, Science, Gardening, and Choir, as well as academic support in our Homework clubs.

For a detailed schedule of all the clubs running this half term, please visit the school website.

If you have any questions, you can contact Miss Imani for more information.



Culture Club Meeting

Culture Club met for their first meeting today and had a very productive discussion about upcoming events. We will be celebrating Black History Month throughout the month of October, followed by the festival of Diwali.

Thank you to all of our members and their contribution. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information!



Culture Club



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FLU Immunisation Friday 3rd October

Please read important information regarding upcoming flu immunisation programme, all parents must complete the form to give consent or decline:

[Vaccination Form](#)



FLU IMMUNISATION FOR PUPILS IN SCHOOL YEARS RECEPTION - YEAR 11

**Prevent your child from being seriously ill this winter!
Vaccinating is crucial in protecting them and vulnerable friends and family from flu.**

NASAL VACCINE

No needles - just quick, painless, effective flu protection (contains gelatine)

OR

THE INJECTION

We offer a PORK-FREE, GELATINE-FREE injection considered a faith-friendly alternative.

Complete this form, even if you do not want the vaccine.

<https://nwl.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2025/hillingdon>

Secondary School students only: Young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent themselves if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

CONTACT THE TEAM

hillingdon@v-uk.co.uk
 0208 150 1220

Need more information?
Please see our FAQs sheet attached with this letter.



We endeavour to come to your child's school twice. If your child is absent or unable to be vaccinated at school, they can still receive this important vaccine by attending one of our community clinics for the vaccine.

Your consent will remain in place for the entire flu season. If your child misses a first visit, you do not need to complete a second form.

Details of these can be found on our website or you can contact the team above.

LEARN MORE
<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/flu>
www.youtube.com/@vaccinationuk

PRIVACY POLICY
 Our 2024/25 policy can be viewed here: www.schoolvaccination.uk/privacy-policy
 For data protection queries, please contact: dpo@vaccinationuk.co.uk



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONSENT INFORMATION

The consent form needs to be signed by a person with parental responsibility which includes:

- Mother: automatic
- Father: if married to the mother either when baby is born or marries subsequently
- Unmarried father: if name appears on birth certificate (since 1/12/03) or legally acquired
- Others: if parental responsibility is legally acquired
- Parental Responsibility Agreement: signed, properly witnessed and sent for registration to Principle Registry or the Family Division (High Court)
- Residence Order: granted by the Court

Please note that young people under the age of 16 can give or refuse consent if considered competent to do so by nursing staff.

Q WHY ARE CHILDREN BEING OFFERED THE FLU VACCINE?

Flu can make children feel very unwell and can sometimes lead to serious complications like pneumonia or ear infections. Some may even need hospital treatment. It's especially important for children with long-term conditions like asthma or diabetes, as flu can be more dangerous for them.

Q HOW DOES THE FLU VACCINE FOR CHILDREN WORK?

The nasal spray contains weakened flu viruses that help your child build protection without causing illness. Because flu strains change each year, the vaccine needs to be given annually. Most children only need one dose.

Q IS THE FLU VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?

Yes, it has a very good safety record and has been used for over 10 years in countries like the US without any major concerns. All vaccines available in United Kingdom must pass strict safety testing before being approved for use. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) only approve vaccines that have gone through rigorous safety testing measures. The regulators continually monitor them all the time.

Q SHOULD ANYONE NOT HAVE THE VACCINE?

Let us know if your child:

- Has a severe allergy to eggs, gelatine, or certain antibiotics
- Has recently had severe asthma symptoms or is wheezy on the day
- Has a seriously weakened immune system

Also, after vaccination, children should avoid close contact with people who have very weak immune systems for about two weeks—everyone else is fine to be around.

Q ARE THERE ANY SIDE EFFECTS?

Side effects from the nasal spray are usually mild and short-lived. These may include a runny or blocked nose, headache, reduced appetite, or a slight temperature. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can help if needed.

Q WE DO NOT EAT PORK PRODUCTS. CAN MY CHILD HAVE A DIFFERENT FLU VACCINE?

Yes. There is an injectable flu vaccine is available that contains no pork (porcine gelatine).

While the nasal spray is generally more effective and painless, we respect your preferences. Just complete the consent form for the injection—no need to fill out both.

Q NATURAL IMMUNITY

While natural immunity from the flu can occur, it's not generally considered better than vaccine-induced immunity. Natural infection carries the risk of severe illness and complications, whereas the flu vaccine offers protection with significantly less risk. Natural immunity can be long-lasting against specific strains, but we know that the flu virus changes (mutates) overtime so natural immunity to one strain might not protect against a different strain that emerges later. Vaccines are a safer and more reliable way to protect against a wider range of flu viruses.

Flu vaccines are updated for each winter to give protection against the strains of flu that are most likely to be going around. For this reason, we strongly recommend that even if your child was vaccinated last year, they should be vaccinated again this year.

Q MY CHILD NEEDS A DIFFERENT VACCINE

If your child needs another vaccine you can speak to our team or attend one of our community clinics, all information can be found on our website: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Q I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

We run Q&A webinars which address frequently asked questions and gives parents an opportunity to ask their questions. You can find information and how to join on our website.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **SNAPCHAT**

SNAP STREAK 97

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak is broken for a few days, users will see a 🍌 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



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SCHOLASTIC

COME TO THE
BOOK FAIR

FILL YOUR SCHOOL WITH FREE BOOKS WHEN YOU BUY FROM THE BOOK FAIR*

READING GIVES YOU SUPERPOWERS!

30th September -
6th October 2025

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in **£5, £10, £15, £20 and £25**. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.



*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.
All books subject to availability. Book range may vary.

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Unlocking children's potential by knowing them, believing in them and providing opportunities to succeed

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

THE FOUR PILLARS ARE WEST DRAYTON'S VALUES THAT THREAD THROUGH THE CURRICULUM. EVERY DAY, WE ASPIRE TO DEMONSTRATE AND APPLY THESE VALUES IN EVERYTHING THAT WE DO. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PILLARS WILL HELP TO PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR TODAY, THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATION AND BEYOND.

EACH WEEK, FROM EACH CLASS, ONE CHILD WILL BE SELECTED AS THE WEEKLY CHAMPION. THE CHAMPION IS SOMEBODY WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY EXHIBITED THEIR CLASS VALUE OF THE WEEK.

Year 1

- Thansi V
- Jiya K
- Milan I

Year 2

- Lakshita P
- Aria O
- Oshane J

Year 3

- Sakina W
- Tiana P
- Vlad D

Year 4

- Rajan S
- Nishwanth T
- Alfie R

Year 5

- Ressa H
- Aaliyah H
- Anaya K

Year 6

- Raoni B
- Matteo N
- Rayan A



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