

Principal's update

West Drayton's values are called 'The Four Pillars'. They articulate the moral and academic expectations for everyone in the school community, ensuring that every child who attends is aware of what the school aims to achieve for them. Pillar 4 is health, caring for ourselves and others.

Today is the first anniversary of our revised food policy. I would like to thank all parents for contributing towards last year's consultation and for supporting the policy. A copy of the food policy is on the website in the policy section, follow the link here: [WDA Whole School Food Policy](#)

Morning snack - only healthy options are permitted at morning break

Packed lunches - pack your child a healthy lunch box! There's lots of healthy ideas in the policy and healthy options are regularly shared in the weekly newsletter.

Thank you to all children, parents and staff for their hard work during this term. It's now time to rest and recuperate. The children return on Tuesday 4th November.

Have a terrific break.

Richard Yates
Principal

Dates for your diary

3rd November

Inset Day +Parents' Meetings 1:30pm
School is closed for children

4th November

School reopens for children

6th November

School Fireworks

10th November

Y4 Roman Visit
Y2 Spelling Bee Final

11th November

Y3 & Y4 Spelling Bee Final

12th November

Y5 & Y6 Spelling Bee Final

14th November

Y3 Chiltern Open Air Museum

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 6B with 98.62%
2nd place: 3A with 98.61%
3rd place: 2BR with 98.27%

It will be a non-uniform day for 6B on Friday 7th November!

Well done!

FAMILY FIREWORKS NIGHT! Thursday 6th November

Gates are open @ 4:45pm
Fireworks @ 6:00pm

Buy your tickets now!

The tickets are available to purchase on **ParentPay**, alternatively you can pay on your card, see a member of staff for assistance.

There will be food, music, and gifts!
Proceeds from ticket sales go to ActionAid
For more details read on...



WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY

2025 FAMILY FIREWORKS NIGHT

**THURSDAY,
6TH NOVEMBER, 2025
GATES OPEN @ 4:45PM
FIREWORKS @ 6PM**

Pre-purchase your tickets via ParentPay

Adult £8

Child £6

Family bundle £25 (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)

(Under 2s FREE)

Gate price (on the day of event via Card payments):

Adult £10

Child £7

Family bundle £30 (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)

((Under 2s FREE)



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CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Each half term, we hold a special assembly in order to recognise and celebrate children's achievements. Congratulations to the winners. Continue to work hard and perhaps you could win next time!



Accelerated Reader Raffle (Year 2-6) (Meeting half term target = one raffle ticket entry)

Year 2 Winner: Ananya G
 Year 4 Winner: Ariana M
 Year 6 Winner: Lina S

Year 3 Winner: Lola M
 Year 5 Winner: Isra B

SATS Companion (Year 6)

Gold: Antonia (3130)
 Silver: Alvi (2839)
 Bronze: Harshetha (2820)

Improved Phonics (Year 1)

Dr Seuss: Anjola
 Donaldson: Iteoluwa
 Milne: Archie R



Attendance:

Children who achieved 100% attendance for the half term receive a certificate

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CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



Most Improved in Multiplication (Year 4)

Mark Lowery: Amelia T
Wilson: Tashneet B
Onjali Rauf: Aaditraj D

Most tasks completed on Emile

Srinika V & Aryan S (Lowery)
Chidera O (Atinuke)



Reading Plus Recognition Special Recognition

Oscar G

Kudos For achieving 17 streaks at 80% plus: Dakshit N

Kudos For achieving 13 streaks at 80% plus: Kariola I

Kudos For achieving 11 streaks at 80% plus: Diya V

Level Pre A Award

Dakshit N & Kariola I



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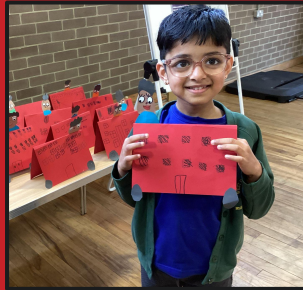
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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month has been celebrated here at WDA throughout the month of October and to celebrate, WDA held a **"Standing Firm in Power and Pride Exhibition"** to provide an opportunity for pupils to showcase their art work to family and friends. The work that the children have created has blown us away; each piece was created with care, diligence, and respect. The children's pride in their learning shone through yesterday, and it was wonderful to hear the children talk all about their learning! A huge thank you to all of the parents, carers, and children who were able to join us to celebrate! Have a look at some of the excellent displays!



Parents' Meetings

Monday 3rd November from 1:30 - 7:00pm

The Parents Meeting is a great opportunity to speak with your child's class teacher. You can find out how well they are settling into their new class, understand their current progress, and discuss how you can best support the school in helping your child meet their learning targets.

If you missed booking an appointment, don't worry! Just drop us an email at wdaoffice@theparkfederation.org, and we will get back to you if any slots are still available with your child's class teacher.



Votes for School

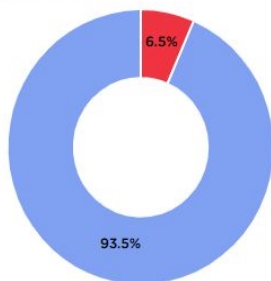
This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Does ultra processed food need more warnings on it? (KS2)

Should we learn more about what is in our food? (KS1)

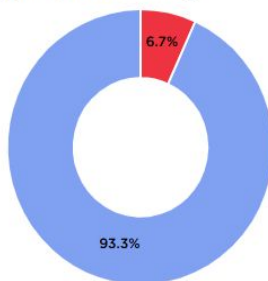
This week, children discussed what exactly is in the food we eat and who should be helping us decode the endless ingredients lists. Children in KS2 talked about whether ultra-processed food needs more warnings on it, while younger children discussed and voted whether we should learn about what is in our food. Here are the results for this week's debate:

Your School



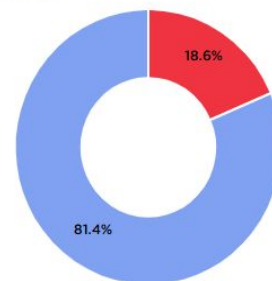
● No
● Yes

Regional (Greater London)



● No
● Yes

National



● No
● Yes



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West Drayton Academy Newsletter

www.westdraytonschool.com
01895 442904
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24th October 2025
Edition 8

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotos. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

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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

- Emilia S
- Rumaisa K
- Thara K

Year 2

- Vihaan K
- Pranavie G
- Aaima A

Year 3

- Shehbaaz S
- Saaleha U
- Shivaank S

Year 4

- Kiara K
- Magizhthan R
- Vinaayak K

Year 5

- Arya S
- Haya S
- Ayati Y

Year 6

- Lyra P
- Srinika P
- Hawa N



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