



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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17th October 2025
Edition 7

Principal's update

In previous weeks, I have shared the importance of children attending school. Attendance is not just valuable, it's essential. Going to school is directly linked to academic performance, happiness and better job prospects. Attending school is, of course, also a legal requirement.

We consistently monitor your child's attendance and provide 'awareness' letters when attendance is becoming a concern. The first round of 'raising awareness' letters will be sent to parents next week and, in some cases, a subsequent meeting will be arranged with a member of SLT.

If attendance continues to drop, medical evidence will be required to authorise all absence, and financial penalty notices could be issued.

On the school website, there's an information leaflet called 'Attendance Matters'. This informs you of when to keep a child off school, what to do if they are absent and what happens if your child's attendance falls below our standards.

Most common ailments do not require children to be absent from school. If in doubt please send your child in and the Welfare Assistant will assess your child if needed, and contact you if they should be sent home.

Richard Yates
Principal

Do you know we are on social media?

You can follow us on Instagram, just search West Drayton Academy. For all other important updates and communication please download Piota App for West Drayton Academy and never miss a thing again!



Instagram



Piota App*

Dates for your diary

22nd October

Y1 Library Visit

23rd October

Black History Month Exhibition

27th October

Half term

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

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 3A with 99.31%

2nd place: 1D with 99.29%

3rd place: 4OR with 98.33%

It will be a non-uniform day for 3A on Friday 24th October!

Well done!

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Diwali Celebrations

The Diwali celebration was a resounding success. The day was a beautiful celebration of our community spirit, offering something special for everyone.

Children were all excited as they arrived dressed in their most colourful clothing. They attended a special assembly led by parents. This assembly was educational, sharing stories and highlighting the significance of Diwali festival. They showcased traditional dresses and cultural artefacts.

Children will be participating in a Diwali Art competition, all entries cost £1, and proceeds from Diwali competition will be going to **ActionAid**.

At the end of the day there was a beautiful buzz at the Diwali fair, where everyone came together. There was music, food, toys, and henna, something for everyone!

It was heartwarming to see community coming together to celebrate, leaving everyone excited about the next event. Thank you to all the parents who made this possible.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



Diwali: Parent Talk in Nursery





NSPCC PANTS Week

We've been teaching the children about the NSPCC 'PANTS' rule as part of our work on personal safety. This program uses the acronym P-A-N-T-S to give children five simple, memorable rules about keeping their bodies safe, who they can talk to, and why they should always say 'No' if they feel unsafe or unsure about something. You can find more information and resources on the NSPCC website. [Talk PANTS!](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

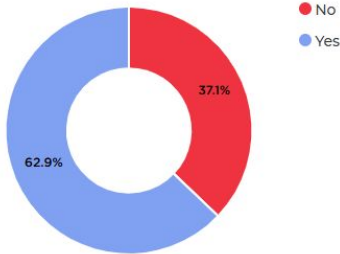
Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

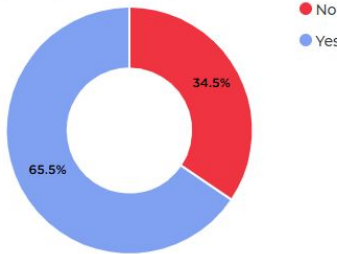
Does climate change worry you? (KS1)

Does climate change worry you often? (KS2)

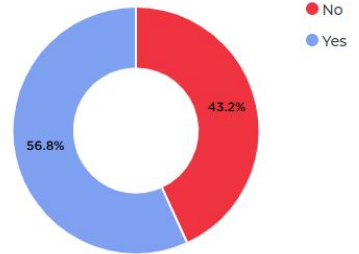
Your School



Regional (Greater London)



National



Coming up:

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

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

Children will consider what exactly is in the food we eat. KS2 voters will be deciding whether ultra-processed food needs more warnings on it, while younger voters will decide whether we should learn about what is in our food.



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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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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.



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SPORTS PLUS OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP

Sports Plus
Scheme

27TH-29TH OCTOBER



Multi sports

Playing lots of fun based games Football, Dodgeball, Tennis, Parachutes, Tag Games, Dance, Axe Throwing, and many more!

Times

9AM TO 3PM

Cost

1 DAY: £20 | 2 DAYS: £36 | 3 DAYS: £51

Venue

WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY, KINGSTON LANE, UB7 9EA

Halloween Fancy Dress Wednesday 29th

Tricks, Treats and Prizes to be Won!!

Sibling and multiday discounts available!



CONTACT US: WESTLONDON@SPORTSPLUSSCHEME.COM

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sportsplus_westlondon



sports.plus.scheme

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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

- Rafay S
- Sharwil G
- Rufaiza M

Year 2

- Kader F
- Mason M
- Hana I

Year 3

- Saisrihaan G
- Sophia S
- Hanifa H

Year 4

- Magizhthan R
- Fleur D
- Amelia T

Year 5

- Ellis B
- Dhyara C
- Saffa M

Year 6

- Archie I
- Aariz S
- Harry G



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