

Principal's update

A connected community has so many benefits, for children, families and school. Building a connected school community enhances learning outcomes for our children and provides direct and indirect support, collaboration and well-being for everyone.

During the last couple of weeks, I have been immensely proud of our community. Whilst school has provided opportunities to come together, you have supported us throughout. Our collaboration has been inspiring.

We had a great turnout for the Diwali celebrations, the Black History Month exhibition and last Thursday's fireworks extravaganza! Thank you to all who attended. This week, we will mark Remembrance Day with a two minute silence.

At West Drayton Academy, the children learn about diversity through a programme called GRADES - a bespoke combination of values, lessons and events.

GRADES stands for; a person's **G**ender, the **R**elationships we have with other people, **A**ge, **D**isability, **E**thnicity and **S**exual orientation - they all contribute to people's differences and integrated in our curriculum.



Richard Yates
Principal

Dates for your diary

10th November

Y4 Roman Visit
Y2 Spelling Bee Final

11th November

Remembrance day
Y3 & Y4 Spelling Bee Final

12th November

Y5 & Y6 Spelling Bee Final
Girls Football tournament

14th November

Y3 Chiltern Open Air
Museum
Children in Need: Non
uniform Day except Y3
Flu Immunisation - follow
up session

26th November

Y3 Panto visit

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 6C with 99%
2nd place: 4W with 98.3%
3rd place: 2CS with 98.2%

It will be a non-uniform day for 6C on Friday 14th November!

Well done!

Do you know that 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!





Family Fireworks Night

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the parents, families, and friends who supported the event and joined us for Family Fireworks Night. It was a wonderful evening filled with excitement, community spirit, and celebration. It was truly a memorable night and we are so appreciative of everyone who contributed to making it such a success. All proceeds will be donated to ActionAid and thank you for your continued support!

Flu Immunisation Follow up Session

We would like to inform you that there is a follow up flu immunisation session in the school on Friday 14th November. To book your appointment follow the link here:
[Catch-up Immunisation Clinics](#)

If you have questions, please get in touch with your local team, scan here for details:



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HEALTH

Boccia Festival at Wood End Park

On Thursday 6th November, 4 children went to Wood End Park for a Boccia festival. They practised their throwing skills with lots of different events such as target practice, bowling and other fun games! They really enjoyed the event and were all very excited to receive their medals. Well done Zarwa, Aliza, Mahnoor, and Dhven for your great participation and competitive spirits - you demonstrated the Hands pillar brilliantly!



Spelling Bee

The Spelling Bee is one of our annual house competitions, giving children the opportunity to represent their house and compete against others in a fun and challenging spelling contest.

This week, pupils in Years 2 - 6 have been busy taking part in their year group rounds to earn a place as a finalist in next week's Spelling Bee finals. Please note that parents are not invited to the finals, but the winners and the overall winning house will be announced in our next school newsletter. Winners in each year group will earn 10 Dojo points, runners-up will receive 5 points, and all entrants will be awarded 1 point for taking part.

Spelling Bee Finals will take place on:

Y2 Final: Monday 10th Nov, 2:15pm

Y3 Final: Tuesday 11th Nov, 9:00am

Y4 Final: Tuesday 11th Nov, 2:15pm

Y5 Final: Wednesday 12th Nov, 9:00am

Y6 Final: Wednesday 12th Nov, 2:15pm



School Nursery

Nursery have had a great start to their academic life. The children have learnt to separate from their main caregiver and feel secure in their new environment. They have made positive and kind relationships with their peers and adults. While learning and understanding new rules and routines. The children have engaged and got involved in new learning and fun activities such as playing with leaves, knowing how to read a book to building a home. They have engaged in activities from meeting an athlete, to making and painting their own Diya candle as part of their understanding of other religions, and attending their own Halloween party, taking turns in new games.

Big cheers to our Nursery stars for taking giant leaps in their learning journey!



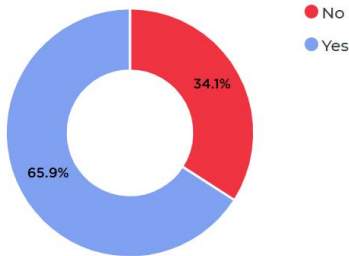
Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

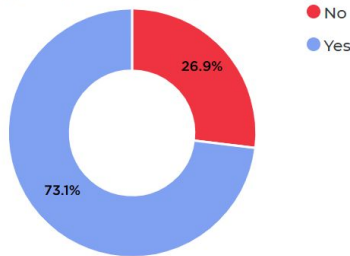
Would digital detox help you? (KS2)

Could you go screen free for a day?(KS1)

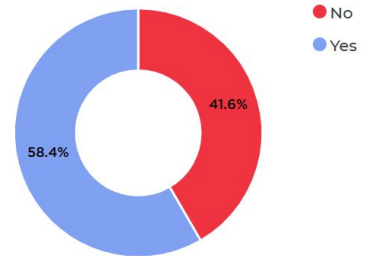
Your School



Regional (Greater London)



National



Coming up:

Is it easy to stand up for yourself?

It will be anti bullying week, and pupils will be talking about whether it is easy to stand up for yourself.



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**Join the
CELEBRATION!**



**Children
in Need**

**NON- UNIFORM DAY
FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025**

**VOLUNTARY
DONATIONS
WELCOME
VIA PARENTPAY**



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING



Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING



Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE



A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS



New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS



Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY



Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS



Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS



Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER



Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS



Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.



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West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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7th November 2025
Edition 9

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

- Sena J
- Fatimah A
- Taya C

Year 2

- Amanullah K
- Siya D

Year 3

- Nirwana B
- Maelyne Y
- Mariam B

Year 4

- Ali K
- Nila A
- Milano M

Year 5

- Rihan L
- Marwa K
- Scarlet C

Year 6

- Sagnika D
- Leo M
- Thomas G

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