



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

www.westdraytonschool.com
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28th November 2025
Edition 12

Principal's update

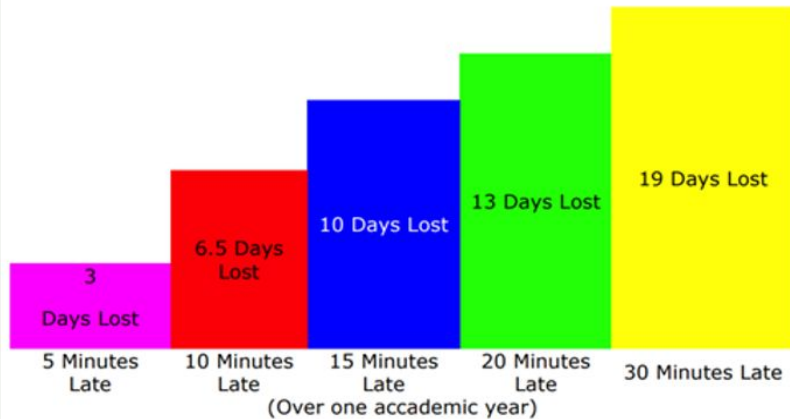
Plans are gathering pace for Christmas, there's lots happening. All dates and times are included in this newsletter.

Christmas is one of many cultural events that we celebrate at West Drayton Academy. If there's an event or celebration you would like us to know, please contact Miss Tinning, our teacher responsible for cultural events, or Mrs Malik, our Family Liaison Officer. Mrs Malik and Miss Tinning lead the Culture Club, a group of parents who regularly meet to share ideas, news and information. Why don't you come along to the next session! Contact the school office or visit the website for more information.

We are experiencing a high number of children arriving late to the school. This is a reminder that children can be dropped off in the playground at 8:40am. Coming on time can help your child to learn about routine and commitment.

Every Minute Counts

If you arrive late to school everyday your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school everyday over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child arrives to school on time, it makes a meaningful difference.

Richard Yates
Principal



Dates for your diary

1st December

Y6 Assessment Week

4th December

Reception Bakery Visit

8th December

Assessment Week

12th December

Non-uniform day

15th December

Y1 Panto: Beauty and the Beast

Christmas Fair 3:30 pm

16th December

Nursery Christmas Show

17th December

Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

18th December

Y1 Nativity Performance
9:30am & 2:00pm

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 6C with 99.26%
2nd place: 4OR with 98.3%
3rd place: 3A & 3P with 97.5%

It will be a non-uniform day for 6C on Friday 5th December.

Well done!

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

Is Your Child Too Young for WhatsApp and TikTok? Guide for Year 5 & 6 Parents/Carers

As children transition through Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6), their interest in the digital world naturally grows. They want to connect with friends, follow trends, and explore popular social media platforms. However, we are writing to highlight an increasingly important safeguarding concern: the underage use of applications like WhatsApp and TikTok. It has come to our attention that some children in this age group are already using these apps, often leading to inappropriate use and exposure to significant risks.

Minimum Age Requirement for Tik Tok is 13 years and WhatsApp is 16 years

There is a strict minimum age requirements for these apps which are in place to protect young users from content and interactions they are not yet equipped to handle. While children can easily bypass age-check measures, this does not negate the rules. For the vast majority of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, they are under the minimum age for both of these platforms.

The hidden risks of underage usage of these apps are huge, as they expose children to inappropriate content, there is a danger of contact with strangers, and can lead to cyber bullying and friendships issues. All of this can significantly impact children's mental health and wellbeing.

How Parents Can Help Keep Children Safe Online

1. Check Their Devices: Review the apps on your child's devices. If they have an account on WhatsApp, TikTok, or other 13+ apps (like Instagram or Snapchat), we strongly recommend you delete it.
2. Talk Openly and Often: Have an honest conversation about why these age limits exist and discuss the risks involved. Establish clear family rules for internet and device use.
3. Use Parental Controls: Utilise built-in safety features like Google Family Link or Apple Screen Time to manage downloads, set time limits, and monitor usage. Many apps like TikTok also offer Family Pairing features.
4. Keep Devices in Shared Spaces: Encourage your child to use their devices in communal areas of the house (e.g., the living room) rather than alone in their bedroom.
5. Reinforce the 'Trusted Adult' Message: We regularly teach online safety in school, promoting the message of 'Talk to your trusted adults' if they see anything worrying. Please reinforce this important lesson at home.

If you have any concerns or require further support, please do not hesitate to contact our **School Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Sall, or your child's class teacher**. We also have extensive information on our school website regarding online safety.

Important Resources for online safety

- [NSPCC](#): Advice on apps and social media safety.
- [Thinkuknow](#): Online safety advice from the National Crime Agency (CEOP).
- [Internet Matters](#): Guides on parental controls for various devices and apps



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Urwa Khan
Reception



Virat Sinha
Year 1



Sid Kandaswamy
Year 2



Diya Vivekram
Year 3



Mahzala Shaikh
Year 4



Dhyara Chohan
Year 5



Pranika Sankuratri
Year 6

Diwali Competition: Winners

Culture Club would like to thank all children who participated in the Diwali competition. We had so many beautiful, talented entries! We are proud to announce the following children as this year's winners. Each child has won 50 Dojo points as their prize! Well done to everyone!

Culture Club will be announcing more competitions throughout the year so keep an eye out for announcements in future newsletters! Congratulations again to the winners!



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Taekwondo Champion!

We are absolutely thrilled to share that Emma from Y6 participated in Taekwondo Polish Open Cup, and won a gold medal in the sparring category. It was a very competitive tournament where young athletes from across Europe participated.

The gold medal signifies Emma's hardwork and dedication. A huge Congratulations on this outstanding and well deserved success, we are incredibly proud of Emma's achievement!



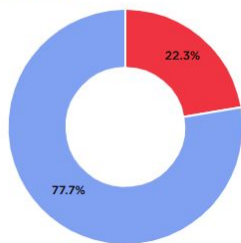
Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

- Should your school help you get ready to vote at 16? (KS2)
- Should your school teach you about voting? (KS1)

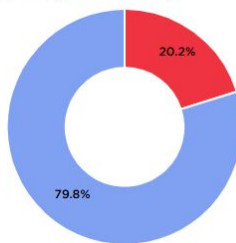


Your School



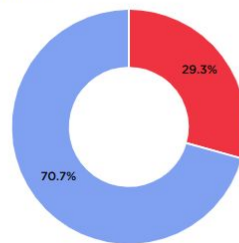
No
 Yes

Regional (Greater London)



No
 Yes

National



Coming up:

Do you think disabled people's stories are heard?

Next week, to mark International day of persons with disabilities, students will have an opportunity to discuss whether disabled people's stories are heard and why this is important.



Y3 Trip to Theatre Royal, Windsor

Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic day out in Windsor watching a much loved, classic Cinderella pantomime!

From the very beginning they were hooked to the amazing dancing and catchy songs. The atmosphere in the theatre was electric. The ugly sisters were particularly hilarious with their performance and jokes. The characters brought so much energy to the stage with their performances and children loved every moment of it. There was not a dull moment, as you could hear the children laughing throughout the performance.

The energy continued, as they laughed and joked about their favourite scenes on their way back to school. It was an amazing day out and the best way to get us all in the Christmas spirit!



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NON UNIFORM DAY

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2025

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO COME TO SCHOOL IN
COLOURFUL CLOTHES.**

**THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF MONEY DONATIONS
WE ARE ASKING FOR TOMBOLA
DONATIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**NURSERY & RECEPTION: A BOTTLE OF CELEBRATION BEVERAGE
(PLEASE HAND DIRECTLY TO THE CLASS TEACHER)**

YEARS 1 & 2 : BOXES OF CONFECTIONERY

**YEARS 3 & 4: TOYS AND GIFTS
(NEW OR NEARLY NEW)**

YEARS 5 & 6 : GIFT WRAPPED TOILETRIES AND COSMETICS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

WEDNESDAY
17TH DECEMBER

Special Menu
Christmas

Wednesday 17th December

- Roast Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing
- Halal Roast Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing
- Vegan Cranberry & Roasted Vegetable Wellington

Served with Roasted Potatoes,
Brussel Sprouts, Peas, Carrots & Gravy

Dessert
Gingerbread Brownie

BM3HalalNon West Drayton



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Christmas Fair

Monday 15th December
3:30pm - 5:00pm

Join us for a fun-filled
family evening!

Enjoy Raffles, Festive Food,
Games & Music

See you at the Fair!

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

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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

- Tharika T
- Evan E
- Ivy A

Year 2

- Olivia F
- Mofe F
- Alice T

Year 3

- Amyra M
- Aurora K
- Arya J

Year 4

- Siddarth M
- Krishav C

Year 5

- Reyansh A
- Kariola I
- Harideep V

Year 6

- Shravani S
- Ivaan A
- Robert C

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MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

SPORTS PLUS HOLIDAY CAMP

**BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, NETBALL,
TENNIS, DODGEBALL, STREET DANCE
AND MANY MORE!!**

9AM - 3PM

WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY

MON 22ND AND TUES 23RD DECEMBER








[sports.plus.scheme](https://www.tiktok.com/sports.plus.scheme)



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



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