



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

www.westdraytonschool.com
01895 442904
wdaoffice@theparkfederation.org

9th January 2026
Edition 16

Principal's update

A 'warm' Happy New Year to you all!

I would like to begin the new term by sharing my thoughts on attendance and reminding ourselves why regular school attendance is important for children's academic and social development.

Academic achievement

Pupils with the best attendance tend to get the best results in tests, SATS, GCSEs and A levels.

Social skills

School provides a structured environment where children can make friends, develop social skills, and build confidence.

Preparation for adulthood

School helps children get used to a routine and prepare for life at secondary school and beyond.

Future prospects

Good attendance can help children achieve better life chances and outcomes, and can show potential employers that they are reliable.

Wellbeing

Positive peer relationships at school can contribute to better mental health and wellbeing.

If a child is absent from school, the school will ask the parent or guardian for a reason. There are only a few circumstances in which a child is permitted to miss school, such as being too ill, having permission from the school, or observing a religious event.

Please read our guide to attendance - ['Attendance Matters'](#). This provides a summary of attendance at WDA including clarity on when your child should or should not attend if they are unwell.

To support good attendance, you can:

- Take trips during school holidays instead of term time
- Make sure your child has a good understanding of why attendance is important
- Establish a good routine early so your child develops good habits
- Book health appointments out of school hours

Thank you for supporting your child's learning and welfare.

Richard Yates
Principal

Dates for your diary

13th January

Y5 Planetarium Visit

14th January

Federation Dodgeball

20th January

Y6 Junior Citizens Event

22nd January

Netball against Oakfarm

28th January

Y1 Reading Museum (1S and 1M)

Football against

Rabbsfarm

29th January

Netball against John Locke

30th January

Y1 Reading Museum (1D)

2nd February

Y6 Visit to Imperial War Museum

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 3A with 100%

2nd place: 3D with 98.3%

3rd place: 5R with 98.2%

It will be a non-uniform day for 3A on Friday 16th January. .

Well done!

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08:40

Changes to School Late Arrival Procedures

At West Drayton Academy, we are committed to ensuring every child has a smooth and productive start to their learning day. To support this, we are updating our procedures for late arrivals, effective from Monday 12th January 2026

Morning Arrival & Late Procedure

As it is a requirement for your child to be in the classroom by 8:50am, we strongly encourage all families to drop off children at 8:40 am.

From next Monday, if families arrive at school after the gates have closed at 8:50 am, the following system will be trialed:

- Children must be brought to the Main Reception by a parent or guardian.
- To safeguard children, only 3 parents will enter the main Reception at one time. We would ask for your patience and understanding whilst waiting outside.
- You will be asked to provide a reason for the lateness.

At 9:10am, the registers will be closed. In accordance with regulation, if your child arrives after that time, they will receive a mark that shows them to be on site, but will not count as a present mark, resulting in an unauthorised absence. This may mean that you could face the possibility of a Penalty Notice if the problem persists.

The start time for the Morning Nursery is 8.30am. Afternoon Nursery is 12.30pm. Please ensure you arrive promptly, at the start and finish times, as lateness can disrupt our young children.

School Attendance Policy

Consistent attendance and punctuality are vital for your child's academic progress. You can view our full School Attendance Policy [here](#). Your continued support and cooperation make a huge difference to the well-being and academic success of our pupils.

Breakfast Club: To support parents who may struggle to drop children on time, we offer a daily Breakfast Club from 7:30am . You can find more information on our school website by following the link [here](#).

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HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

Y4 Visit to London Coliseum

This week, Year 4 travelled to the London Coliseum to watch a spectacular performance of *The Nutcracker*. Despite having to brave some incredibly heavy rain and grey skies on our journey into the city, the children's spirits remained high as we navigated the puddles and downpours to reach the theatre. Once inside the stunning venue, the damp weather was quickly forgotten as we were swept away by Tchaikovsky's iconic score, the graceful dancers, and the enchanting story of Clara's festive adventure. It was wonderful to see the children so captivated by the live orchestra and the breathtaking stage design, and they represented the school brilliantly throughout the entire experience, making it a thoroughly memorable day out for everyone involved.



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What is Favourites Day Special Menu and Why is it important

Special Menu
Favourites Day

**Thursday
15th January**

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

Dessert
Waffle
Mixed Berry Sauce

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 15th January.

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, 15th January**.

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.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



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A Few Reminders

- As the weather is getting colder, please ensure your child arrives to school with a warm, and waterproof coat everyday.
- Please ensure all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name, so that any lost property can be returned directly to your child.
- We appreciate your support in providing your child with healthy lunches and snacks. Please do not send chocolates, sweets or crisps. Click [here](#) to see the school food policy.
- Punctuality is vital and arriving on time allows your child to settle comfortably into the classroom.
- Please be mindful of our neighbours by parking considerately and responsibly. Please do not block or pull into private driveways at anytime.

Friday 16th January: Non uniform day for 4L for most improved MTC score

Votes for School

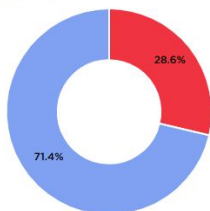
This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Would you like to read more?



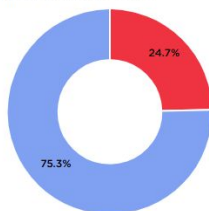
School vs National results

Your School



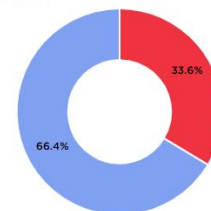
• No
• Yes

Regional (Greater London)



• No
• Yes

National



• No
• Yes

Coming up:

Are you interested in world news? (KS2)

Are you interested in news from other countries? (KS1)

Over the last few weeks as many global stories have been unfolding, students will be discussing whether they are interested in news from around the world or not.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night; you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

Report offensive in-game chat

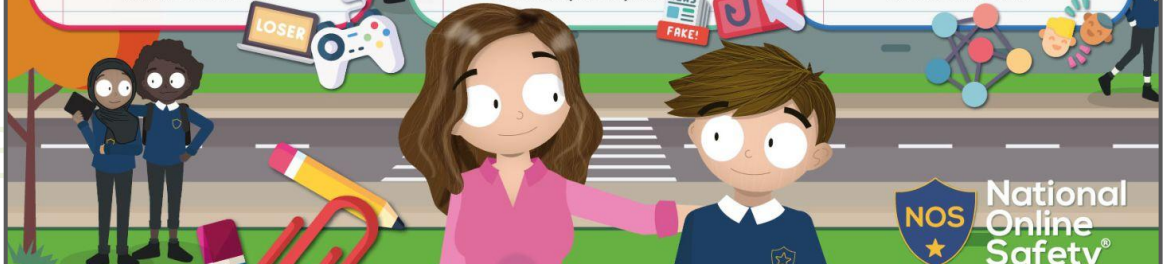
If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).





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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

Franky G

Thomas C

Mwatipasta F

Year 2

Noah A

Phoebe D

Aleena H

Year 3

Deeryan S

Vivaan W

Year 4

Aryaan S

Zain H

Emilie-Rose S

Year 5

Isaac K

Isha K

Tishya S

Year 6

Holly B

Maliha K

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Flu community catch up clinics

If your child has missed their flu vaccination at school, you can book an appointment for their vaccine at one of our local community clinics.

Winter season is upon us, and with colder weather keeping us indoors and in close contact, it's easier than ever for the flu to spread.

Protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community by getting your flu jab today. The flu vaccine is your best defense against severe illness, hospitalisation, and missed work or school. Let's work together to keep everyone healthy this winter.

Stay Well:

Avoid the misery of flu this winter.

Protect Others:

Especially children, the elderly, and those more vulnerable.

Stop the Spread:

Help prevent flu outbreaks in your community.



For our clinic locations and contact details for the Vaccination UK teams please scan the QR code or follow the links below:

<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/contact>
<https://www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics>

