

Principal's update

I had the privilege of attending the Park Federation's Young Musician of the Year awards last Wednesday - it was a feast of talent! Children representing ten academies, showcasing their musical talents. Akshat, Lyra, Anvitha and Venba were brilliant - I was very proud of them.

Our third Pillar at West Drayton is to 'get involved'. Through involvement, you will not only acquire skills and values which will enhance your growth and development, but also you will have lots of fun!

At West Drayton Academy, we are committed to supporting your child's personal development. Healthy eating is part of our development plan and being healthy is one of our Four Pillars.

Healthy eating is a national priority. Growing healthily and maintaining a healthy weight throughout childhood is important for physical, social and mental wellbeing and readiness to learn. Good nutrition also lays a foundation for future wellbeing, learning and employment.

One significant change has been to remove snacks with high fat, sugar or salt content. We understand that snacks can be an important part of the diet of children and can contribute positively towards a balanced diet. We strongly advise and encourage healthy choices for snacks at break time - fruit, cheese, salad, Vegetables help to give a slow release energy boost to keep children re-fuelled until lunch time. **Please do not send chocolate, sweets or crisps.**

Richard Yates
Principal



Dates for your diary

17th March

St. Patrick's Day

19th March

Uniform Donation Drive

23rd March

Y6 Assessment Week

Mother's Day Celebration

24th March

Reception Zoolab

Strictly Speaking Finals

26th March

End of term Nursery

27th March

Nursery Open Day

End of term

13th April

School reopens

15th April

Y1 Visit to synagogue

22nd April

Group Expressions

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic week is:

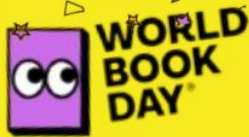
1st place: 1D with 99.7%

2nd place: 2CS with 98.6%

3rd place: 6C with 98.5%

It will be a non-uniform day for 1D on Friday 20th March.

Well done!

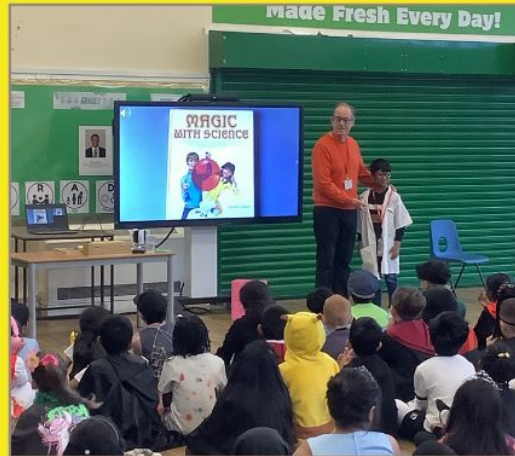


The school was transformed into a vibrant place this week as we celebrated World Book Day. From the moment the gates opened, the corridors were filled with a stunning array of costumes, as children arrived dressed as their favorite literary characters.

The highlight of the morning was a special visit from two acclaimed authors, who hosted inspiring assemblies for both Reception, KS1 and KS2. Following these sessions, the authors conducted some workshops, giving our pupils a unique insight into the world of professional writing. For those who had signed up, there was also a wonderful opportunity for a one-to-one meet-and-greet, where children had their books personally signed by the visiting authors, a memory we are sure they will treasure for years to come.

We received an overwhelming number of entries for our "Story in a Box" and "Book Cover" competitions. The effort and imagination poured into these projects made the judging process incredibly difficult! In addition to these creative challenges, the day was packed with non-stop excitement, including a school-wide treasure hunt and a popular "Guess the Teacher" challenge. Every child also went home with a book token to help them discover their next favorite story. The winners were invited to select their favorite books as prizes.

We would like to say a huge well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and to the parents for the incredible effort put into the costumes that made our school look so magical.



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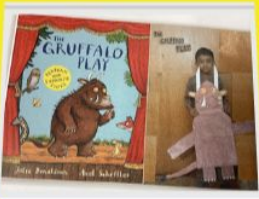
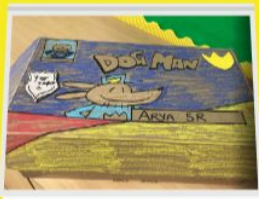
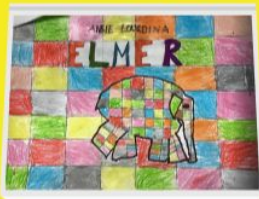
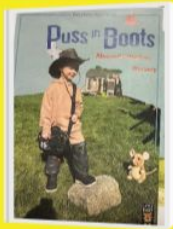
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WORLD BOOK DAY

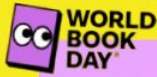
Book Cover Winners

Alexander (Nursery)	Ansie & Urwa (Reception)	Emma (Y1)	Hirithikram, Krithvick and Vibhisha (Y2)
Magizhini & Uttara (Y3)	Rayansh & Johnny (Y4)	Rihan (Y5)	Robert, Dania & Safiqa (Y6)



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Story in the Box Winners

Karnish (Nursery)	Thigazhoviyan & Mithunyasri (Reception)	Karnan & Khalifa (Y1)	Mahrosh, Aadhya, Tejas & Vihaanika Vibhisha (Y2)
Sienna & Vedhika (Y3)	Saanvi (Y4)	Arya (Y5)	Pranika (Y6)



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Sustainability@WDA

POSITIVE CHANGE : BIG DONATION DRIVE



At WDA, we are working towards environment sustainability, and we are constantly looking for ways to shrink our environmental footprint. Did you know that unwanted uniforms are actually one of the biggest contributors to our school's carbon emissions?

We are launching a uniform donation drive to ensure that outgrown clothes find a second life rather than heading to a landfill. We are looking for items that are:

- **Washed and clean**
- **In good condition (no significant tears or heavy staining)**
- **Ready for a new student to wear**

Next week, Mrs Malik, our Family Liaison Officer, will be hosting a donation station to collect your items. Whether you have a single jumper that no longer fits or a full bag of kit from a recent growth spurt, every single piece helps!

- **When: Thursday, 19th March**
- **Time: Right after school**
- **Where: Outside the Paddington Library**

If every family donated just one item, we would already have hundreds of garments ready to be reused.

Recycle school uniform!



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Federation Young Musician of the Year

What a privilege it was to attend the Young Musicians of the Year Showcase at Western House Academy on Thursday evening. Four of our Year 6 children demonstrated great courage performing in front of parents, staff and children from all of the Park Federation schools. They wowed the audience with their performances of "Night Changes" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow". Akshat played keyboard, Lyra and Anvitha sang and Venba played the guitar, all supported by Mr Smith on guitar. All four children have put such tremendous effort into their rehearsals and final performance. A huge well done to all of them and a big thank you to Mr Smith for preparing the children for this superb showcase opportunity. We can't wait to see more performances from these musicians!



Winners Dodgeball Tournament

This Friday we hosted Ashford Primary School and Cherry Lane Primary School for a dodgeball competition. It was a fantastic display of teamwork, agility, and most importantly sportsmanship. After several rounds of intense, games, our students showed incredible focus and managed to secure first position! Well done team WDA.

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Nursery Mother's Day

It was such a joy to have all of our wonderful mummies join us for our Mother's Day Stay and Play sessions! There is something truly special about seeing our nursery transformed into a space where home and school life come together.

At the core of everything we do is the idea of family. Having you here reinforces the bridge between nursery and home, helping the children feel secure, loved, and proud of their achievements. Seeing the smiles, the hugs, and the collaborative play, while developing skills such as communication and language and confidence, reminded us all that we aren't just a childcare setting—we are a community.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to make these memories with us. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



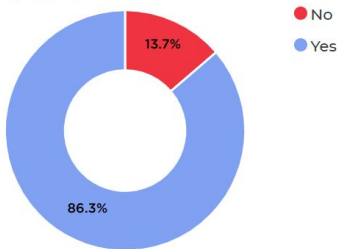
Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

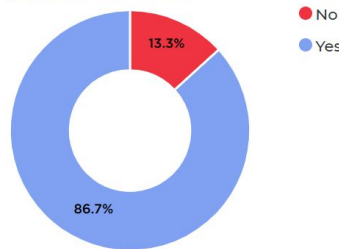
Should schools have active uniforms?



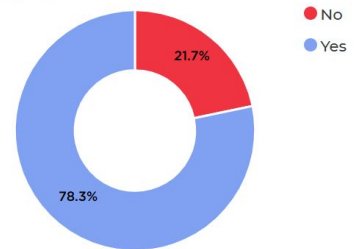
Your School



Regional (Greater London)



National



Coming up:

Have you found recent news overwhelming? (KS2)

Is it easy to manage big feelings? (KS1)

Pupils will have an opportunity to discuss heavy headlines and big questions.



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Celebrating You

We know how much the wonderful women in our pupil's lives do every single day. To celebrate International Women's Day and Mother's Day, we are hosting a special "Celebrating You" Tea and Cake event!

Whether you are a Mum, Grandmother, Aunt, or a special Carer, we want to invite you into school to share a sweet moment with your child. Come and enjoy some tea, delicious cake, and a chance to relax while we celebrate you.

Monday 23rd March

TIME:

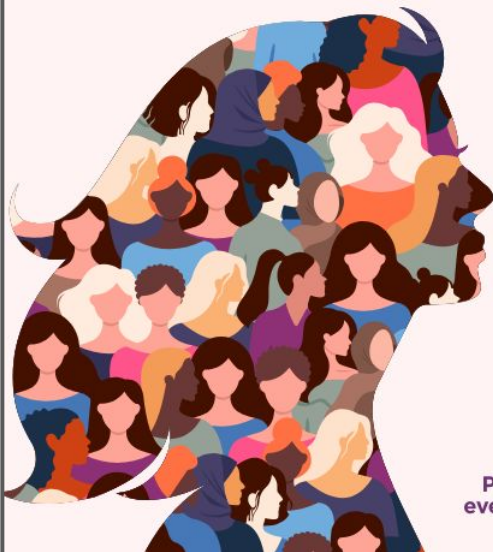
YEAR 2	9:00 - 9:30
YEAR 1	9:35 - 10:05
RECEPTION	10:10- 10:40

YEAR 5 & 6	1:30 - 2:00
YEAR 4	2:05 - 2:35
YEAR 3	2:40 - 3:10

COST: £2 PAYABLE VIA PARENTPAY

PLEASE LOG ON TO PARENTPAY BY WEDNESDAY 18TH
MARCH TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE.

Please Note: To ensure we have enough space and cake for everyone, we kindly ask that only one significant adult attends per child.



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5 A Day – A Simple Way to Stay Healthy

You may have heard the phrase “5 A Day”, but what does it mean? The NHS recommends eating at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Fruit and vegetables are full of vitamins, minerals and fibre that help our bodies stay healthy. Eating plenty of them can help lower the risk of all sorts of health problems.

What counts as a portion?

For adults, a portion is about 80g, which could be:

- 1 medium fruit (such as an apple or banana)
- 2 small fruits (like plums or satsumas)
- 3 tablespoons of cooked vegetables
- A bowl of salad



For children, portion sizes are usually smaller and depend on their age and appetite. A helpful guide is that a child’s portion is roughly the amount that fits in the palm of their hand.

Most fresh, frozen, tinned or dried fruit and vegetables count towards your 5 A Day. However, fruit juice or smoothies only count as one portion per day, and beans and pulses also count as just one portion, no matter how much you eat.

Easy ways to get your 5 A Day:

- Add fruit to cereal or yoghurt at breakfast
- Include vegetables with lunch and dinner
- Snack on fruit or carrot sticks



Eating 5 A Day is a simple step that can make a big difference to your health. Try adding a little more fruit and veg to your meals each day!

Information adapted from the NHS website and edited with the assistance of AI



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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

Anjola I

Vinaya S

Venba D

Year 2

Ayesha A

Amna A

Vikhulan D

Year 3

Yusuf S

Salma A

Jenadi R

Year 4

Zuri M

Scarlett R

Shannon T

Year 5

Aniyah M

Anam M

Alayna M

Year 6

Anvitha D

Hashir S

Maxwell M



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13th March 2026
Edition 24

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