

Principal's update

As we move through the busiest part of our school term, I have been reflecting on the world beyond our school gates. We live in unsettled times of rapid change, where the values of tolerance and respect are the essential foundations of a peaceful society.

Whether we are looking at global events or the local news within our own country, it is clear that the ability to listen, wanting to understand the views of others, and to value our differences is what allows communities to thrive.

At West Drayton Academy, we actively celebrate diversity. I am so proud to be the Principal of a school that is home to a terrific array of backgrounds and experiences. This variety is our greatest strength. It prepares our children to be global citizens.

While we take great pride in our 50+ languages, we strive every day for our children to be fluent in the one language of kindness and respect for others. From our Four Pillars, Pillar Two is 'being kind'. Communication isn't just about the words we speak; it is about how we treat one another when we disagree, how we support a friend who is struggling, and how we welcome a new child who has just arrived from a different school, area or country.

When children learn to respect one another, they are learning that our shared values are far more powerful than our differences.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these values at home. By working together, we ensure that West Drayton remains a safe, harmonious, and joyful place for every single child to learn and grow.

Warmest regards,

Richard Yates
Principal



HEART
Be kind

Dates for your diary

5th May

Farm Visit Nursery
Y3 Geography Activity

7th May

Judo Taster Session

8th May

Y3/4 Tri Golf Event

11th May

Y6 SATS week

13th & 14th May

Y2 Visit to Mini Golf

14th May

Live Workout with Joe Wicks

20th May

Y3/4 Quadkids Event at Hillingdon

25th May

Half Term

1st June

School reopens for pupils
Y5 Trip to Windsor Castle

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 6M with 98.4%
2nd place: 4L & 5R with 97.1%
3rd place: 6B with 97%

It will be a non-uniform day for 6M on Friday 8th May.

Well done!

School Assembly: Classical Dance Performance

This Friday's assembly showcased a classical dance performance based on the devotional composition "Mushika Vahana Modaka Hasta". Ayati, Devanshi, Diya S, Diya V, Kiara, Saanvi, Sunena, Shriya, Tanushreya and Shravani participated in this performance. These children were trained by an experienced guru, Raga Sudha Gaaru, from the Sanskriti Centre of Cultural Excellence.

This beautiful piece begins with a prayer to Lord Vinayaka, seeking his blessings for wisdom and auspicious beginnings. It then honors Goddess Saraswathi, the embodiment of knowledge, music, and the arts, and concludes with a tribute to Lord Shiva, the cosmic dancer, symbolizing the harmony of movement, rhythm, and expression.

The children manifested extraordinary discipline and highlighted the unique beauty of Indian classical dance. It was a vibrant display of our cultural diversity, and left everyone in awe!

A special thanks to the parents of the participants for their time and support and for bringing this performance to West Drayton Academy.



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Y4 VIKING DAY

Adventure awaited our Year 4 warriors this week as they traded their modern uniforms for tunics and furs for our spectacular Viking Day! To deepen their historical inquiry, the children spent the day immersed in the world of the Norsemen, showcasing incredible creativity by crafting their own shields, swords, and longships. Our classrooms were filled with the aroma of the past as children explored the Viking diet, even rolling up their sleeves to prepare traditional bread. It was wonderful to see the effort put into their stunning costumes, which truly brought our history topic to life. From ship-building to bread-breaking, it was an unforgettable day of hands-on learning that left our young Vikings ready to conquer their next academic challenge!



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Y3 Visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple



Year 3 recently embarked on a wonderful trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor, where they were immersed in the vibrant sights and sounds of a working Hindu temple. The children explored the stunning grounds, admiring the intricate artwork and statues before visiting the cow protection centre to learn about the importance of animals in the faith. Inside the temple, the group observed peaceful moments of prayer and song, gaining a real insight into Hindu worship. A highlight of the day was seeing the beautiful murtis and learning the stories of the gods; some children even had the chance to dress up in traditional clothing. It was an inspiring day that truly brought their classroom learning to life!



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Y2 Owl and Raptor Centre Visit

Our recent visit from The Owl and Raptor Centre brought a touch of magic (and a few feathers!) to our classrooms this week. It was a wonderful opportunity for our young learners to step out of the pages of their books and into the fascinating world of real-life raptors.

The children were delighted to meet four unique owls, each with their own distinct personality and appearance. From the silent flight of the Barn Owl to the piercing gaze of the Southern African Owl, our students had a front-row seat to nature's most impressive nocturnal hunters.

This visit perfectly complemented our current class story, *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. The children were able to compare the character of Plop to the real owls they met.

It was a truly memorable day that sparked curious questions and inspired some fantastic follow-up writing. A huge thank you to the handlers at The Owl Centre for such an enriching experience!



PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN RESIDENTS' ONLY PARKING

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer, brighter days, it is time to enjoy a refreshing walk to school.



If you must drive, please remember to be mindful of our local residents. Please **do not park** on the private driveways and you are requested not to use resident-only parking spaces.

Let's lead by example and show our community the respect they deserve. Keep the driveways clear, park sensibly, and whenever possible please choose to walk!



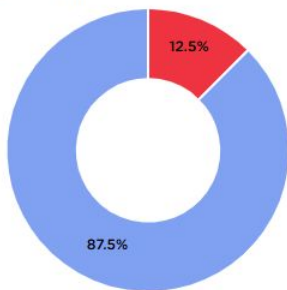
Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Do you know what a healthy relationship feels like?

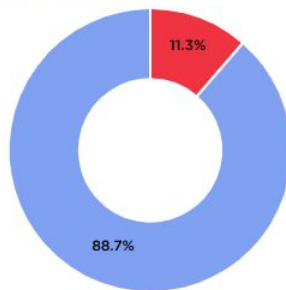


Your School



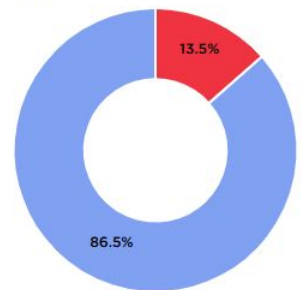
● No
● Yes

Regional (Greater London)



● No
● Yes

National



Coming up:

Should the UK send its rubbish to other countries?

Children will have an opportunity to discuss, what some other countries are doing, and whether this is something UK should be following as well.



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HEALTH

ULTIMATE LUNCHBOX

Help Shaun create the perfect lunchbox by following the five steps to the ultimate lunch... main, fruit, snack & water.

MAIN - SANDWICHES 1

A STRONG BODY

A filling sandwich needs fibre. Choose brown or wholemeal bread.

A TRUE HEART

Add a filling that contains protein and vegetables to keep you filled up and ready for adventure.

OR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

Why not try last night's leftovers in a sealed container - cooked chicken or salmon with veg can be perfect.

More great lunchbox tips...
...plus veg hacks
simplevegs.org.uk

3 SNACK

Lunchboxes aren't the same without a snack, pick the ones with less sugar and salt.

2 FRUIT

Harness the sweet goodness of fruit. One portion is one child's handful - don't forget to chop into bitesize pieces.

OR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

4 VEGETABLE

Try raw veg, or even cold cooked carrots if your child prefers soft textures. One portion is one child's handful - don't forget to chop into bitesize pieces.

5 WATER

Nothing quenches your thirst like clear, fresh water.

OR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

PACK A SNACK

SWEET GOODNESS

REAL REFRESHMENT

ULTIMATE LUNCHBOX

BUILD YOUR STRENGTH

LET'S GET STARTED!

REAL REFRESHMENT

ULTIMATE LUNCHBOX

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Shaun the Sheep
EAT THE RAINBOW

Healthy body, healthy mind!

Build ultimate lunchbox: To build the ultimate lunchbox, follow five simple steps: include a fiber-rich main, fresh fruit, a healthy snack, vegetables, and water. Choose wholemeal bread or wraps with protein-rich fillings like tuna or hummus to keep you energized for adventure. Complete the meal with a "handful" of bitesize fruits and raw vegetables to eat the rainbow, opting for water to stay perfectly refreshed.

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, most young people will encounter exam stress, which can affect their mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimates that 87% of pupils experience exam-related stress. This highlights the importance of supporting young people to manage exam pressure effectively, maintain perspective, and protect their overall wellbeing during these periods.

1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM

The build-up to exams can feel overwhelming, with competing demands on time and energy. Encourage young people to reflect on whether their workload is realistic and allows them time to rest and recharge. Support them in creating a manageable revision timetable that includes regular breaks and occasional days off. Remind them that plans can be adjusted if they feel overwhelmed, helping to reduce the pressure and prevent burnout.

2 CLEAR UP THE CLUTTER

A cluttered workspace can reduce focus and increase stress levels. Encourage young people to keep their study area tidy and organised, with clearly arranged notes and materials. A calm, dedicated space can support concentration and create a more relaxed mindset. Adding colour, mind maps, or creative elements can also make revision feel less daunting and more manageable.

3 MASTER THE MATERIALS

Revision can feel particularly stressful if young people are unsure where to begin. Help them confirm key study topics and materials, ensuring they're using accurate and relevant resources. Reducing uncertainty can help them feel more in control of their learning. Reassure them that they don't need to know everything perfectly, as building their understanding over time is what matters most.

4 GET CREATIVE WITH NOTES

Writing out detailed notes, rather than relying only on bullet points, can strengthen their understanding and retention. Encourage young people to turn these notes into flashcards for regular review and repetition. Feeling familiar with their material can boost their confidence and reduce anxiety during exams. This approach can help them feel more prepared and less likely to panic under pressure.

5 USE VISUAL MEMORY AIDS

Visual resources can make learning more effective and reduce their frustration when information feels difficult to grasp. Encourage the use of diagrams, videos, sticky notes, and colour coding to reinforce key ideas. Creating simple mnemonics can also make information easier to remember. Using a variety of methods can help prevent mental fatigue and keep revision feeling fresh and manageable.

6 BUILD A TECH TOOLKIT

Technology can be a valuable supporting tool during exam preparation when used in a balanced way. Educational websites, revision platforms, and subject-specific videos can help explain complicated topics clearly, reducing the risk of confusion or stress. Encourage young people to use these tools to support – rather than overwhelm – their learning, and to take regular breaks from their screens to protect their wellbeing.

7 KEEP REVISION ENJOYABLE

Revision is often more effective when it feels engaging and varied. Encourage young people to incorporate humour, real-life examples, or creative approaches into their learning. Mixing study methods, including light physical activity such as short walks, can also improve their mood and focus. Enjoyable revision experiences can help reduce stress and make the process feel more positive and sustainable.

8 USE ACTIVE STUDY METHODS

Active revision techniques can help young people feel more confident and in control of their learning. Strategies such as spaced repetition and active recall, including self-testing or explaining concepts aloud, can highlight both their strengths and areas for improvement. This clarity can reduce last-minute panic and support a calmer, more prepared approach to exams.

9 USE AI THOUGHTFULLY

AI tools can support revision by making learning more personalised and manageable. Young people can use them to generate practice questions, summarise information, or break down topics into simpler steps. Used carefully, these tools can reduce overwhelm and save time. Remind young people to check AI information with trusted sources to ensure its accuracy and build confidence in their understanding.

10 PRACTISE WITH ONLINE TOOLS

Online revision platforms can help young people test their knowledge and track their progress. Many offer quizzes, flashcards, and practice papers aligned with exam boards. Encourage regular self-testing – including timed activities – to build up familiarity with exam conditions. Becoming more comfortable with the format of exams can reduce anxiety and help young people approach them with greater confidence.



HEAD



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HANDS



HEALTH



Smart Savings, Sustainable Style!

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Pre-Loved Uniform Shop, now open in the school office. Help the planet and your pocket by giving quality uniform a second life!

Visit Us

School Office

Opening Hours: 10 am – 2 pm daily

Suggested Donations

We believe in keeping things affordable. Our suggested prices are:



£3



£1



£2



£2

Why buy pre-loved?

It's a fantastic way to reduce waste, support the school community, and grab a bargain for those inevitable growth spurts!

All items are laundered, quality-checked, and ready for a new home.



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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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

Smriti A

Yohan G

Year 2

Misha J

Samyra R

Krithvick K

Year 3

Harshitha V

Ali A

Thigazhoviyan J

Year 4

Rajan S

Saanvi P

Aaditraj D

Year 5

Liyana D

Jacob H

Michael O

Year 6

Thomas G

Yusra K

Venba J

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**DYNAMOS
CRICKET**



**Power
your
play**

dynamoscricet.co.uk

Join us at:
Harefield Cricket Club

Session dates:
10th May - for 8 Sundays

Session timings:
11am till Midday

Contact:
hcc.colts@gmail.com

It all starts with... **ALL STARS CRICKET**

We all play at:
HAREFIELD CRICKET CLUB

Session dates:
EVERY SUNDAY FROM SUNDAY 10TH MAY TO 28TH JUNE

Session timings: 10AM TILL 11AM

Ages:
5 - 8 YEARS OLD (GIRLS ONLY)

Contact:
STEPHEN CROFT - stephencroft22@gmail.com or hcc.colts@gmail.com

Including a FREE personalised t-shirt, bat, ball and backpack

Sign up today at allstarscricket.co.uk

Uxbridge Cricket Club



Junior Cricketers!



Interested in getting out and having fun this summer season?

Our cricket club has a variety of junior cricket teams ready to take on new & returning members!

We have an age under-10 through to under-17 team for you!

Training:
7 to 14 years old - Every Friday 5pm to 6pm, Starting 28th April
15 to 17 years old - Wednesday 6pm to 8pm. Please contact Abrar to get start dates

Contact Abrar Dar at Abrarcricket@sky.com or call 07990 647744

Club website

<https://uxbridgecricketclub.hltcricket.com>

Made With **Flyerwiz**.app



Uxbridge Cricket Club Launches Girls Cricket

Starting 22nd April
Every Wednesday 6pm to 8PM

All Abilities welcome / No experience needed



Please contact Abrar on 079906464776
Uxbridgenewcolts@gmail.com

Location | Uxbridge Cricket Club
Getting way | U28 1HL



HENDON



EPHESIANS

**GOD'S GREAT
POWER**

Waterloo Road Church

Holiday Bible Club



For Primary School Age Children

Wed 27th - Fri 29th May

9.30am-12.30pm | Free (no charge)

Get more info
& sign-up here

