

## Principal's update

As we prepare for the final term of the academic year, there has been lots of 'good news' shared.

Y6, children and staff, have worked hard to ensure the SATS tests were completed with alacrity and precision. Diversity Day was a brilliant opportunity to showcase the range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds we have at WDA. Walk to School Week reminded us about the importance of health and sustainability.

Like last term, we have many trips, events and experiences to look forward to during the final summer term.

As we enter the final half term, maintaining academic momentum in the final school half-term is crucial to prevent the 'learning loss' that sometimes sets in before the summer break. Continued application consolidates key knowledge and ensures the children are fully prepared for the transition into the next academic year.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to your child's education. We look forward to working together to ensure a rewarding and successful final term.

Richard Yates  
Principal

## Dates for your diary

### 1st June

School reopens for pupils  
Y5 Trip to Windsor Castle

### 8th June

Phonics screening week  
Reception 2026/27 Open  
Evening 5:00 pm

### 9th & 10th June

KS2 Health and Fitness days

### 12th June

Science Week  
Y2 Visit to Transport Museum  
KS2 Sports Day

### 15th June

Y2 Visit to Transport Museum

### 22nd June

Assessment Week

### 24th June

Y1 visit to Littlehampton  
Beach



## Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 6C with 99.2%  
2nd place: 4OR with 99%  
3rd place: 4W with 98.6%

**It will be a non-uniform day for 6C on Friday 5th June**

**Well done!**

## Celebration Assembly

Each half term, we hold a special assembly in order to recognise and celebrate children's achievements. Congratulations to the winners. Continue to work hard and perhaps you could win next time!

### Accelerated Reader Raffle (Year 2-6)

Year 2 Winner: Jaival  
 Year 3 Winner: Vedhika  
 Year 4 Winner: Shannon  
 Year 5 Winner:  
 Year 6 Winner: Holly

### KS1 100,000 Words!

Children who have read 100,000 words+

Yuvaan	2 Browne
Ananya	2 Browne
Sid	2 Soundar

### Reading Plus Recognition Kudos most combos above 80%

Vedhika	3 Atinuke
Madelyne	3 Potter
Shivank	3 Dahl
Saanvi	4 Wilson
Srinika	4 Lowery
Diya	4 Rauf
Jamal	5 Zephaniah
Shima-Amaia	5 Sachar
Jayron	5 Sachar
Sreemanth	6 Carroll
Mariam	6 Blackman
Sagnika	6 Morpurgo

### Most RWI Books Read (Y1)

Dr Seuss: Thomas  
 Donaldson: Hafsa  
 A A Milne: Sharvil

### KS1 Maths Effort Award

Cameron	1 Milne
Fathima	1 Donaldson
Shafana	1 Seuss
Vikhulun	2 Soundar
Shaanvi	2 Browne
Izza	2 Bond



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## Millionaire's Club

Children who have read 1 million words+

Dua 6 Carroll  
Abhiram 4 Rauf

## Year 6 SATs Companion

Dua Morpurgo  
Shravani Carroll  
Alvi Blackman

## Most Improved in Multiplication (Year 4)

Mark Lowery: Amelia  
Wilson: Al-Ameen  
Onjali Rauf: Aaditraj



**Class with the most children scoring 25/25  
Mark Lowery & Onjali Rauf**

## Attendance:

Children who achieved 100% attendance for the Summer 1 receive a certificate.



This term, our tiny explorers dived into the magic of growth! They got their hands dirty planting sunflower seeds, learning how a tiny speck turns into a giant, golden flower, and what a plant needs to grow. We also set up our very own "Window Greenhouses" using clear bags and beans. This allows the children to become mini-scientists, watching the secret world underground as the beans sprout their very first roots and shoots.

**BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE**

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

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

#### GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

#### ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

#### SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

#### IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

#### ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

### USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

### DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.



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## Corn frizzlers recipe

These easy fritters take minutes to make and go great with pretty much any dip you fancy! Perfect for a lunchbox or served with a salad for dinner.

Prep: 10 mins  
Cook: 10 mins  
Serves 4



### Ingredients

#### Fritters

- 180g plain or wholemeal flour
- 1.5 teaspoons baking powder
- 0.5 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 4 eggs
- 250ml semi-skimmed milk
- 2 spring onions, sliced
- 350g sweetcorn (fresh, tinned and drained, or frozen and defrosted all work great)
- 1 large sweet potato, grated
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 0.5 red chilli, de-seeded and sliced (optional)
- 1 handful of fresh coriander, roughly chopped (optional)

#### Yoghurt dip

- 250g low-fat plain Greek-style yoghurt
- handful of fresh mint, finely chopped (or 1 teaspoon dried mint)
- black pepper, to taste

### Method

1. Mix the flour and baking powder in a bowl. Add the eggs and milk, and whisk until the mixture becomes a smooth batter. Then stir in the corn, sweet potato, spring onions, curry powder, and chilli and coriander if using.

This recipe works well with loads of different types of veg, so mix it up! Try swapping the sweet potato for grated carrot, courgette, squash or beetroot, and switch out the corn for peas, chopped pepper or drained tinned chickpeas.

2. Heat the oil in a pan over a medium heat. Add a few tablespoons of batter to the pan, making sure each dollop has enough space around it and does not overlap with the others. Fry the fritters for 2 to 3 minutes on each side, or until golden and cooked through.

3. Once the fritters are ready, remove from the pan onto a plate lined with kitchen paper. Work in batches until all the batter is cooked.

4. Make the dip by mixing the yoghurt, mint and pepper together in a bowl. Serve alongside the fritters and get dipping! Add a side salad and a crusty wholemeal roll to make a light meal.

Head to [Eat Them To Defeat Them](#) for loads more tasty veg-based recipes.



# 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

Sena  
Gowripriya  
Priyanshi

### Year 2

Clarissa  
Cesar  
Yuvaan

### Year 3

Saisrihaan  
Hashir  
Stanislaw

### Year 4

Mark  
Daniel  
Ashwath

### Year 5

Vivaan  
Humsikha  
Olivia

### Year 6

Aminah  
Jace



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# 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.