

## Principal's update

Children from Y1, Y2 and Y4 have been taking some national tests this week - Y1 and some Y2 have been checking their reading skills in the Phonics Screening Check and Y4 have been checking their multiplication skills in the MTC. For both tests, have a look at the additional information below.

The children have been brilliant and I'll share the outcomes once we get them from the Department for Education.

For many years, children at West Drayton Academy have consistently been testing at levels well above the national average. Performing above national levels in phonics indicates that children are developing strong early reading skills and far more likely to perform well in the future. A strong MTC performance indicates that children have a secure recall of facts up to 12 x 12 and better prepared for arithmetic, including fractions, ratios, percentages and the four operations.

Have a great weekend.  
Richard Yates

**At our school, we ♥**

# MTC & PHONICS

Building strong readers, one sound at a time!

**MTC** **MTC – Checking Multiplication Skills**

We use the MTC (Multiplication Tables Check) in Year 4 to help children build fluency and confidence with their times tables.

- ✓ A quick, digital check
- ✓ Helps us identify strengths and areas to support
- ✓ Prepares children for future learning

$6 \times 7 = 42$

**Phonics Screening Check**

In Year 1, children take the Phonics Screening Check to show how well they can read real and nonsense words.

- ✓ A simple, one-to-one check
- ✓ Helps us celebrate progress and identify support
- ✓ Great phonics = strong reading for life!

ship   flog   zorb

Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home.  
Together, we're building bright futures! ♥

## Dates for your diary

### 15th June

Rail Safety Week  
2B Visit to Transport Museum

### 17th June

Health & Fitness

### 18th June

Health & Fitness +  
KS1 Sports Day 9:30am

### 22nd June

Assessment Week

### 24th June

Y1 visit to Littlehampton Beach

### 26th June

Y6 Trip to London Eye

### 29th June

2Browne visit to Transport Museum

### 30th June

Y6 First Aid Course

### 1st July

Y5 Visit to West End  
Y2 Visit to Cinema

## Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 5Z with 97.9%  
2nd place: 3D with 97.6%  
3rd place: 2B with 97.3%

**It will be a non-uniform day for 5Z on Monday 22nd June. Well done!**



## Strictly Speaking

On Wednesday 10th June, Shima, Alayna and Ayesha from Year 5 represented West Drayton Academy at The Park Federation Strictly Speaking Finals! They have worked extremely hard over the last few weeks to prepare a speech on the topic: "Should teachers be replaced by AI?" They have written, practised and learned their speech by heart. They were articulate, confident and extremely professional in their delivery of their speech, which was in front of a large audience and a panel of judges. They represented West Drayton Academy brilliantly and should be very proud of all of their hard work.

## Reception Open Evening

A Reception Open Evening for our new cohort was held last week. The evening saw a strong turn out.

The key focus was to share the important details with parents, and answer any questions. It was led by Miss Howard, who is the Director of Early Years. We are grateful to our school caterers, School Friends Club (after school club) and PMG, the school uniform shop, who were on hand to offer support and information.



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## A spectacular sports week

It has been an incredible week at school, and we have so much exciting sports news to share with you!

**VIP Recognition:** We kicked off the week with the brilliant news that Alfie in Year 6 was awarded a VIP distinction from his basketball team – Hillingdon Heat. What a fantastic achievement!

**Tennis Success:** This week Siddarth, Jegath, Sahan and Asra represented WDA at Federation tennis tournaments. They played brilliantly and came in second place—huge congratulations to our talented young players!

**Health & Fitness Days:** We celebrated two action-packed days of health and fitness. The children climbed to new heights on the climbing wall, Years 5 and 6 showed off their skills on the BMX bikes, and we held whole-school assemblies. Best of all, we managed to fit it all in, regardless of the weather!

**KS2 Sports Day:** Children had brilliant day today at KS2 sports day. They participated in different activities and races, it was lovely to see them out there and trying their absolute best. Thank you to all the parents who joined us to support the children, your presence made the day extra special

## What's Coming Up Next Week?

The active fun doesn't stop here! Next week, we have another two days of health and fitness activities on Wednesday and Thursday - please can all children wear PE kit on these days. Plus, Y1 and Y2 will be having their Sports Day on Thursday morning. Get ready for another great week!

## KS2 Sports Day



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## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL ATTENDANCE **SUPPORT GROUPS**

### You shared. We heard.

- Thank you to all the parents/carers who joined our focus groups in March.
- In response, Hillingdon Educational Psychology Service are now offering **support groups** to provide the **safe, reflective spaces** and **learning opportunities** you told us you need.
- All parents/carers of children displaying EBSNA are welcome - even if you didn't attend the focus groups.
- Spaces are limited, so we encourage you to sign up to your preferred option as soon as possible!

Scan the QR code to register your interest!



In Person



Online

### FLEXIBLE Drop-In Sessions

- Fortnightly drop-in sessions - no expectation to attend every one
- Group members may vary each session
- Ideal if you need flexibility or want to access support as and when it's needed
- Option of online or in-person drop-in sessions

Summer term 2026

For further information, please contact  
[educationalpsychologyservice@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:educationalpsychologyservice@hillingdon.gov.uk)



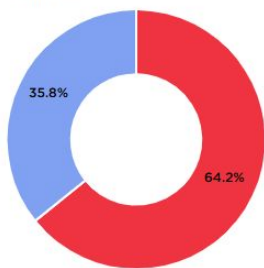
### Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Is it easy to get on well together?

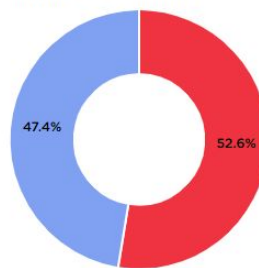


Your School



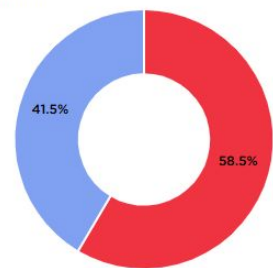
● No  
● Yes

Regional (Greater London)



● No  
● Yes

National



### Coming up: Should you learn more about water safety?

Children will have an opportunity to reflect on their understanding of water safety and consider whether they would benefit from learning more.



## BIKES & SCOOTERS

This information is for parents if your child brings a scooter or bike to the school.

While we do our best to maintain a safe and secure environment, the cycle shed must remain accessible during drop off and pick up times, therefore leaving scooters or bikes in the shed remains the owner's responsibility.

However, to help us protect everyone's property, we kindly ask for your cooperation with a few standard practices, such as;

- **Locking it securely:** Please provide your child with a bicycle lock. We recommend practising using the lock with your child and reminding them to secure their bike every time they leave it in the shed.
- **Clear marking/labelling:** Please permanently and visibly label bikes and scooters with your child's name. This makes it much easier to identify and return items if they are misplaced or recovered.

We would also highly appreciate it if you could discuss these points with your child.

We also strongly recommend taking a photograph of the bicycle or scooter and keeping a record of its serial number. Keeping the record of serial numbers can really differentiate where there are similar scooters in use.

We also request community vigilance, where you notice anything unusual, please speak to a member of staff.



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JOIN US FOR OUR  
**LARK IN THE PARK**

FIRDAY  
3RD JULY  
2:30PM TO 5.00PM

BBQ

RAFFLE

POPORN

FOOD STALLS

GAMES

TOMBOLA

WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY  
SUPPORTING  
**actionaid**  
BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

**SUMMER FAIR**

MORE DETAIL TO FOLLOW!

**BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE**

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



## Year 6

### Taste of Secondary School Menu

Dear Year 6 Parents and Carers,

We want to help our Year 6 students feel ready and excited for secondary school. From Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, our catering team will serve a special menu once a week.

This menu is designed to be fun and will give children a taste of the choices they may receive in secondary school. This will be every Thursday starting 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to the end of term.

You can see the menu and book your child's lunch through Parent Pay as usual.

**Thank you for your support.**



The dates to look out for are:

25<sup>th</sup> June  
 2nd July  
 9th July  
 16<sup>th</sup> July

Jackets  
 Wraps  
 Nachos  
 Jackets

All our food is freshly prepared using seasonal produce



NACHOS - LOADED JACKETS - WRAPS & PITTA WITH SELECTION OF SIDES



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## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SPORTS BETTING ONLINE

Sports betting online involves placing wagers on real-world sporting events through websites, apps, and linked accounts. In the UK, licensed gambling is illegal for under-18s, yet young people may still encounter betting through sports coverage, social media, gaming spaces, friends, or adult accounts. With gambling content increasingly visible online, parents and educators should help children understand the risks, financial impact, pressure, and how to make safer choices.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EASY ONLINE ACCESS

Online sports betting sites and apps are widely available and can be accessed through phones, tablets, computers, and, indirectly, gaming or social platforms. Some young people may attempt to bypass age checks using false details or someone else's account. Digital wallets, prepaid cards, and saved payment details can also make spending harder to notice, increasing the risk of discreet or impulsive betting.

#### PEER AND INFLUENCER PRESSURE

Social media influencers, online tipsters, and sports content creators can make betting appear fun, profitable, or part of being a committed fan. Young people may feel pressure to copy this behaviour, especially when friends talk about odds, accumulators, or predictions during matches. Gambling advertising rules aim to protect under-18s, but children can still see persuasive betting content in online spaces.

#### FREE BET OFFERS

Online betting platforms often use free bets, bonus credits, or 'risk-free' promotions to attract users. These offers can make gambling seem safe or low commitment, but they usually include terms and conditions that young people may not understand. A free incentive can lead to real spending, repeated deposits, or the belief that gambling is easier to control than it is.

#### NORMALISING GAMBLING BEHAVIOUR

Online sports betting can make gambling feel like a routine part of watching sport. Young people may begin to see odds, predictions, and wagers as harmless entertainment rather than as financial risk. This can also blur boundaries with other gambling-like activities, including loot boxes, skins betting, or casino-style games, making later gambling feel more acceptable or familiar.

#### ADVERTISING AROUND SPORT

Young people can be exposed to betting brands through sports broadcasts, social media, sponsorship, pitch-side advertising, and content linked to major fixtures. Repeated exposure may make gambling seem normal, glamorous, or expected as part of the sport. Without adult guidance, children may connect betting with excitement, loyalty, and success, rather than understanding that gambling is designed to make money from customers.

#### CHASING WINS AND LOSSES

A winning bet can create excitement and encourage a young person to try again, while a losing bet may lead them to place another wager to win back the money. This is known as chasing losses. Because online bets can be quick, small, and available at any time, children may not recognise how rapidly repeated decisions can become costly and emotionally harmful.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about how betting works, including odds, losses, advertising, and the fact that gambling companies are commercial businesses. Use examples they may recognise, such as betting adverts during football matches, influencer predictions, or online tipsters. Keep the tone calm and curious, so that children feel able to ask questions, share concerns, and discuss pressure from friends without fearing punishment.

#### SET SAFER BOUNDARIES

Use device, app store, and bank settings to limit spending, block gambling transactions where possible, and require adult approval for purchases. Check payment histories for unfamiliar withdrawals, digital wallet use, or repeated small transactions. These safeguards work best alongside clear conversations, helping children understand that online payments are still real money, even when they feel quick, hidden, or invisible.

#### EXPLORE ONLINE EXPOSURE

Ask which apps, websites, games, sports channels, and social media accounts children use around live sport. Betting content may appear through adverts, sponsorship, livestreams, tipster pages, or discussions between friends. Watching a match together can help you point out gambling messaging in real time and explain how it is designed to influence choices, normalise betting, and encourage spending.

#### NOTICE AND SEEK SUPPORT

Look out for secrecy around devices, sudden interest in odds, requests for money, unexplained spending, mood changes linked to sports results, or late-night phone use. Respond with support first, then gather information and seek specialist advice where needed. Organisations such as GambleAware, Ygam, GAMSTOP, and the Gambling Commission provide information about gambling harms, education, blocking tools, and support routes.



## 5 MIN BREAKFAST RECIPES



[Click here for more quick 5 min easy and healthy breakfast recipes](#)

### Mushrooms on toast recipe

These mushrooms are cooked in a delicious sauce and take just minutes to make. Eat well yet wisely with this healthy start to the day!

Prep: 5 mins  
 Cook: 10 mins  
 Serves 4



#### Ingredients

- 4 handfuls of cup or button mushrooms, washed and sliced
- 300ml semi-skimmed milk
- 4 slices wholemeal bread
- 4 teaspoons lower-fat spread
- 4 tablespoons cornflour

#### Method

1. Put the mushrooms and milk into a saucepan, and heat until just boiling. Reduce the heat and simmer gently for 5 minutes.
2. Meanwhile toast the bread. Spread each slice with lower-fat spread.
3. Mix the cornflour with 2 tablespoons of cold water, then stir the mixture into the mushrooms. Heat until it thickens (this takes only a few seconds) and cook gently for 1 minute.

Another time, use the mushroom mixture as a delicious filling for omelettes.

4. Divide the mushrooms evenly between the slices of toast and serve straight away.

You can use regular or mini pitta breads instead of toast if you prefer. Warm the pittas first and stuff them with some shredded lettuce before spooning in the mushrooms.



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THE READING AGENCY

UNIVERSAL  
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP  
UNITED KINGDOM

# READ to the BEAT

## Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Join FREE at any Hillingdon Library!



[summerreadingchallenge.org.uk](https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk)

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

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**BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE**

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



# West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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12th June 2026  
Edition 34

## 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

Iniya

Hafsa

Davyd

### Year 2

Lakshita

Aria

Krishav

### Year 3

Meisha

Danitza

Arhaan

### Year 4

Vinushree

Aahil

Eleanor

### Year 5

Ayati

Eliza

Bianka

### Year 6

Aleena

Chino

Akshat



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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.