

Principal's update

At West Drayton Academy, we offer a curriculum that's beyond National Curriculum requirements. We provide a range of experiences and opportunities which best meets our children's learning and developmental needs. We provide the 'Childhood Promise', free, memorable trips that can be 'savoured' for a lifetime. We also provide our 'Citizenship Programme' - a series of biweekly discussions to cover the skills, knowledge and understanding that help our children play a full part in society.

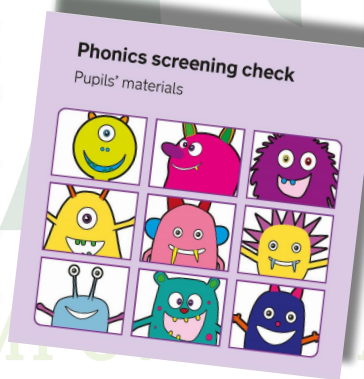
Last week, our Year 4 pupils took the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). The MTC is a national test introduced by the Department for Education to assess pupils' knowledge and quick recall of multiplication tables up to 12.



The test is taken online and consists of 25 questions, which pupils have six seconds to answer each. This important milestone helps ensure that children have a solid foundation in mathematics, aiding their future learning and problem-solving skills.

Well done to all our Year 4 pupils for their hard work and dedication! Last year, the number of children achieving full marks was twice as many as the national average. No pressure there Year Four!!

In Year 1, our children have been completing the phonics screening - a short, school-based assessment designed to assess phonics skills and identify those who may need extra support with decoding. It's a way to ensure children are progressing in their phonics learning. This year, our overall success rate was 94%. Again, this score is well above national average. Well done to children and staff - brilliant effort!



Richard Yates

Dates for your diary

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

Non uniform day for Tombola donations

30th June

Y6 First Aid Course

1st July

Y5 Visit to West End

Y2 Visit to Cinema

3rd July

Lark in the Park

School finishes 2:30 pm

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

- 1st place: 1D with 97.3%
- 2nd place: 2CS & 4W with 96.9%
- 3rd place: 6M with 96.8%

It will be a non-uniform day for 1D on Friday 26th June.

Well done!



A Spectacular KS1 Sports Day!

What a fantastic Morning we had at our Key Stage 1 Sports Day! The field was buzzing with energy as our young athletes demonstrated incredible teamwork and inspiring resilience in every single event. Whether they were sprinting to the finish line or balancing eggs on spoons, the children gave it their absolute all and supported one another beautifully. It was also wonderful to see so many parents, carers, and families lining the track—your enthusiastic cheering and support truly made the day extra special for the children. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate our mini sports stars!



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

Health & Fitness Week - Highlights



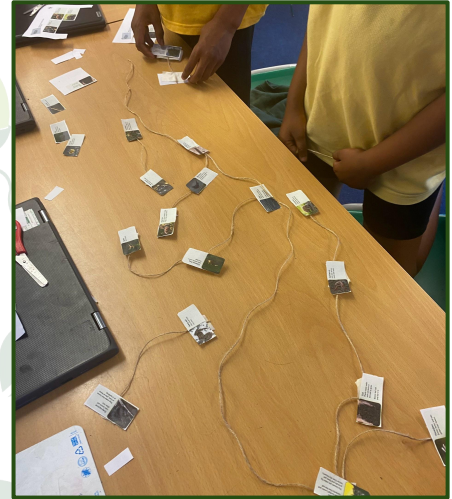
BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

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

Science Week

This week we have been celebrating Science Week! Throughout the week, our classrooms were transformed into bustling laboratories as the children dived into hands-on experiments and fascinating scientific research. Children have explored and illustrated some truly mind-boggling scientific questions.

The grand finale on Friday was a wonderful sight, with the school buzzing with energy as children and staff alike brought innovation to life by dressing up as an array of inspiring scientists. Thank you to all of our brilliant young innovators, teachers, and supportive families for making the week such a success.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

All Aboard! 2 Bond's Big London Adventure

Class 2 Bond had a fantastic trip to the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden! The children loved exploring vintage buses, historic Tube carriages, and learning how our capital city has moved through the ages. They were absolute stars and represented the school brilliantly.

Well done, 2Bond!



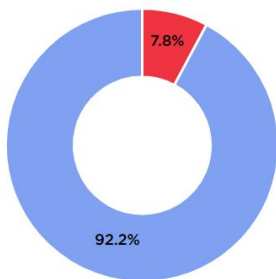
Votes for School

This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Should you learn more about water safety?

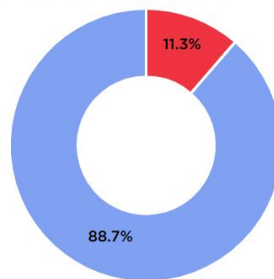


Your School



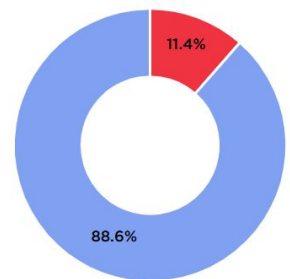
No
 Yes

Regional (Greater London)



No
 Yes

National



Coming up:

Will the social media ban work? (KS2)

Does banning things work? (KS1)

With Sir Keir Starmer announcing plans to ban under-16s from social media next spring, pupils will have an opportunity to discuss whether they think this approach will work and younger pupils will reflect on whether banning something is a helpful way to solve problems.

TOMBOLA DONATIONS

OWN- CLOTHES DAY

29TH JUNE

OUR SUMMER FAIR IS NEARLY HERE! PREP IS UNDERWAY AND WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR OUR POPULAR TOMBOLA AND TOY STALLS

NURSERY: ANYTHING IN A BOTTLE

**RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2:
NEW OR GENTLY LOVED TOYS**

YEARS 3 & 4: CHOCOLATE AND SWEETS

**YEARS 5 & 6 : GIFT WRAPPED TOILETRIES
AND COSMETICS**



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



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

DIVERSITY DAY
Friday 3rd July

A celebration of our differences, our community and what makes us unique!

At West Drayton Academy, we are proud to celebrate the rich diversity within our school community. Children will take part in a range of exciting activities that explore different cultures, traditions and experiences from around the world.

ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:

- Exploring different cultures and traditions
- Experiencing and learning about British Sign Language (BSL)
- Welcoming grandparents into school as part of our celebration
- Taking part in activities linked to our GRADES values



Grandparent information to follow.

WHAT SHOULD CHILDREN WEAR?

Children are warmly invited to come to school wearing:

- Cultural clothing that represents their heritage or culture
- Colours that celebrate their identity or culture
- Special celebration clothes

Let's celebrate together!



We look forward to a wonderful day of learning, sharing and celebrating the diversity that makes our school community so special.

TOGETHER WE
CELEBRATE ♥ RESPECT ♥ LEARN
FROM ONE ANOTHER



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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

19th June 2026
Edition 35

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

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

Better Health healthier families



Say no but with love

We all want our kids to be happy - but filling up on chocolate and crisps isn't good for them in the long run. It's OK to say 'no' sometimes. Here are some tips to help you say 'no' but with love:

- ✓ Let them choose one day a week when they can have a sugary snack or nominate a day yourself - maybe Saturdays.
- ✓ Try making your own snacks for the cinema or when you watch a film at home - much cheaper and healthier! Try homemade popcorn made with no sugar or salt, small bags of unsalted nuts, or carrot sticks and lower fat dips in pots.
- ✓ Try to find other kinds of treats and rewards for when the kids have been good instead of unhealthy snacks. Stickers, outings like swimming trips, or their favourite music for half an hour are all nice treats.

Make mealtime fun

Get the kids involved and make a real occasion out of your meals one or two nights a week so they look forward to sitting down together and eating. Let them lay the table with proper placemats and napkins, they could even make menus and choose music to listen to while you eat.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



THE READING AGENCY | UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP UNITED KINGDOM

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading Challenge 2026

Join FREE at any Hillingdon Library!



summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | GO ALL IN. National Year of Reading 2026

Illustrations © Harry Woodgate 2026. Read to the Beat © The Reading Agency 2026, registered charity number 1085443 England and Wales.

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

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

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

Emma
Rufaiza
Taya

Year 2

Amanullah
Navraj
Kovrithini

Year 3

Ziah
Stefan
Chemutai

Year 4

Johnny
Eva
Riya

Year 5

Hanish
Anshika
Anaya

Year 6

Dua
Asima



HEAD



HEART



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.