

Principal's update

As we reach the end of a school year, we are always sad to lose our Y6 children, many of whom have been at West Drayton since nursery. We know that secondary schools are very lucky indeed to receive such a lovely group of children. We send with them our sincere best wishes and I hope to hear from them all very soon.

Y6 children produced some excellent results in their 'end of key stage' SATS exams. SATs are compulsory national tests for all pupils in Year 6. The tests challenge children's English and maths skills. Combined with the multiplication check in Y4, Phonics screening in Y1 and the 'good level of development' in Reception, a school is compared with other schools nationally.

At WDA, once again, all performance data was above national average and, in many areas, the results were significantly above national average. Well done to you all - parents, teachers and especially the children.

We are also saying goodbye to staff who are leaving us at the end of this year. Teachers Amelia Mowat, Alisa Cipressi, Shaheen Kassam and Yasmin Imani. Great teachers have a way of remaining in the memories of those children they have taught and all of the staff leaving possess the common characteristics of a great teacher. Within their own roles, whilst ensuring high standards, they have respected and cared for the children. They have given excellent service to the West Drayton community and we wish them every success for the future.

Looking forward to next year, children return on Friday 4th September. Without good reason, attendance for all children who do not attend on this date will be unauthorised. Please ensure that the children have appropriate uniform for the new school year – including gold polo shirts and black shoes. A copy of the uniform policy is [here](#).

I wish all members of our community, a fabulous summer.

Richard Yates
Principal



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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)

Bond: Amanullah
 Browne: Rethym
 Soundar: Cesar

Accelerated Reader Raffle (Year 3-6)

Year 3 Winner: Zaheedat
 Year 4 Winner: Saanvi
 Year 5 Winner: Ananya
 Year 6 Winner: Venba



KS1 Maths Effort Award

Vidhun	1 Milne
Riyaan	1 Donaldson
Shafana	1 Seuss
Rethym	2 Soundar
Pranvie	2 Browne
Lasheka	2 Bond



KS1 100,000 Words!

Children who have read 100,000 words+

Yuvaan	2 Browne
Ananya	2 Browne
Jaival	2 Browne
Rethym	2 Browne
Shikhagra	2 Browne
Hana	2Bond
Sid	2 Soundar
Aria	2 Soundar
Mahrosh	2 Soundar



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Y5 Reading Progress

Pendo 5 Riordan
Onays 5 Sachar
Erik 5 Zephaniah

Y5 SPaG award

Ayesha Riordan
Ananya Sachar
Freddie Zephaniah

Y5 Maths Award

Pendo Riordan
Izma Riordan
Jayron Sachar
Hanish Zephaniah



Kudos Exceptional Progress

3 Atinuke
4 Wilson
5 Zephaniah

Most RWI Books Read (Y1)

Dr Seuss: Aminah
Donaldson: Daniel
A A Milne: Mwatipasta

Word Millionaire

Children who joined millionaire words club received their certificates.



Attendance:

Children who achieved 100% attendance for the whole year receive a certificate.

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Nursery Graduation and Sports Day

Our Nursery children had an absolutely amazing day celebrating their end-of-year graduation! This is a massive milestone for our little ones as they transition from Nursery to starting Reception full-time, continuing their exciting education journey right here within West Drayton Academy.

But the celebrations didn't stop there! The children also had a fantastic time showing off their newly developed skills—including teamwork, taking turns, and brilliant resilience—as they competed in their very first races. To add to the excitement, our wonderful mums and dads joined in the sporting fun, cheered on by shouts of pure joy from their children.

Well done to the Nursery Class of 2026—you did it!

We are so incredibly proud of you all.

**CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!**



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Y6 Celebration Assembly

Reading Attainment

Gold: Sreemanth, Tanushreya & Lyra

Silver: Sagnika & Venba

Bronze: Aarav & Mariam

Maths Attainment:

Gold: Sreemanth & Alvi

Silver: Aarav, Holly, Venba, Pranika, Shravani & Dhruva

Bronze: Alfie & Ben

Spelling and Grammar Attainment

Gold: Sreemanth, Aarav, Venba, Lyra & Shafiq

Silver: Nfemi & Shravani

Bronze: Sagnika & Akshat

Reading Progress

Gold: Yusra & Julius

Silver: Paul & Harry

Bronze: Tiana

Maths Progress:

Gold: Oscar

Silver: Leo

Bronze: Alfie

Spelling & Grammar Progress

Gold: Dua

Silver: Stefan

Bronze: Shamso



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Y6 Production: Gigglebox

Year 6's production of *Gigglebox* was a giant success! After weeks of hard work and endless practice, the children performed a fantastic show filled with amazing singing, great energy, and brilliant joke delivery. The audience loved every minute, cheering and clapping along from start to finish.

Mrs Oates later shared that she had not heard such brilliant singing in a long time. The children in younger groups were in stitches, and found the show 'very funny'. Parents were beaming with pride, as they watched their children perform so well.

Big congratulations to Year 6 for a wonderful performance!



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Y6 Celebration Assembly

This morning the leavers assembly was a wonderful end to the Year 6 leavers celebrations! Children celebrated their time at West Drayton Academy, with their peers and family. Tears were shed and laughter was shared! We celebrated the children's growth, enjoying photos from when they were babies/started nursery/reception. We heard from the Year 6 team, who shared their memories and well wishes for the children's next adventures in secondary school.

Year 6 - you are all amazing and we are ALL very proud of what you have achieved in your time at West Drayton Academy.

We'll leave you with these thoughts:

Use your HEAD to believe in yourselves as much as we do!
Follow your HEART and go chase your dreams, being kind along the way!
Use your HANDS to explore, take risks and make the most of all the opportunities that come your way.

Don't forget your HEALTH, both physical and mental health. Find time and ways to relax and wind down to escape the academic and social pressures.

Most of all keep being YOU!



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Y1 Visit to Whipsnade Zoo

Year 1 had a fantastic day exploring ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

Highlights of the day included spotting towering giraffes, playful penguins, and majestic ostriches roaming the grounds. The children also took part in an interactive workshop, where they impressed the zoo staff with their knowledge of different animal diets and environments. Throughout the day, the children represented our school brilliantly with their exemplary manners and curiosity.

Everyone returned to school tired but full of excitement! A huge thank you to our wonderful parent volunteers for helping make the trip such a success.



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Y5 Visit to Gurdwara

Last week Y5 students visited a local Gurdwara in Southall. This trip was part of 100 clubs opportunities.

Children were greeted warmly by the Gurdwara's community members. Children visited the Gurdwara kitchen, where they experienced the communal 'Langar' meals. Children were told that anyone regardless of their religious background can come and eat at the Gurdwara. We found out that the Gurdwara serve thousands of people every day in the Langar. The children enjoyed trying some of the food served in the Langar!

Later the children had a tour of other parts of the Gurdwara, followed by an information session where children learnt about core beliefs and practices of Sikhism. The children asked interesting questions and learnt a lot more about Sikhism.

After the visit, children walked to a nearby park, where they sat together and enjoyed their lunch before heading back to school. The children enjoyed an informative visit and represented our school fantastically.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Lunchbox tips



Keep them fuller for longer

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



Freeze for variety

Keep a small selection of different types of bread in the freezer so you have a variety of options – like bagels, pittas and wraps, granary, wholemeal and multigrain.



Switch the sweets

Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



DIY lunches

Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



Cut back on fat

Pick lower-fat fillings – like lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), lower-fat spread, reduced-fat cream cheese and reduced-fat hard cheese. And try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.

[See more healthier swap ideas](#)



Get them involved

Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



Mix your slices

If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



Plan to Eatwell

The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. It can be really useful when thinking about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.

[The Eatwell Guide](#)



Ever green

Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



Cheesy does it...

Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar

Pop in low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurts or fromage frais and add your own fruit.



Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



Add bite-sized fruit

Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



Variety is the spice of lunch!

Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox. Keeping them guessing with healthier ideas will keep them interested and more open to trying things.



Tinned fruit counts too

A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



Swap the fruit bars

Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.



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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.