

Headteacher's update

Dear Parents,

A new school year is always an exciting time, and I'm delighted to extend a warm welcome back to all our returning families and a special greeting to those joining our school community for the first time. I hope you've had a wonderful and restful summer break.

The start of a new school year is a fresh chapter, full of possibilities for our children. School staff have been working hard to prepare classrooms and create a vibrant and supportive learning environment. We are all looking forward to reconnecting with your children and helping them thrive, both academically, socially, and personally.

A strong partnership, between home and school, is crucial to a child's success, and we encourage you to stay engaged with school life. Please make sure you have the PIOTA app, follow our school's Instagram page, and attend our upcoming events. We are confident that together, we can make this a successful and memorable year for everyone.

Your efforts to ensure children are wearing the appropriate uniform, including gold polo shirts and black footwear, are appreciated and welcomed. I have asked teachers to remind the children of our high expectations if there's a concern. We will always try to help. Uniform contributes to the ethos of a school and gives our children a sense of identity. West Drayton jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts and fleeces are available from **PMG School wear**.

Emails and the PIOTA mobile phone app are the main types of communication. It's important that your contact details are correct - please share any changes with the office.

Please do not hesitate to ask if I, or any member of the West Drayton staff, can help you with matters large or small.

I wish you and your children all the best for the year ahead.

Richard Yates
Principal

WELCOME
BACK TO SCHOOL

Dates for your diary

14th September

Y1 Parent Information Meeting 3:30 pm

16th September

Y2 Trunk Theatre Visit

17th September

Y4 Parent Information Meeting 3:30 pm

18th September

Culture Club Meeting
9:00 am

28th September

Help@Home Week

29th September

Book Fair

1st October

Black History Month

3rd October

Y3 Chiltern Open Museum

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 3D with 98.6%
2nd place: 6B with 98.5%
3rd place: 6M with 98%

It will be a non-uniform day for 3D on Friday 18th September.

Well done!

Breakfast Club

We are thrilled to launch our new Breakfast Club, supported by the Department for Education (DfE) initiative, to ensure every child gets a healthy start to their day.

Paid Early Bird Session
£2 per session
7:30 - 8:00am

Free Session
8:00 - 8:30am

Both sessions include a delicious, nutritious breakfast with a variety of healthy choices.

Booking Information

All booking requests for the following week should be emailed by Wednesday 3:00pm at breakfastclubwda@theparkfederation.org.

Places for the free session (8:00 am – 8:30 am) are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



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Culture Club

At West Drayton Academy, we see the importance of celebrating diversity - this is the reason why we have created the 'Culture Club'. This is our parent group that regularly meets to discuss how to celebrate important dates from all ethnic groups and will be the voice for all ethnic groups that we have at school and in our community. The group will talk about our ethnic traditions, ancestry, history, society, nation, religion and culture.



Culture Club

Every half term, 'Culture Club' meets to:

- discuss upcoming celebrations and events that are important to any one of the groups
- suggest how school can action these celebrations and events
- understand how school and community can do more to support each other.

Our first meeting is on **Friday 18th September** at 9am. If you wish to get involved in this wonderful club, or if you have any events that you want us to know about, please contact Miss Tinning or Mrs Malik at wdaoffice@theparkfederation.org, where we can provide further information.

PE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Children are to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days. They will wear PE kit all day.

JEWELLERY: ALL STUDS MUST BE REMOVED FOR PE BY THE PUPIL OR TAKEN OUT AT HOME. STUDS EARRINGS THAT CANNOT BE REMOVED BY THE PUPIL FOR PE LESSONS WILL BE COVERED WITH A PLASTER OR TAPE.

NURSERY	FRIDAY	Y3	WED & THURS
RECEPTION	MONDAY	Y4	TUES & THURS
Y1	MON & TUES	Y5	WED & FRI
Y2	TUES & FRI	Y6	TUES & THURS

Who can help keep you safe at school?

Our Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Sall

Deputy Safeguarding Leads



Mr Yates



Miss Howard



Mrs Malik



Mrs Warren-Searle

Learning Mentors



Mrs Cox



Ms Wicks

NEED
SOMEONE TO
TALK TO?

WE'RE ALWAYS
HERE FOR
YOU.

Are you worried or concerned
about yourself or a friend?

If you need someone to talk to, you can
always talk to a trusted adult at school.



Safeguarding

At West Drayton Academy, the safety and well-being of every pupil is our top priority. To ensure this, we have a dedicated Safeguarding Team committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all pupils.

Our team is led by Mrs Sall, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Assisting Mrs Sall as Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mr Yates, Miss Howard, Mrs Malik and Mrs Warren-Searle. The Safeguarding Team works closely with pupils, staff, and families to address issues that may affect a pupil's well-being. Whether it's providing guidance on online safety, addressing bullying concerns, or offering emotional support, we are here to help.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at
safeguardingwda@theparkfederation.org or via the school office. Your child's safety is our top priority!



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Free School Meals: Register now!

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all schools including WDA. Currently across all primary schools in London all children can benefit from free school meals, not just KS1.

Important: Even though school meals are free for every child, parents must still register for Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility through the school or local council. Anyone receiving Universal Credit (regardless of income threshold) is eligible to register now. Registering ensures your child gets their meals and unlocks vital funding for our school community.

Any school with 90% uptake of school dinners can receive extra funding. This is calculated on one day called a 'census day' - the next census day is Thursday 1st October.

We need as many children as we can to have a school dinner on this date. We request all parents to participate and encourage children to choose school meals on **Thursday, 1st October**.

THINK! Road Safety

Road safety is our collective responsibility and we request all our parents who drive to school, to drive and park responsibly outside the school.

Please be considerate while parking on the school road. Do not park in front of school gates, or neighbours' driveways. Please avoid parking on private properties and do not block road crossing.

Respect road signs and stay alert, children can be unpredictable.

We offer regular reminders to our children on road safety through lessons and school assemblies. Remind children to stop before crossing the road, look left, right and left again. Please lead by example and children will learn better.

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Have you downloaded the Piota App?



Keep in Up to Date with Everything at West Drayton Academy with the PIOTA App!

West Drayton Academy have invested in an app to ensure good communication with parents. It's **free** to download. We hope having the app will make your lives easier and promote excellent communication. To download the app just search for 'PIOTA' in Google Play or the Apple App Store.



Features include:

- News – Catch up with all the latest fun, and topics
- Events – Save your favourite event, never miss a thing
- Information – Important school details and documents
- Messages – Alerts and notifications

The school will also be able to upload pictures, video, PDFs and create links to other resources.

How to use the App



In the side menu tap '**Settings**' then tap '**Channels**'

You can then select push notification groups that are important to your child or children (relevant year groups). This means you will be only alerted to messages that are relevant to you.

Please select the Urgent channel as well as your children's Year Group, to receive whole school messages.



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SCAN TO ENROL

ENROL NOW

www.rockandpopfoundation.com/musicassembly

**Guitar. Piano.
Keyboard.
Vocals**

Fun music lessons at school

WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY

YEARS 3-6 - YOUR MUSIC STARTS HERE!

Starting secondary school

September 2027

For Hillingdon residents only

Apply online at

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Closing date for applications is Saturday 31 October 2026



HILLINGDON
LONDON

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Hillingdon secondary schools open evenings

School	Date	SIF required
Barnhill School	Thursday 10 September	No
Bishop Ramsey CofE	Thursday 1 October	Yes*
Bishopshalt School	Tuesday 8 September	No
Guru Nanak Sikh Academy	Tuesday 29 September	Yes*
Haydon School	Thursday 17 September	No
Harefield School	Tuesday 15 September	No
Harlington School	Tuesday 22 September	No
Hewens College	Thursday 24 September	No
Northwood School	Wednesday 30 September	No
Oak Wood School	Wednesday 16 September	No
Park Academy West London	Wednesday 9 September	No
Queensmead School	Wednesday 16 September	No
Rosedale College	Tuesday 15 September	No
Ruislip High School	Thursday 24 September	No
Swakeleys School	Thursday 17 September	Yes*
The Douay Martyrs	Thursday 17 September	Yes*
Uxbridge High School	Monday 21 September	No
Vyners School	Wednesday 23 September	No

Please review schools' individual websites to check open evening times.

Yes* - Only required if applying under a faith criteria or for the banding test.

Please contact the school for more information.

For more information or advice

 www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions

 admissions@hillingdon.gov.uk

Produced by Hillingdon Council

June 2026
15211

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ENERGY DRINKS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Energy drinks are highly caffeinated beverages often consumed for a quick energy boost. However, excessive intake can lead to health risks like increased heart rate and sleep disturbances. Statistics underline these products' popularity among young people – many of whom consume them regularly. Here's our expert's advice on addressing the concerns surrounding energy drink consumption in adolescents.

HIGH CAFFEINE CONTENT

Most energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine: often much more than a typical cup of coffee or fizzy drink. Excessive caffeine consumption can lead to increased heart rate, high blood pressure, anxiety, insomnia, digestive issues and – in extreme cases – even more severe conditions. For children and adolescents, whose bodies are still developing, excessive caffeine intake can be particularly harmful.

INCREASED RISK OF HEART PROBLEMS

The combination of high caffeine levels and the other stimulants found in energy drinks can put extra strain on the cardiovascular system. Potentially, this could lead to irregular heart rhythms, palpitations and increased future risk of heart attack – especially in individuals who have an underlying heart condition.

IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

The significant levels of caffeine and sugar in energy drinks can exacerbate anxiety, nervousness and even – in susceptible individuals – contribute to panic attacks. Additionally, the crash that often follows the initial energy boost can actually make mood swings worse and possibly lead to feelings of depression and irritability.

DISRUPTED SLEEP PATTERNS

Consuming energy drinks, especially during the afternoon or evening, can disrupt normal sleep patterns. The stimulating effects of caffeine can make it difficult for children and young adults to fall asleep – leading to insufficient rest and its associated health risks, including impaired cognitive function, mood disturbances and decreased academic performance.

LINKS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Some research has suggested a correlation between energy drink consumption and higher rates of alcohol and drug use among young adults. Young people may mix energy drinks with alcohol, mistakenly believing that the energy drinks' stimulant effects will counteract the sedative nature of alcohol. This combination, however, can be dangerous and increase the risk of accidents, injuries and alcohol poisoning.

POTENTIAL FOR DEPENDENCY

Frequent consumption of energy drinks can lead to tolerance – meaning that individuals may need to consume increasing amounts to continue achieving the desired effects. This can potentially lead to dependency and addiction, especially in younger individuals who may be more vulnerable to addictive behaviours.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LIMIT CONSUMPTION

It's wise to educate young people about the potential risks related to energy drinks, emphasising the consequences of excessive caffeine consumption. Encourage healthier alternatives like water, herbal teas or natural fruit juices. You can model healthy behaviours by restricting your own consumption of energy drinks and creating a supportive environment for informed choices.

PROMOTE HEALTHIER HABITS

Schools can help with this issue by including discussions about the possible dangers of energy drink consumption into their health education curriculum. Encourage children and young adults to critically evaluate the marketing messages they see and make informed choices about their health. Teachers could also provide resources and support for children to identify healthier alternatives.

ADVOCATE FOR REGULATION

If this is something you're particularly passionate about, you could work with local health organisations and policymakers to advocate for regulations on energy drink sales to children and young people. Raise awareness among parents, educators and community members about the potential health risks associated with energy drinks and support initiatives promoting healthier options in schools and communities.

SET A POSITIVE EXAMPLE

Adults can model healthy behaviours by visibly choosing alternative beverages instead of energy drinks. Maintain open communication with children and young adults about the reasons for limiting energy drink consumption – underlining the importance of balanced nutrition, adequate hydration and sufficient sleep for overall wellbeing and academic success.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

