

Headteacher's update

Are parents the most under-used resource in schools? For behaviour, attendance and children's learning, research shares the benefits of engaging the whole school community. What can't we achieve when everyone is pulling in the same direction? **When parents are involved in their education, children do better on a wide range of measures.**

These positive effects include:

- Better behaviour
- More confidence and greater self-esteem
- Higher attendance rates
- A lower risk of exclusion
- More enthusiasm about learning
- Better results

When schools and parents listen to each other and work together, they have a really positive impact on attainment and pupil well-being. This is why it is so important that we work in partnership, from a child's first day at school right through to when they leave.

At West Drayton, we are fortunate to have great links with parents, and we are committed to further strengthening these links. Our parent information sessions have been well received - thank you all who have attended.

Finally, if you have yet to do so, please sign up for the PIOTA app - this is our main source of communication. The website includes lots of information about the school. If you have any queries, please contact the office - let us know what the query is about so that we can direct you to the appropriate respondent.

Thank you all parents who came to our first Culture Club meeting today. We want to celebrate all of the festivals, significant dates and events that are important to your culture.

Very best wishes,

Richard Yates
Principal

Dates for your diary

28th September

Help@Home Week

29th September

Book Fair

1st October

Black History Month

5th October

Y3 Chiltern Open Museum

Spelling Bee Round 1

5th - 16th October

5S Swimming Lessons

6th October

Black History Month
Exhibition

7th October

School Photography -
Portraits

Y6 visit to Kew Gardens

19th - 22nd October

Y6 PGL

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 5R with 97.6%

2nd place: 1D with 97.2%

3rd place: 6B with 97.04%

It will be a non-uniform day for 5R on Friday 2nd October.

Well done!

Year 2 Great Fire of London Theatre Workshop

This week during a fantastic, immersive workshop led by Trunk Theatre. Guided by the visiting theatre company, our young historians stepped straight into 1666 acting out Thomas Farriner's busy bakery on Pudding Lane, forming human bucket brigades along the River Thames, and using red and orange ribbons to recreate the spreading flames.

Through Trunk Theatre's creative storytelling, soundscapes, and movement, the children explored how quickly the fire moved through wooden houses. It was an unforgettable, high-energy session that deepened their history learning and sparked wonderful stage confidence!



Nursery: Welcome to our new starters



Our little adventurers have had a wonderful first week settling into nursery life! From messy play to storytime, they've jumped right into the fun and are already making themselves at home. This week, we've been exploring our senses and learning how to name the features on our faces. We're so proud of how well everyone is doing!



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH



ClassCharts

Class Charts Launch

We are delighted to invite you to an information session on our updated Relationships & Behaviour Policy 2026–27 and the launch of our new parent communication app, TES Class Charts.

At West Drayton Academy, we believe in explicitly teaching behavioural expectations while maintaining high standards, fairness, and dignity for every child. As part of these positive changes, we are moving away from our older, previous tracking tools (like ClassDojo and traffic lights) to TES Class Charts, which allows you to see your child's daily successes, Tier 1–3 positive points, and achievements in real time.

To ensure every family has an opportunity to attend, we are hosting several short 30-minute workshop sessions. Please join us for whichever slot suits your schedule best:

- Session 1 (Morning): Tuesday 13th October at 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
- Session 2 (Morning): Thursday 15th October at 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
- Session 3 (After school): Monday 19th October at 3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

What we will cover:

- Our core philosophy: "Teach, don't tell" and our 3 School Rules.
- Expectations for checking the Class Charts app and working in partnership with your child's class teacher.
- How Class Charts works and how to download the free Parent App.

If you are unable to attend in person, a 'how to' video and login code will be sent home with your child following the sessions.

Please confirm your preferred session by Friday 9th October using this link: [Google Form Invitation](#)

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

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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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.



Nina

Isra



Thansi

Gowripriya

Evan



Misha

Neeva

Navraj

Meisha

Aayan

Deeryan



Reign



Alex

Mia

Aaliyah



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WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY

YEARS 3-6 - YOUR MUSIC STARTS HERE!



PLAY
PRACTICE
PERFORM

GUITAR • PIANO • KEYBOARD • VOCALS

Fun, inspiring lessons at school

ENROL NOW

www.rockandpopfoundation.com/musicassembly



SCAN TO ENROL

We are delighted to share that The Rock & Pop Foundation will be offering music lessons right here at school for children in Years 3 to 6!

Whether your child is picking up an instrument for the first time or looking to build on their skills, these engaging sessions give pupils a fantastic opportunity to learn modern instruments, develop musical confidence, and perform together. You can register now!

Votes for School

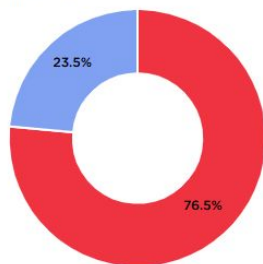
This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Do school dinners need to change? (KS2)

Should schools only serve healthy food? (KS1)

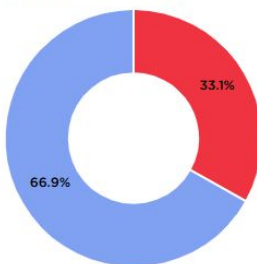


Your School



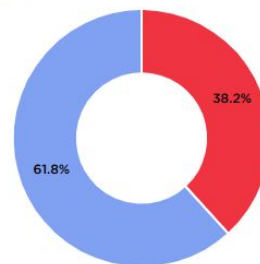
● No
● Yes

Regional (Greater London)



● No
● Yes

National



Coming up:

Should e-scooters be allowed on roads? (KS2)

Do you need more road safety lessons? (KS1)

Children will get an opportunity to discuss road safety and use of e-scooters. They will consider the benefits and risks, and younger children will discuss whether more safety lessons are needed.

Favourites Day Special Menu: Thursday 1st October 2026



Special Menu
Favourites Day

Thursday 1st October

Fish Fingers
or
Margherita Pizza

Served with
Chips & Peas

Also Available
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans

Dessert
Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Custard

West Drayton Academy

pabulum
HONESTLY GOOD FOOD

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.

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**.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young person in your care understands that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.



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HEALTH

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN'S HEALTHY EATING?



Talk to your children about food in a healthy manner

- Don't label food as 'good' or 'bad'.
- Try and try again. But don't force your children to eat.
- Get them involved in nutrition. Have your children help in grocery shopping or grow some vegetables if you can.
- Educate them on healthy living rather than focusing on a healthy weight.
- Be body positive.

Help them improve their health

- A balanced breakfast with protein is a perfect start for your children's day.
- Prioritizing mealtime is a significant part of establishing healthy eating habits. It's also a chance to provide them support and comfort. And to set an example.
- Find a few alternatives to unhealthy items in your fridge.
- Go for natural sugars. You can find them in fruits, vegetables, grains, and dairy products.
- Healthy fats are an essential part of our diet. You can find them in olive oil, avocados, different nuts (i.e. almonds or pecans) and seeds (i.e. pumpkin or sesame).



MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

West Drayton Academy

OCTOBER HALF TERM

October 26th to 30th

9AM to 3PM

£20/Day

Multi Day and Sibling discounts available

SPORTS INCLUDE

- ✓ Football
- ✓ Tennis
- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ Gymnastics
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Hockey

Sports Plus
Scheme



Scan the QR code to sign up! Or
contact us for more information

T: 01932 568 570

E: westlondon@sportsplusscheme.com



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