Westwood Farm Schools

Newsletter

Issue 35 Friday 19th June 2026

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

So, since the last newsletter, I have walked the plank and held a python, neither of which was particularly pleasant! Once again proving that this term is very busy with all sorts of visitors and events. The children have made us proud again whilst competing in a number of sporting events, which the staff have written about below. Year 6 children took part in Bikeability this week and the instructors made a point of telling us how polite and sensible they were.
On Wednesday evening we welcomed new and existing parents to the Foundation Stage Parents meeting, it only seems like five minutes since the current FS2 children joined us!
World Cup fever has not quite taken off yet, but I'm sure it will soon. Matilada and her staff in the kitchen have been producing some amazing world cup themed food, which the children are loving.

Next Friday is the Summer Fayre and it would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible. Increasingly, the school has to rely on this funding to try and bridge the gap between school income and expenditure, so we really appreciate the support.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the weather!

Mrs. Ross and all the Westwood Farm staff

Attendance for week commencing 8th June 2026
Infants – 91.6% (14.6% up on previous week), Juniors 95.8%(17.9% up on last week).

Top Doodler – KS1
Top Maths doodlers this week is Milne Class with 26% of the class! Well, done!

Mobile Phones

We would like to ask parents, particularly those of infant children, to refrain from being on their mobile phones when the teachers are seeing the children out. There are a number of reasons for this, sometimes the children are eager to tell you about their day and if you are on your phone, that moment can be lost. Teachers may need to talk to you, and it can be difficult to interrupt a parent on a phone. It could also present a safeguarding risk, phones are a distraction and small children can wander off.

Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS)

Naidoo are our star class this week, although it was a close one this week, they got it for improving statuses and rock legends!

Naidoo had 3 children move up and they increased the number of Rock Legends, still no Rock Heroes but I am sure someone will get there before the end of term

Dahl had 2 children move up this week, great work, the number of rock stars and legends stayed the same, with 5.

Lin had 3 children move up.

Rosen had no children move up this week unfortunately.

Let's keep rocking and get those statuses and move up the board!

Athletics at Palmer Park

Last Friday (12th June), our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in an exciting athletics event at Palmer Park with 9 other primary schools from across Tilehurst and West Berkshire.

Every child demonstrated excellent sporting spirit and great resilience, competing enthusiastically across a wide range of events including the 800m, 400m, 200m and 100m races, as well as relay races, shot put, javelin and long jump. We were incredibly proud of their determination and teamwork throughout the day.

There were some stand out performances across the day with Westwood Farm taking event wins in 400 metres with the two fastest times for the whole day, not to mention the 4 x 400 metre boys relay team that won their race convincingly. Furthermore, there were multiple top 3 finishes in the 100 metre races across both Year 5 and 6 for both boys and girls. As always, the children behaved impeccably and represented Westwood Farm superbly, acting as wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Netball at Theale Green

On Wednesday, netball teams from Years 3-4 and Years 5-6 took part in the RDNL Schools Tournament at Theale Green School. Despite the warm weather, both teams showed great resilience and worked hard in every match, supporting each other throughout the event. They played with enthusiasm and represented the school brilliantly. We were really proud of the sportsmanship and determination that both teams demonstrated. Well done to everyone who took part, and a big thank you to everyone who came to support them.

Reptiles visit to McKee, Nursery and Year 1

Children in Year 1, McKee and Nursery had another fantastic visit from Berkshire reptiles this week.

The children all got the opportunity to stroke or hold a Tortoise called Digger, a blue tongued skink, one of four young pythons and a huge Python called Custard cream; we had to hold him in a group because he is too heavy for us to by ourselves.

The children were all incredibly brave and extremely well behaved and asked some brilliant questions of Graham the reptile man.

Nursery

McKee Class

Year 1

Important update from West Berkshire Council about Free School Meals from September 2026

On behalf of West Berkshire Council, we are writing to let you know about some upcoming changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility from September 2026. The Government is updating the way eligibility is assessed.

Highlight:

- If you are in receipt of Universal credit, the government have removed the cap on net earned income so now all in receipt of Universal Credit are entitled to claim Free school meals

However:

- Some households may no longer qualify
- Eligibility is not automatic, you must register

What this means for you:

- Eligibility status must be re-checked for September 2026 and re-checked on a yearly basis. There are no longer any transitional protections.
- If you receive universal credit but your child is not already in receipt of pupil premium, you should send the required details, as listed below, to ppg@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk
- If your child is currently receiving FSM because you previously qualified under benefits -related criteria, but are no longer in receipt of these benefits, you will not be entitled to FSM from September 2026

Who Qualifies:

Your child can get free school meals if you receive **any** of these benefits:

- Universal Credit (with no earnings limit)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (if you do *not* get Working Tax Credit and earn under £16,190)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- **(No Recourse to Public Funds - NRPF)** If you have an immigration status that restricts public funds, your child qualifies if your maximum annual household earnings are below these levels:

- **Outside London (1 child):** Under £22,700
- **Outside London (2+ children):** Under £26,300
- **Note:** This applies to BN(O) passport holders, Zambrano carers, spousal visas, and those with no immigration status

What you should do:

- If you think you might now be entitled due to the changes, please email your full name, your date of birth, your NI number and the name of your children to ppg@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk. These details will then be sent to West Berkshire Council for them to check eligibility.
- Please note that only **one** parent/carer needs apply but all children who attend Westwood Farm should be included

We understand that changes like this can be worrying. For help and support regarding eligibility or making an application please contact the Free School Meals team at West Berkshire Council freeschoolmeals@westberks,gov.uk.

📚 Summer School Book Swap 📚

We are excited to announce our upcoming Summer School Book Swap! This is a wonderful opportunity for children to share books they have enjoyed and discover new stories to read over the holidays.

How It Works

Students are invited to bring in one used book that they no longer read. During the book swap, children will have the chance to choose a different book to take home and enjoy.

What Can Be Donated?

Children's fiction and non-fiction books
Picture books
Early readers and chapter books
Books should be in good, clean condition

Why Participate?

Encourages a love of reading
Gives books a new home
Promotes sustainability through reusing and sharing
Helps children discover new authors and genres

Important Information

Date: Friday 3rd July 2026
Book Drop Off: Children hand book to class teacher
Swap Event: Friday 3rd July 2026 after school / KS1 & KS2 playground.

We look forward to seeing lots of wonderful books exchanged and helping you find your next favourite read!

Thank you for your support.

📚 Mrs. Cooney and Mrs. Frewen 📚

Safeguarding Officers

Please be informed that we have a number of staff members who are trained safeguarding leads. Should you have any concerns, please contact any of the following, through the school office, and one of them will get back to you. Please do not state the nature of your concern, just ask for a safeguarding lead to contact you.

Mrs Ross –Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Gunn – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Norford – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Wakeham – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Wall – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Dutton – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Howlett – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (McKee Class only)

Our Parental Safeguarding handbook contains further information and can be found on our website via this link https://www.westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk/docs/Safeguarding/2025-2026/Safeguarding_Handbook_for_parents_Jan_2026.pdf

GO BEANIES SUMMER ACTIVITY DAY CAMP will be running weekdays on the 22,23,24,27,28,29,30,31 July at Westwood Farm School (RG31 6RY)

We have a lot of activities on offer ranging from outdoor explorer, active sports, arts & crafts, and fun & games with the well-being & happiness (and of course safety) of the children at the heart of everything we do. A bit more information about us can be found at www.gobeanies.org. There is a helpful section on the website which illustrates some of the activities on offer.

Camp runs from 9.15am to 4.15pm. We also have an extended option for parents with drop off from 8.30am and pick up until 5.00pm (our extended day pass, which also includes breakfast and afternoon snacks).

To book your child's place, please email info@gobeanies.org by Friday 19th June with your preferred dates, full name(s) of your child/children and whether you would like the day pass option or extended day pass. Go Beanies is an Ofsted registered childcare provider. We also accept childcare vouchers.

Go Beanies is the breakfast and after-school club provider at Westwood Farm. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-booked basis; and the camp is open to children at Westwood Farm along with siblings and friends from FS2 to Year 6

FOWFS

🚗 Summer Fayre – Urgent Help Needed 🚗

Our Summer Fayre is fast approaching, and we urgently need:

- **Volunteers** to help set up on the day
- **Volunteers** to run stalls during the event
- **Gazebos available for loan**

Even a couple of hours of your time would make a huge difference.

If you can help in any way, please get in touch as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting our school/community and helping make the Summer Fayre a success!

Please email fowfs.pta@gmail.com

Thank you

Team FOWFS

Dates known to end of Academic Year (dates may be subject to change)

June	
Wed 24th	Rosen Class assembly to parents @ 9am (new date)
Friday 26th	FOWFS Summer Fayre – starts at 3.30pm
Friday 26th	FS1 performance to parents @ 9.15am (new date)
Monday 29th	Year 6 Residential to Friday 3rd July
July	
Tuesday 14th	Year 6 production to parents – afternoon @ 1.45pm
Tuesday 14th	Denefield Meet the Y7 Team event – 6pm
Wednesday 15th	FS2 Celebration event for parents @ 2.15pm
Thursday 16th	Year 2 performance to parents @ 9.15am
Thursday 16th	Year 1 carnival event for parents @ 2.45pm
Thursday 16th	Year 6 production to parents – evening @ 5.45pm
Friday 17th	Year 2 performance to parents @ 2.30pm
Monday 20th	Year 6 Leavers Assembly to parents @ 2.30pm (new date)