Westwood Farm Schools

Newsletter

Issue 36 Friday 26th June 2026

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Well, that was a week! I am allowed to talk about the weather this week as there is nothing else to talk about! I am old enough to remember the heatwave of 1976 (ask your grandparents or even your great grandparents) and reflect on how differently things were then. Firstly, the intense heat lasted for 15 days. I was obviously a child at the time, it was unheard of to take a water bottle to school, and suncream was for the beach if at all. We were served warm milk which had been outside on the classroom step for hours! I think we have come a long way in terms of awareness about children's well-being! I would like to thank everyone for their understanding and support this week. Walking into the classrooms this week has been like getting off a plane abroad when the heat suddenly hits you. Well done to the staff and children for 'getting on with it' with little fuss.

Year 6 are off on their residential next week, so we hope they have a wonderful time enjoying things they will remember for years. Hopefully it will be a little cooler.

It seems to be the time for weddings in school at the moment. We would like to wish Mrs Grimes many congratulations on becoming Mrs Swann this week. She will be back in school on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs. Ross and all the Westwood Farm staff

Attendance for week commencing 15th June 2026
Infants – 93% (1.6% up on previous week), Juniors 93.7% (1.8% down on last week).

Top Doodler – KS1
Top Maths doodlers this week is Donaldson Class with 28% 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.

Year 4 Human Bar Charts
Year 4 went outdoors for maths this week to make human bar charts as part of their statistics topic. They collected data on favourite teams to win the 2026 World Cup and birth months to create graphs on the field (in the shade). We concluded that the most popular contender to lift the World Cup was Spain, and the most popular birth months were April and May.

Mr Finn and Mrs Frewen

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 📚

West Berkshire Libraries Summer Challenge

Get ready for this year's Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 4-11 years!

Once again, West Berkshire Libraries are challenging primary-aged children to **read six library books between 1 July and 15 September** and collect FREE incentives for their achievements as they read, with medals and certificates for everyone who completes the Challenge.

Developed by national charity The Reading Agency, the theme of this year's Challenge is 'Read to the Beat', which is all about music and rhythm. It aims to inspire children to explore the connection between stories and songs and discover how reading and music can ignite imagination and creativity.

There is no need to wait until the school holidays begin – drop in to your local library to find out more and sign up from 1 July. There is also a mini challenge for children under 4, and something for teenagers and adults too. Get the whole family reading this summer!

www.westberks.gov.uk/libraries

Vacancies

Please visit the link below for our current vacancies. Please pass to anyone you think may be suitable. We currently have vacancies for HRB teaching Assistants, and we are looking for two Lunchtime Supervisors to oversee both our lunchtime teams.

https://www.westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk/Vacancies/

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

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

June	
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)