Westwood Farm Schools

Newsletter

Issue 3 Friday 18th September 2026

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

Contact **WFI**: officeinfants@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk **0118 9426113**
Contact **WFJ**: officejuniors@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk **0118 9425182**
Website: www.westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

This week our assemblies were about democracy, another of the British Values. Mrs Dutton spoke to both the junior and infant children about the meaning of democracy and why it is important that we live in a society where everyone is able to have a say. This links with the election of our School Council members. It was explained what the role of the school council is and that is an honour to be chosen by their peers to represent their views when meeting with myself and other senior leaders. The children really do have a say in what happens in school and can influence some of our decisions! The closing date for nominations was yesterday. I look forward to meeting our newly elected councillors soon.

Dan, from Tilehurst Church, will be visiting next Friday to talk to the children a little more about Harvest. We are once again asking for donations of non-perishable goods which can be donated to ReadiFood (Food Bank). We appreciate things are difficult with the cost of living, but any contribution no matter how large or small will be gratefully appreciated. Readifood are particularly asking for donations of the following: - Tinned tomatoes, Tinned vegetables (carrots, peas, sweetcorn etc.), Tinned fruit, Cooking oil, Tinned meat, Pot noodles, Long-life or UHT milk, 40s tea bags, Basmati rice, Rice pouches, Cartons of fruit juice, Dried noodles, Dried lentils, Plain flour, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bars of soap, Shower gel

Please either give to your child's class teacher or bring them to place in a donation box near the main school office. We will be collecting the donations to form display ready for assembly on Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your support as always,

Mrs Ross and all the Westwood Farm Staff

Attendance for week commencing 7th September 2026
Infants – 96.8%, Juniors 98.7%.

Attendance

Attendance matters - At Westwood Farm Schools, we know that good attendance is one of the biggest factors in helping children achieve their best, build strong friendships, and feel fully included in school life. School attendance remains compulsory, and parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends regularly and punctually. We ask families to work closely with us by informing the school as early as possible if their child is experiencing difficulties attending due to health needs, anxiety, SEND, or family circumstances. We also remind parents that term-time holidays should only be requested in exceptional circumstances.

As Attendance Lead, I track and monitor attendance across the whole school and work closely with families to provide support where needed. Our school aim is always to work in partnership with parents to help every child attend well and thrive.

Mr Gunn - Attendance Lead.

Link to school website for more attendance information and guidance:

https://www.westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk/Parents/Attendance/

Top Doodler – KS1

Top Maths doodlers this week is Murphy Class with 47% of the class! Well, done!

TTRS

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS), Years 4-6 will already know, is an exciting online maths programme that helps children practise and improve their times tables through fun, interactive games. Regular use builds speed, accuracy and confidence with multiplication facts. Just a few minutes of practice several times a week can make a big difference, so we encourage all Junior children to log in regularly and become true "Rock Stars" with their times tables!
Expectations: Depending on year group, children are expected to complete 10-15 minutes of “Garage” each week. Logins have been shared with all Junior children.
Get rocking!

School Contacts

Should you have any concerns regarding your child, the class teacher should be the person you contact first. We then have a Leadership Team who should be your next point of contact. Following that we have a Deputy Head and lastly, we have our Headteacher, if you need to speak with a member of staff, you must contact them via the school office. Please see the structure below:

Mrs. Norford – FS1 (Nursery) and FS2 Team Leader (Foundation)
Mrs. Wakeham – Key Stage 1 Team Leader (Years 1 and 2)
Miss Exworth – Lower Key Stage 2 Team Leader (Years 3 and 4)
Miss Harrison – Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)
Mrs. Dutton – Teacher in Charge of the Hearing Resource Base
Mrs. Howlett – Teacher in Charge of McKee Class
Mrs. Wall – Special Education Needs Co-ordinator
Mr. Gunn – Deputy Head
Mrs. Ross - Headteacher

Nuts

We have several pupils and staff members who have a life-threatening allergy to nuts, therefore can we please ask that ingredients are checked on snack and lunchbox items before being brought into school. Thank you

Admissions for FS2 (reception), Year 3 and secondary school

If you have a child in Nursery, Year 2 or Year 6, it is now time to apply for a primary, junior or secondary school. If your child is in Year 2 at Westwood Farm Schools, you do need to apply for a place at Westwood Farm Junior School as it is not automatic.
Closing date for a secondary school place is 31st October 2025. Closing date for Reception and Year 3 places is 15th January 2027.
The leaflets explaining the process were sent via parentmail yesterday.

To apply for a FS2 or Year 3 place, you can apply online **www.westberks.gov.uk/primary-school-admissions between 12 September 2026 and 15 January 2027.**
To apply for a secondary school place, you can apply online at **www.westberks.gov.uk/secondary-school-admissions** up to **31 October 2026.**

Purple Mash - First Time Login for Year One Parents –

Your child can access Purple Mash at home using our school's family login page:

👉 **https://www.purplemash.com/westwoodfarm/family**

Getting Started:

1. Visit the link above.
2. Enter your child's **username** and **password** (these have been provided by school and are in your child's reading records).
3. Click **Login**.
4. You will then be able to access Purple Mash activities and learning resources.

We encourage parents to explore the platform with their child and support them with any home learning activities that may be set. If you have any difficulties logging in, please contact the school office for assistance.

Happy learning! 😊

Year 2's Local walk

Last week, the Year 2 children ventured out on a walk around our local area as part of their Geography curriculum. We set off to complete a traffic survey on Overdown Road and recorded a variety of vehicles, including lots of cars, several vans, a bus, a lorry and even a motorbike. Mrs Wakeham was particularly excited, as it was the first motorbike spotted during one of our surveys in a very long time!

After completing the survey, we walked back via the park, identifying and ticking off the human and physical features we noticed along the way. Back in the classroom, we used our traffic survey data to create bar charts. Later this term, we will build on our learning by using our knowledge of human and physical features to draw our own maps of the local area.

Year 4 Ufton Court and school sleepover
It was lovely to see lots of parents at the meeting last week, if you didn't manage to come along the PowerPoint is now available on our website. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or the office and they can ask Miss Exworth to give you a call.
Please can you remember to send the signed form back to school saying if you would like your child to come on the trip, at this point you do not need to let us know if they plan to stay over at school with us or go home after Ufton Court.

Tilehurst Panthers

Tilehurst Panthers Girls Football Club run a FREE 'drop in' session every Saturday morning for all girls aged between 4 and 7 years. This is held at Ranikhet Academy, on Spey Road, Tilehurst, between 9am and 10am. See flyer for more information.

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

FOWFS News

It's that time of year again!
The summer holidays are over, we're all getting back into routines, and the PTA are already busy planning lots of exciting autumn and winter events!

We have some very exciting events coming up and we would absolutely LOVE for you all to join us!

Attached is a poster with all the details of the events coming up, so make sure you have a read and get those dates in your diaries!

First up, we have…

Pumpkin carving Competition (details to follow)
&
Autumn Disco

We're so excited to get the year started and hope to see LOTS of you there!

As always, thank you for your support.

Team FOWFS

Calendar dates to Christmas so far (these are subject to change)

September

Thurs 24th	Year 1 trip to Milestone Museum
Tuesday 29th	FS2 phonics information session for parents @3.30pm
Wednesday 30th	FS2 phonics information session for parents @ 5.30pm

October

Monday 5th	Fire Engine into FS1 and FS2
Wednesday 7th	Year 3 local walk
Friday 9th	Flu nasal immunisations for all pupils FS2 to Year 6
Tuesday 13th	FOWFS AGM @ 7.30pm – Infant Staffroom
Thurs 15th	Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Museum
Monday 19th	FOWFS bring into school a carved pumpkin
Tuesday 20th	FOWFS Autumn Disco
Wednesday 21st	FOWFS pumpkin carving competition winners announced
Wednesday 21st	School breaks up at normal time for Half Term
Thursday 22nd to Friday 30th	October Half Term

November

Monday 2nd	Back to school
Thursday 5th	Year 4 swimming lessons start today
Friday 6th	Turn Tilehurst Red – more details to follow

Wednesday 11th	Individual pupil photos
Friday 13th	Year 2 trip to Windsor Castle
Friday 13th	Children in Need Day – more details to follow
Friday 20th	FOWFS Adults Quiz night
Thurs 25th	Shakespeare Company into KS2

December

Tuesday 1st	FOWFS Giving Tree launch
Tuesday 1st	FOWFS Movie Night
Friday 4th	FOWFS Non uniform day for Hamper donations
Tuesday 8th	Xmas lunch for Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 9th	Xmas lunch for Nursery, FS2 and Years 1 & 2
Thursday 10th	Xmas lunch for Years 3 & 4
Thursday 17th	FOWFS Christmas Hamper Raffle
Friday 18th	School breaks up at 2pm