Westwood Farm Schools

Newsletter

Issue 4 Friday 25th September 2026

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

We would like to thank all our families for their generosity in supporting our Harvest collection. The children were pleased to bring in donations and have shown a growing understanding of how these contributions will help people who are less fortunate than themselves. It has been lovely to hear their thoughtful discussions about kindness, sharing, and helping others in our community during our assembly.

Yesterday Year 1 enjoyed an exciting trip to Milestones Museum. The children were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day. They particularly enjoyed the opportunity to dress up and step back in time, bringing their learning to life in a fun and memorable way. We are very proud of how well they represented the school and of the curiosity and excitement they showed during their visit.
We are also delighted that our clubs have started earlier this term, giving children more opportunities to take part in a range of activities. It has been wonderful to see so many children signing up and getting involved.

As I am sure you will know, our school motto is ***Nurture, Inspire, Achieve.*** We have decided to award certificates to children who demonstrate those qualities during the school week, as part of our celebrations on a Friday. The children can now earn these rewards alongside the usual star certificates, so please look out for these coming home.

A reminder to parents and carers: please ensure that Parents' Evening reply slips are returned to school by Tuesday 29th September so that appointments can be arranged.

We are happy to celebrate children's achievements outside of school and today we congratulate Finley Johnson in Year 5. Finlay took part in the Broad Street Mall Lego Dino trail and won first prize, along with his aunty and cousin! Here he is enjoying his prizes, well done Finley!

Thank you for your support as always,

Mrs Ross and all the Westwood Farm Staff

Attendance for week commencing 14th September 2026

Infants – 96.3% (down 0.5% from last week), Juniors 96.2% (down 1.7% from last week).

Lunch Orders

Please can we ask all parents to double check their children's hot school dinners are being booked every week. We are finding, especially on a Monday, that we are seeing a large number of children whose meal hasn't been ordered so they are needing to wait until the end of service to have the spare meals. This is causing a lot of upset for the children who have to wait and is getting frustrating for our kitchen staff who are having to prepare an additional 20 meals some lunchtimes, this is then having a knock-on effect making service run later than usual and then children are not back in class at the start of afternoon lessons. There have been some days we are not sure if we will be able to cater for the number of children that haven't had a meal ordered, if this is the case we will need to phone parents to bring in a last-minute packed lunch. Thank you for help and understanding.

Top Doodler – KS1

Top Maths doodlers this week is Simon Class with 38% of the class! Well, done!

Times Table Rockstars

Each fortnight we will report on how brilliantly the children are doing in practising their times tables. We are hoping to have another rock star day this year and will set the challenge after half term. We are using the statistics from this term, so any Year 4 that haven't earned a status this school year are not counted, we are also using the children's current status, not their best ever, so Year 4's need to keep rocking and aiming for the top!

The year 3 classes have done amazingly already, Dahl is this year's first STAR CLASS.

Dahl - 32% of the class already have a rock star status
Rosen - 29% of the class already have a rock star status
Lin - 74% of the class have a status, and 1 Rock Legend
Naidoo - 88% of the class have a status and 3 Rock Legends

National Poetry Day – Thursday 1st October

To celebrate **National Poetry Day**, we will be giving the children the opportunity to share their love of poetry with their class.

We would like each child to **bring in their favourite poem** to share with their class. It could be a funny poem, a poem about nature, a traditional favourite, or simply one that they enjoy reading.

Teachers will also be joining in by sharing **their own favourite poem** with the class.

We are looking forward to celebrating the joy, creativity and imagination that poetry brings! Please help your child choose a favourite poem to bring in and share on **National Poetry Day** (Thursday 1st October).

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.**

Year 1 trip to Milestones Museum

Year 1 had a fantastic day at Milestones Museum. They enjoyed exploring the museum, trying on clothes, learning how to do the washing back in the 1940's and especially visiting the sweet shop with their ration books. They then had some time to explore. They loved looking at old fashioned toys and even the fire engine!

Wild Learning

If you have any of the following spare, unwanted or unneeded we would love it at Westwood Farm!

- Spades, trowels or other digging equipment (not plastic) for our Forest School
- Any tabletop toys for our playgrounds

Turn Tilehurst Red

As part of our Remembrance activities and Turn Tilehurst Red, we are creating a special outdoor display at school to remember those who have served and sacrificed for others, while also sharing a message of hope and peace for the future. To help us create the display, we would be grateful for donations of clean, empty plastic bottles. We will be using the bottom sections of the bottles to create colourful poppies for our display. Where possible, we would prefer the bottom section of the bottle rather than the whole bottle. Please send in the bottom of the bottles with your child by **14th October 2026**

Thank you for helping our children to create a meaningful display that reflects remembrance, respect, hope and peace.

Outdoor Play Equipment

Reminder: For health and safety reasons, children should not use the outdoor play equipment, including the tyres and trim trail, before school. Please keep children with you until they enter school at 8:50am. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

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

🎃🐶 HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION! 🐶🎃

Get creative and carve your spookiest pumpkin at home! 🔪🎃

💷 Entry: £2
📅 Bring your carved pumpkin to Reception on Monday 19th October.
🏆 One winner for Infants and one for Juniors!
🎉 Winners announced Wednesday 21st October.

Judged by Mrs Ross and Mr Gunn! 👩‍⚖️👦‍⚖️

We can’t wait to see your spook-tacular creations! 🐶🕸️🐱

📌 Please see the attached poster for more information

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
Tuesday 6th	Parents Evening appointments
Wednesday 7th	Year 3 local walk
Thursday 8th	Parents Evening appointments
Friday 9th	Flu nasal immunisations for all pupils FS2 to Year 6
Tuesday 13th	FOWFS AGM @ 7.30pm – Infant Staffroom
Wednesday 14th	FS1 stay and play session for parents – 8.45-9.30am
Thurs 15th	Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Museum
Thurs 15th	FS1 stay and play session for parents – 2.30-3.15pm
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