Westwood Farm Schools

Newsletter

Issue 5 Friday 2nd October 2026

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

Mrs Ross has let me write the newsletter this week, I feel very privileged!

I will of course reference the weather: As we move into October, there is no denying that autumn has arrived. This week has brought a real change in the weather, with cooler mornings, blustery winds and a few spots of rain amongst the last rays of sunshine, reminding us that the seasons are changing. Despite the unpredictable conditions, it has been wonderful to see our children continuing to enjoy their learning with enthusiasm and still getting outside and use the lovely outdoor space we are incredibly lucky to have here at Westwood Farm. Many a conker has been collected from the Infant playground and the new goal posts are being put to good use on the field.

This week, we joined schools across the country in celebrating National Poetry Day, with this year's theme of "Wonder" encouraging us all to pause, reflect and appreciate the extraordinary things around us. On Wednesday, several classes took part in a live poetry lesson, which inspired children to explore language, imagination and creativity in exciting ways.

Throughout the week, myself and Mrs Ross shared some of their favourite poems during Infant and Junior assemblies, while Thursday saw both children and adults enthusiastically sharing poems that are special to them. It was a delight to hear such a wide range of poetry being celebrated across the school and to see so many children engaging with words, rhythm and expression.

Thank you to everyone who helped make National Poetry Day such a success. Events like these remind us of the joy of reading and how poetry can inspire curiosity, creativity and wonder in us all.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Thank you for your support as always,

Mr Gunn and all the Westwood Farm Staff

Attendance for week commencing 21st September 2026

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

Attendance Matters

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for children to make the most of every learning opportunity. Our school day begins promptly, and pupils are expected to be on site by 8:50am. The morning register opens at 8:50am and closes at 9:15am. Children are expected to be in class and ready to learn by 9:00am at the latest, anyone arriving between 9:00am and 9:15am will be marked as late but present. After 9:15am, the register closes and pupils will be recorded as absent for that session, which may be authorised or unauthorised depending on the reason provided. If your child is absent or running late, please inform the school as soon as possible, via ParentMail is best.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring every child attends regularly and arrives ready to learn.

Top Doodler – KS1

Top Maths doodlers this week is Murphy Class with 28% of the class! Well, done!

TTRS

It has been such a great week of times table rocking that I wanted to celebrate the children, even though I am usually going to report fortnightly.

The Year 3's have been working really hard and lots more have rock star statuses, one child has even managed to get to Rock Star status.
Rosen this week have 57% of them with a status and some are improving already on their starting point.
Dahl have increased too, and now have 48% of children with a status.
Lin have 89% with a status, they also have 1 Rock Legend.
☆Naidoo are our star class this week, 96% have a status and there are 4 Rock Legends.☆
Well done Naidoo, it was a tight race this week.

Year 4 History The battle of Marathon.

To continue our learning on the ancient Greeks, we investigated the strategic planning and execution of the battle of Marathon. Lin class were the Athenians and Naidoo the Spartas. The children absolutely loved it!

Nuts

Please be reminded that nuts or items containing nuts are NOT permitted to be brought into school for consumption. We have several children and adults with a life-threatening allergy to nuts. Thank you for your cooperation.

National Poetry Day

On Thursday, we celebrated **National Poetry Day**! A big well done to all the children who shared their favourite poems with the class. It was wonderful to hear why these poems were special to you.

A special well done to the children and parents who worked together to create their own poems. We loved hearing and sharing your creative ideas!

Keep up the great reading, everyone!

Mrs Frewen and Mrs Cooney

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Kai Burtenshaw Durken and Aries Hepburn Powell who were featured in the Reading Chronicle last week in their 8-page youth football team special. They both play for Reading City U8's.

Reading City Football Club, Berkshire Youth Football League Saturday Team U8

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.

FS2 Phonics Sessions

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Phonics sessions which were led by Mrs. Norford this week. The powerepoint presentation has been uploaded onto the phonics page of our school website. https://www.westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk/Curriculum/Phonics/

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

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

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

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