Westwood Farm Schools

Newsletter

Issue 7 Friday 16th October 2026

Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

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Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

I actually ventured out this week and went with Year 5 to Winchester Science Centre; we had a lovely day and learnt a lot about all sorts of scientific things! A highlight for myself was the planetarium visit. We watched space come alive over our heads. There were a number of other schools visiting and I was very proud of how our children behaved, they were very polite to all the staff and showed genuine interest in what they were being told.

FOWFS had their AGM on Tuesday, and they listed all the money they have raised this year and what they have spent it on to benefit the school. Despite one of their biggest sources of income, the summer fayre, having to be cancelled they still raised a huge amount of money. There are more demands than ever on school budgets, and we are very grateful for all the support we have for our FOWFS events. I would like to thank the outgoing members of the team for their incredibly hard work and welcome those who have taken on roles for this year. I hope you can support their future events; it really does make a difference to your children.

It was nice to see the nursery children showing their grown-ups around this week. Lots of you got involved with dressing up and with all the lovely activities on offer. We still have some places available for sessions across the week so, if you know anyone looking for a nursery place either now or for the future please direct them to Laura Harris in the school office.

We have changed the format for showing potential new Foundation parents and carers around the school. We are offering stay and play sessions for the children and a tour for the adults. If you have booked a tour for siblings or know anyone who has, please remember that we would love you to bring your children to spend some time with the current Foundation children and teachers. Tours are available to book through Mrs Finn in the office. Look out for our new social media posts which are coming soon!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Thank you for your support as always,

Mrs. Ross and all the Westwood Farm Staff

Attendance matters

Attendance matters, but so does punctuality!

Being in school and ready to start at 8:50am helps children settle into their routines, join their classmates and begin their learning positively. The image above shows just how quickly a few minutes of lateness each day can add up. Thank you for continuing to support us by helping children arrive at Westwood Farm Schools on time every day.

Getting Your Child to School Really Matters!

Did you know... ?

In a school year, if your child is late every day by...	Your child would have lost approximately...	Your child would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3.5 days of school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days of school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days of school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days of school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days of school	123 lessons

Please encourage punctuality to maintain attendance.

Attendance for week commencing 5th October 2026

Infants – 97.7% (1.4% up on last week), Juniors 97.3% (1.5% up on last week).

Top Doodler – KS1

Top Maths doodlers this week is Simon Class with 34% of the class! Well, done!

Doodle maths is launching its Autumn competition on the 19th October. Please see flyer attach to find out more and instructions on how to take part.

Winning House this term

We are pleased to announce that Fire House is the winning house this term. All pupils in Fire House are invited to come to school in non-uniform on Monday 19th October

Universal Credit - Free School Meals

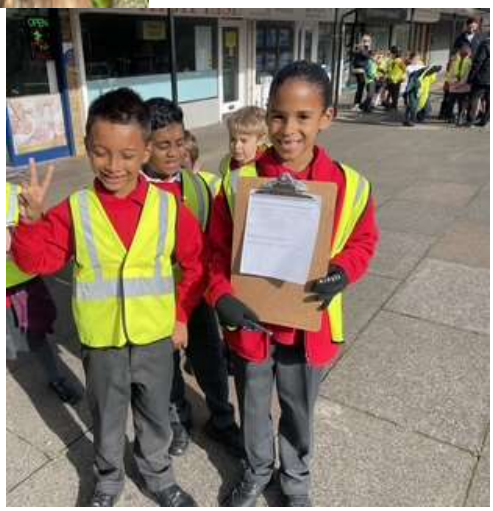
If a parent receives Universal Credit, at any level, then their child is now eligible for free school meals. If you believe that your child/ren could now be eligible please email PPG@westwoodfarmschools.w-berks.sch.uk, or contact the school office who can take your details and pass them onto Miss Exworth. The checks are very quick and conducted by West Berkshire council, who you can also contact directly; freeschoolmeals@westberks.gov.uk.

Year 3 local walk

On Wednesday, our Year 3 children walked to The Co-op to interview shoppers about how they had travelled to the shop and how far they had travelled. The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school, approaching members of the public with confidence, asking their questions clearly and politely, and carefully recording their responses ready for our upcoming graph work.

A huge thank you to the parents who were able to come along and support us. The children were absolutely delighted to see you there, and we really appreciate you taking the time to join us.

Finally, a big well done to all of our Year 3 children! You should be incredibly proud of yourselves for showing such confidence, excellent manners and enthusiasm. You were wonderful role models for our school!



Year 5 trip to Winchester Science Museum

Year 5 had an exciting and educational trip to Winchester Science Centre, where we explored the fascinating worlds of space and forces!

Our budding scientists enjoyed discovering more about our universe, learning about planets, stars and the wonders of space in the planetarium.

We also investigated forces, exploring how pushes and pulls affect the way objects move. Through hands-on activities and interactive experiments, the children discovered more about gravity, friction and how forces can change an object's speed or direction.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity to bring our science learning to life. Year 5 showed great curiosity, enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions and making exciting discoveries along the way.

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged in their learning and inspired by the amazing world of science.

🎃 Spooky Half-Term Reading Challenge! 📚
Get ready for a spooktacular reading adventure this half-term holiday!

Children are invited to take part in our Half-Term Reading Challenge by completing an exciting reading challenge over the holidays.

🏆 The Rewards

Complete at least 7 challenges to earn 5 house points.

Everyone who enters will be entered into a prize draw to win some spooky treats!

Can you rise to the challenge and become a reading superstar this half-term?

Happy reading, and good luck! 🎃📖

Challenge sheet is attached to this newsletter

Half Term Art session with Flying Art

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

⛔ 3 Day Warning ⛔

🎃OUR PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION IS ALMOST HERE! 🎃

There are just THREE DAYS TO GO until our amazing Pumpkin Carving Competition! 🩶🎃

We hope you all have a fun-filled weekend getting creative and carving your fantastic pumpkins!

🎃✨ Please remember to bring your already-carved pumpkins into reception on Monday morning.

‼️A little reminder about entering:

* Entry is just £2 per pumpkin.
* Cash or card payments can be made at reception on Monday morning.
* Please make sure every pumpkin has your child's name and class clearly labelled.

🏆 We can't wait to see all your wonderful creations!
One winner from the Infant School and one winner from the Junior School will be announced on Wednesday 21st October. Good luck, everyone! 🎃🐶

🎶 LAST CHANCE TO BUY DISCO TICKETS! 💃

A quick reminder that this is your LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for our school disco on Tuesday 20th October! 🎉

⏰ Ticket sales will close on Sunday at 9pm, so please make sure you book ASAP to avoid disappointment! 🎟️✨

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

October

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
Tuesday 24th	Morpurgo flute music performance to parents @ 1.15pm – tbc
Tuesday 24th	Pullman flute music performance to parents @ 2pm – tbc
Wednesday 25th	Shakespeare Company into KS2

December

Tuesday 1st	FOWFS Giving Tree launch
Tuesday 1st	FOWFS Movie Night
Tuesday 1st	Murphy class assembly to parents @ 2.45pm
Wednesday 2nd	Shakespeare class assembly to parents @ 9am
Friday 4th	FOWFS Non-uniform day for Hamper donations
Tuesday 8th	Xmas lunch for Years 5 & 6
Wednesday 9th	Naidoo class assembly to parents @ 9am
Wednesday 9th	Xmas lunch for Nursery, FS2 and Years 1 & 2
Thursday 10th	Xmas lunch for Years 3 & 4
Tuesday 15th	FS2 Nativity performance to parents @ 2.30pm
Wednesday 16th	FS2 Nativity performance to parents @ 2.30pm
Thursday 17th	FOWFS Christmas Hamper Raffle
Friday 18th	School breaks up at 2pm