



Wellesley Park Primary School

Headteacher: Carly Wilkins
Wellesley Park Primary School
Homefield, Wellington
Somerset, TA21 9AJ

9th September 2022

The Passing of Our Queen

Dear Parents and Carers,



We express our deepest sympathies for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Her dedication to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to her other realms and territories is unparalleled and we thank her for her service.

Our school and Trust will observe the mourning period whilst continuing to support and teach our pupils, families and staff.

As yet, we are awaiting information as to whether we will observe a day of mourning for Her Majesty's funeral, which means schools could be closed that day, but outside of this, as far as we know, school hours will continue as normal. Unless otherwise stated, please assume any scheduled activities and events will continue as planned. As soon as we receive information on this, we will let you know. Our school will be keeping pupils informed of news about these events as part of assemblies and class activities. In classes, we have explored the emotions surrounding the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and the public mourning that we are in. We also celebrated her life through pictures and discussed her incredible legacy as well as what is going to happen next. As always, our children demonstrated kindness, compassion, curiosity and knowledge with one another.

We know that everyone will be feeling differently about this news and if you are someone or know of someone who needs support, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for support. If you think your child may be experiencing particular upset due to the passing of the Queen, then please do let us know so that we can provide additional support if needed.

It is expected that there will be significant disruption across the UK, particularly in London, during this period, therefore we will endeavour to keep you up-to-date should there be any further changes.

Best wishes

Mrs Hartley-Criddle

Headteacher's Comment



Dear Parents and Carers

Up until the sad news of our dear Queen's passing, what a brilliant week we have had - I can't believe that week one is done already! I hope that you all had some sunny and happy times over the summer holiday and managed to capture a few more lovely moments to add to your memory jars!

I have been so impressed with just how well all the children have settled into their new classes and year groups - they have shown true Wellesley Park resilience and positive attitudes, in what can be a very nervous time for some - well done everybody! Walking around the school during the school day, as I often do, I have been 'wowed' by how calm and purposeful each classroom appears; with children sitting beautifully, listening well and contributing enthusiastically to their learning.

Our new staff – teaching and support – have all settled in brilliantly and already feel like long-standing members of our Wellesley Park community – I hope that they all feel the same!

I have not had any news yet from Mrs White, regarding the birth of her baby, but I am hopeful that I will have by the next newsletter!

Mrs Wilkins came into school for a visit this week and went around the school to say 'hello' to all of the children – she was met with many beaming smiles and a few hugs – which was wonderful to see. Mrs Wilkins hopes to return sometime in the spring term to her role as Headteacher, following on from her maternity leave.

I hope that you all have a calm and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes

Emmie Hartley-Criddle

Head of School

DSL

SENDCo

Staffing Update

I am delighted to be able to share with you the exciting news that Mrs Murphy and her husband are happily expecting their 2nd baby, early 2023 - a welcome brother, or sister, for their daughter Adeline. I know that you will all join me in wishing them the very best of luck and of course, huge congratulations!

As several of you may already be aware, Mrs Murphy has been experiencing some extreme pregnancy-related sickness and is currently unable to manage teaching-time in school. In the short term, we have been joined by supply teacher - Mr Peter Staddon. We will be reviewing the situation closely with Mrs Murphy and we remain hopeful that she will recover enough to be able to join us back at WP soon - as we are all greatly missing her.

I will keep parents of the cohort linked with Mrs Murphy updated, when I have information that is appropriate to share.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Murphy and her family.

New Governor

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new governors, who have joined us on the Governing Body at Wellesley Park. Trish Rendell, who is also Chair of Governors at The Castle School and Jenna Spiller, who is a parent governor.

Premises Update



A HUGE thank you to Jack Cripps and his team of mighty workers from 'Wellington Sheds and Garden Buildings'. Mr Cripps kindly also donated £2000 towards the cost of our new outdoor classroom as well as clearing the ground and building the structure on site. It is a superb building and built to last and will benefit every child at WP for years to come! The rest of the structure was kindly funded by our amazing school PTA – who always support us brilliantly when we have a big project to achieve. In addition, Wellington Sheds and Garden Buildings also built us a brand-new shed, and 2 new playhouses for our Reception and Pre-School children – who are already enjoying their new structures. Our new school fencing project is now fully complete and will help to safeguard our children throughout the school day.

We have new fencing and steps in the Reception/Year 1 outdoor area around near the slide – which not only looks much better but is also safer for our children too.

Finally, we now have a woodland walkway which has all been wood-chipped and cleared, behind the KS1 pond area – this is very exciting and we can't wait for the children to see it!

Thank you everybody for your kind support and hard work – we are extremely grateful!
Mrs H-C

The Power of Reading

Alongside The Castle Partnership Trust, Wellesley Park will also be raising the profile of reading this year. Reading is integral to, and necessary for, success both in school and also in later life. It is a skill that helps us to communicate, to understand the wider world and of course, to learn.



It is a well-researched fact that teenagers with low literacy skills may also struggle from poor self-esteem and can therefore become poor school attenders. We therefore take our responsibility for reading, at a primary school level, extremely seriously and we want every child to make great progress with their reading, from whatever their own starting point is and, as a school, we will be pushing the skills necessary to become confident and fluent readers - in every subject!

Our teachers work hard to celebrate the joy of reading and to teach the skills of reading - right from pre-school and all the way through to Year 6; we have class story time, quiet independent reading, Talk for Writing texts, cross-curricular texts - both fiction and non-fiction, poetry study and performances, library time and guided reading lessons. All of this is on top of the teaching of phonics and bespoke literacy interventions for those who may need some extra help and support on their reading journey.

However, we cannot do it all alone! We really need YOU - parents *and* carers - to help us (and your child/ren!) on their journey to reading greatness. It cannot be underestimated just how significant the impact is when both home and school are working together to develop a love for words and stories. Reading widely and sharing books at home with your child/ren adds to their confidence and vocabulary ENORMOUSLY and we see this evident in many of the children we work with in school. So please, if you really want to help your child shine academically, feel confident about their own abilities and to be able to embrace all that school has to offer - then please, please, please read with them/and to them, as often as you possibly can!

Thank you.

Job Vacancies

We currently have the following job vacancies:

Admin Assistant & 1:1 Teaching Assistants – Direct to website

[Vacancies \(wellesleyparkschool.co.uk\)](http://wellesleyparkschool.co.uk)



Volunteers

At Wellesley Park, we are delighted to reintroduce volunteers into our school. Volunteers range from parents, carers and grandparents to students and members of our local community. Our volunteers mainly support pupils with reading on a weekly basis. We would really welcome support on a weekly basis.

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer reader in school must complete a volunteer application form, found on our website <https://www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk/our-school/vacancies.htm>

Volunteers will be required to provide contact details for two referees (references will be taken up), as well as undertake an Enhanced DBS check. Photographic ID as well as proof of identity (passport, driving licence, birth certificate) and proof of address will be required, as will a right to work check.

Wellesley Park Primary School is committed to safer recruitment and applies the same principles to the recruitment of volunteers.

Please return fully completed volunteer application form to office@wellesleyparkschool.com or bring to the school office.

We will also be looking for bank of volunteers we can call upon to help with school trips, grounds maintenance and class-based support. Again, please complete the application form via the link above.

Mrs J Lilley
Business Manager

School Day

Please can we remind you of our school day times:

Foundation Stage (This is EYFS Reception) -

Classroom doors open at 8.45am/Registration at 8.55am

School ends at 3.10pm

KS1 and KS2 -

Classroom doors open at 8.40am/Registration at 8.50am

School ends at 3.15pm

End of Day

Please can we politely ask parents and carers to leave the school grounds promptly at the end of the school day. Afterschool clubs will be late to start if parents & children remain on the grounds.

May we politely remind parents not to allow children to use the play equipment either before or after school.

School gates at Post Close and the back gate will be closed at 3:30pm.

Pre-school

A new school year, a shiny new preschool room! We have been redecorated, new furnishings and a change to the room set up...

Wow, it looks amazing!

Both children and staff are thoroughly enjoying their first week.

This half-term we shall be looking at 'all about me'.



Reception/Year 1

WOW! What a fantastic start to the year we have had in our Gruffalo and Jasper classes!

The children have come in with confidence and smiles and have settled in to the new routines extremely well. They are playing beautifully both in the classroom and in our amazing outdoor space, and have made lots of new friends. They have enjoyed sharing snack time together and the reception children are looking forward to staying for lunch with us next week!

We can't wait to get to know them even better and to see how they grow over the coming year!



Breakfast and Afterschool Club Bookings

All breakfast club and afterschool club requirements for September, must to be booked through our new online booking system Magicbooking <https://wellesleyparkschool.magicbooking.co.uk>. Additional information can be found on our website [Wellesley Park Primary School \(wellesleyparkschool.com\)](http://Wellesley Park Primary School (wellesleyparkschool.com))

Year 1/Year 2

Welcome back to our new Mrs Tiggywinkle and Peter Rabbit classes! It has been a fantastic first week and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all of the children. We have an exciting term ahead looking at habitats, Queen Victoria and the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, to name a few. I have a feeling it's going to be a wonderful term.



Year 3

Year 3 have made a superb start to the year and have already shown a very mature attitude to both their learning and behaviour. They have all come back to school looking very smart, wearing the correct uniform.

All children have been given a reading book and a new style reading diary which they have been very excited about. Please ensure they are reading at home at least 4 times a week and recording in their diaries.

We have lots of exciting things planned for this half term from finding out about the Stone Age - who the people were, what they did, what they ate and their importance in History.

Thank you for your support with the year group already and as ever, if you have any questions or worries, please do this on dojo.



Year 4

We are so glad to be back with our new Year 4 classes.

The weather may have changed now that we have all returned to school but seeing the children's smiling faces has made these first few days really enjoyable for us all. Their enthusiasm to learn new routines, get to know new faces and do their best in their learning has been excellent.

Our journeys into many subject areas have already begun, including our first Ukulele lesson. Keep it up Year 4 and well done.



Year 5

Welcome to Year 5.

Firstly, we would like to introduce ourselves. Miss Hill is Galadriel's teacher and Mrs Pilling and Mrs Taylor are the teachers in Thorin. We are lucky to have two fabulous Teaching Assistants, Ms Burnett and Mrs Harris. Mrs Harris new to the school but has already settled in really quickly and become a part of the WP family.

Year 5 is a really exciting year, and we are planning to kick start this with a visit from a doctor of Astrophysics and we really can't wait. We have also planned in a Harvest festival and will be looking forward to writing some Harvest poems.

Please remember that our doors are always open if you have anything to ask.



Year 6

Welcome to Year 6,

Firstly, I would like to introduce you to the Year 6 team. Mr Morris teaches Akela class and Miss Baines teaches Bagheera class. We have three amazing teaching assistants who work between the classes - Mrs Sheehan, Miss Hole and Mrs Sampson.

We have been overwhelmed by the attitude to learning and resilience shown by all of our new year 6 children. It has been great getting to know them and understanding their individual personalities, strengths and aspirations for the future. We have an exciting year planned full of new learning, exciting experiments, fantastic books and the end of year residential to Mill on the Brue.

We look forward to the year ahead!

