



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

1st July 2022

Headteacher's Comment



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the very last newsletter of this half term - yet another super sunny day - perfect for our Sports Day! I am hopeful that this day will bring a happy, positive and exciting ending (almost!) to yet another eventful school year.

It was an absolute pleasure to see all of our children in their new classrooms for moving up day and lots of children have told me this week just how excited they are for September!

Obviously, it is all very different for our Year 6 children though, as they transition from being the oldest at our school, to the youngest at their next school, but I know that they will all settle quickly and find their stride. Hopefully, their time at Wellesley Park has taught them to have the confidence to ask for help when needed, to make the right choices and to stay true to themselves at all times. I am sure that they will take our school values 'Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Tolerance and Excellence' with them into their futures and strive to be their very best selves, at all times. It is lovely to know that because most of our Year 6s will be going on to Court Fields School, which is also part of the same Trust, that I will be able to keep up with all of their adventures and celebrations and hear about all of the amazing things they each go on to achieve. I really hope that those with younger siblings, return to WP next year and help our competitive staff to maintain their record for beating the Year 6s at rounders, during our next Strawberry evening!

Talking about our Strawberry evening - what a lovely time it was - again it was so brilliant to be able to come together for a celebration of Wellesley Park. It was fabulous to see so many parents, pupils, previous staff and also some older pupils of WP! I would again like to say a special thank you to all of the parents and staff who made this possible - from the collecting of the strawberries, to the hulling session, setting everything out, and of course for the quick trip to the supermarket for extra cream! It was everybody working together that made this evening so special and definitely one to repeat next year and for many more years to come!

I am also extremely happy and proud to be able to say that, thanks to the hard work of both our Year 6 pupils and our super teaching staff, Wellesley Park has beaten ALL National Averages for our SAT assessments - in ALL subjects for 2022: Reading, Writing, Maths, Combined and SPAG. As I am sure you can appreciate, this has been no easy task for us as a school, as not only have we had two years of 'Covid catch-up' learning to cover, but we have also had to manage huge pressures this year with staff and children's absence due to significant and ongoing Covid cases, especially throughout the Spring Term. In addition, of course, Mr Morris also welcomed the birth of his own baby boy during this year as well! However, all of this just goes to make the success of our Year 6 pupil / teaching-team collaboration even more special - so a humungous shout-out to all involved - you have been spectacular, well done! ☐

Reports have now been written by class teachers and are now being checked through. These will come home to you, via your child/ren, on Tuesday 19th July. Where non-resident parents have requested additional sets, these will be sent via second-class post on Tuesday. Our school reports are not designed to be a critique of your child, but to celebrate their successes, best endeavours and wonderful personalities. Obviously, we endeavour to be open and honest with where they are academically - but our reports are not where we list everything that a child might struggle with!

Staffing Update

I would like to take this opportunity thank Miss Hayley Darbyshire, who stepped in to support our amazing Year 1 children, at very short notice this term. Miss Darbyshire has worked 3 days a week for us and quickly got to know both the children and our staff really quickly. We will be very sad to say good-bye to Miss Darbyshire from this temporary class cover - but she has done a brilliant job and it was really lovely to work with her - I know she will be missed!

On a happy note, Miss Grace MacDonald, current Year 3 cover teacher, has requested to stay with us for next year! Miss MacDonald will be working at WP for 2 days a week in Year 4, which is really lovely for her current Year 3s as they all know each other so well - AND... newsflash for the parents of Year 4 children... we have this week sorted out the cover teacher for the remaining 3 days of the week - for the first half term, in the first instance - it's Miss Fitzgerald! I know that you will all be really pleased that this has been sorted and that such an outstanding teacher will be remaining with us at WP, to teach your children. I am very grateful to Miss Fitzgerald for deciding to stay on a while longer, as I was not looking forward to saying goodbye to her just yet!

Additionally, I would also like to thank Mrs Claire Marney and Mr Lucas Upham.....

Mrs Marney has been supporting us on a temporary loan from The Castle School this term and already feels like she is a key part of our WP team, even though she is sadly only with us for this term. Mrs Marney will be moving over to support IKB Primary School as their SENDCo in the new academic year, which I wish her all the best for, but we will miss her very much!

I just also wanted to say a huge thank you to Mr Upham (who happily is not leaving us yet!!). He has been a huge support to both me and our wider school and community over this last term and I am very grateful for him deciding to come and join us for the duration of Mrs Wilkin's maternity leave.

We are also 'kind of' saying goodbye to Mrs Denise Poole (TA) and Mrs Emily Birrairie (Play Therapist) however, I am sure that we will still be working with them closely in the coming year... Mrs Poole kindly stepped in last minute this half term to support some new children for us and has done an absolutely outstanding job with them, enabling these children to settle quickly into life at WP and make their own significant progress. Mrs Birrairie has been a real asset to WP over a considerable period of time, working with our pupils every Tuesday for Play Therapy sessions and, although she may not be with us directly every Tuesday in September, she is remaining as a Trust employee and I believe we will still be able to benefit from her great provision in some way - even if not quite as regularly. Huge thanks to both of these staff members!

One last goodbye must go to Mrs Hannah Bouchta, who after many, many years of running the school PTA committee, organising hundreds of events and helping to secure many thousands of pounds for Wellesley Park, is now stepping down from the role, as her youngest child moves on to secondary school. What is now our loss, I am sure will be their gain though! Thank you so much Hannah for all you have done over the years - it has all been very much appreciated.



Reminder: From September, we are keen to be able to set up a strong group of 'reading' volunteers. These volunteer readers will help us to support any child who needs to be reading to an adult more regularly, in order to achieve accelerated progress in this area. Our hope is that the group would be able to join us for just a couple of hours a week as a minimum, or more if any can spare the time! We will provide a package of initial training and coaching sessions for all volunteers, so that each kind helper feels confident about 'how' to hear a child read, what questions to ask, and how to help them with their phonetic decoding and fluency. Again, if you (or a grandparent, aunty, uncle or friend!) are interested in becoming a highly valued member of our WP Volunteer Reading Team, then please see Mrs Lilley's note below so that we can begin both the DBS clearance checks required for all volunteers as soon as possible, and book you in the training sessions. Your help would be much appreciated! Many (hopeful!) thanks in advance.

I want to take this last opportunity to thank ALL of the staff at Wellesley Park: Pre-school / office / support / teachers and cover-staff, for working together through yet another tough year to ensure that Wellesley Park really does do its very best for the children of our community. The 'Good' recognition from OFSTED was really brilliant, but seeing each child happy, succeeding and achieving their full potential is really what matters most - so thank you all.

Also, just a little reminder about the start of term in September - we start back on Monday 5th September, please remember that the 1st and 2nd September are INSET days for staff only!

Have a wonderful summer holiday. Please keep yourselves safe and read LOTS of books with your children! ☐

Best wishes

Emmie Hartley-Criddle

Head of School

DSL

SENDCo

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

Attendance - by class for the period 27/06/2022 to 14/07/2022

Gruffalo	94.79%	Matilda	95.07%	Galadriel	95.57%
Jasper	94.09%	BFG	94.44%	Bagheera	94.23%
Kipper	91.60%	Hufflepuff	94.62%	Akela	97.77%
Mrs TW	96.30%	Gryffindor	94.00%		
Peter Rabbit	98.14%	Thorin	95.00%		

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))

THANK YOU!!!

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Mr Cripps of Wellington Sheds and Garden Buildings, who has very generously built and donated a wooden playhouse to the outside play area of our Reception Class. The children absolutely love playing in the house and I'm sure future children will also have hours of fun too.



Attached flyers

Tiverton Museum Summer Activities

We are grateful for the donations we received during lockdown which enabled the museum to survive. We still need support to continue to keep our doors open to visitors and maintain our historic building and museum collections. **You can donate online at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/20780>**



Reading Chest

Readingchest.co.uk is a book rental service specialising in book banded reading schemes, such as Treetops, Collins Big Cat, Oxford Reading Tree etc. The service is paid for by parents (starting from £9.95) and books tailored to their children's reading level and interests are sent straight to their door – membership can be cancelled at any time, some of our customers sign up just to keep the reading going during the summer holidays!

Wellington Netball

Registration is now open for our Junior netball that will start on Tuesday 6th September at Courtfields School

Bee Netball for 7-10 years 5.30pm-6pm

Junior Netball for 11-16 years 6pm-7pm

Try for free with a first taster session

Numbers will be limited

Please sign up via the link .com

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIKWdsW0yxEjaiBLZtrQAAAAAAN_jqkakJUQTi3WU02S1RLTjVRWEpFTIlyVEJUUFRESi4u

or contact us via our E Mail wellington.netball@outlook

Pre-school

Preschool have been very busy explorers, we finished exploring space with a really exciting science lesson! We made rocket mice, which we then launched into space. When we clapped hard onto the mouse launcher (bottle) all the air pushed out of the launcher and made our mice shoot into space.

For these last couple of weeks of this term, we have been exploring school life so that we are prepared for September when some of us move on to big school. We have even been practising putting on our own school uniform, socks, shoes... we are all so ready for the next step of our educational journeys.



Reception

In Outdoor Learning this week, the children have been finding out about boats. The children completed a variety of activities making various different boats. They used sticks and leaves to make a boat and took them home to see if they would float. They also used Duplo and Lego to design their own. They practised their cutting and sticking skills to design and make their own boat as well as colouring different boats in their own unique style.

In Phonics/Writing this week, we have been concentrating hard on writing on the line and forming letters of the correct size. The children have been amazing at doing this – ready for when they are in Year 1. Another skill we have been practising is reading a whole sentence at a time and then going back and picking out the digraphs, trigraphs and tricky words. They have all worked very hard on root words and adding ed, er and ing.



Year 2

We cannot believe we are writing the final newsletter for this academic year. We have had such a fantastic time in Year 2 and it has been amazing to see all the children grow. We have thoroughly enjoyed the time we have spent together and all the fantastic topics we have covered over the year.

The children enjoyed taking part in Sports Day this week. From participating in the running races, bean bag race, skipping, obstacle course and egg and spoon race and supporting their class mates. We hope you all enjoyed the day!

Thank you for all your support over this year especially as it has been their first full year in school! The children have all shown great resilience and have worked amazingly hard in school and have made fantastic progress. We wish you all the best for Year 3!

From us all

Mrs White, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Taylor, Miss Gulliver and Mrs Andrews



Year 4

Like the sun, Year 4 children have continued to shine this week.

What an exciting end to the year, as we follow in Plato's footsteps with our enjoyment of Geometry in Maths. We have been exploring triangles, other shapes and angles. Amazing what you can work out in Maths by using what you already know or the small amount you are told.

In English, we are rapidly exploring our final creative writing topic – 'A Warning Tale'. We are exploring the way in which great vocabulary choice, personification, similes and metaphors can help us to describe our stories to the reader. It is great to use our imagination to help us write using these techniques.

In History, we have learnt lots about life in an Anglo-Saxon village and this week we discovered why the Vikings came to Invade our shores. We tried to design our own defensive structures that would keep them out.

Finally, the children are really enjoying bringing our Shakespeare text, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' to life through lots of drama outside and in the classroom. We are also attempting to create a Shadow Puppet performance of this play, which we hope to film.



Year 5

Wow! Can you believe that we are approaching the end of the year, it feels like it has gone past in a flash!

In English, we have now finished our unit around portal stories. The children finished by writing their own, which were a real treat to read. The children really showed off all their writing features, which they have learnt over the year. Over the next week, we will be editing these and writing them up in neat for us to stick into best books.

In Reading as a Reader, we are nearing the end of our book 'Secrets of a Sun King'. The children have really enjoyed diving into this book, and retrieving information to predict what might happen even more enjoyable when we have been able to read outside in the shade on a hot, sunny day.

A real highlight to the term has been working with Mrs G in DT to learn new sewing skills, which has resulted in us creating our own felt purses / phone cases with designs on. The children will be bringing them home at the end of the year, we are sure you can't wait to see.

Thank you for a great year, Year 5! We wish you the best of luck heading into Year 6! Year 5 team



Year 6

We can't quite believe that this will be our last newsletter entry for this year 6 cohort - time has really flown by! We have had an exciting couple of weeks.

As part of a whole school Science Day, we took part in a worm investigation. The children had great fun learning about the different worms in the soil around us and then spent some time finding worms! The worms were then measured and identified!

In our History unit about The Titanic, we have been investigating buoyancy and whether in groups the children could create an unsinkable ship! Using the same materials, groups tried to create a vessel that would float whilst learning about the force of upthrust.

Finally, we have been practising for Sports Day! The children are very excited to be joined by parents/carers this year so that they can show off their skills!

Reminder that it is our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly on **Thursday 21st July 2022 at 2.30pm** in the school hall. If you have not yet returned your reply slip, could you please do so by **Tuesday 19th July**.

