



# Wellesley Park Primary School

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

15th December 2023



### Headteacher's Comment

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have enjoyed a fantastic week of Christmas events! I hope that many of you were able to come into school this Thursday as part of our Carols and Cocoa event to have a look at your child/ren's work and see their classrooms. I know that children enjoy showing off what they have done and are always keen to show off their beautiful books.



### The Twinkly Nativity

Our Reception and Year 1 children performed a wonderful nativity of 'The Twinkly Nativity'. They were all amazing, singing and dancing their hearts out! We are very proud of their hard work, and we hope you enjoy your special photo of your child in their costume. Thank you for not taking photos throughout the performance at our request to safeguard our children.

### Christmas Dinner

Yesterday, many of our children opted for the Christmas dinner and from the number of empty plates it was obvious that they enjoyed it very much. Many thanks to our catering staff for preparing this lovely meal and for the lunchtime supervisions who organised Christmas music and decorations to help create a memorable and special occasion.

### Carols and Cocoa

I'm sure all who attended the Christmas Carols and Cocoa event will agree that it was a great success!!! Sincere thanks to the members of the PTA committee and those who volunteered for making the event a complete success!

Finally, I would like to wish you a healthy, happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.

With best wishes, as always

*Mrs Wilkins*

### Attendance - by class for this half-term

Peake	95.40%	Norgay	96.95%	Shackleton	93.80%
Darwin	95.04%	Sharman	93.76%	Earhart	94.75%
Henson	96.15%	Attenborough	97.07%	Armstrong	93.22%
Cousteau	96.46%	Spruce	96.80%	Bell	96.12%
Kingsley	93.88%				



### Wellesley Park School Values - Respect

What Is A Community?

How Do We Show Respect In The Community?



Respect



Resilience



Integrity



Tolerance



Responsibility



Excellence



## Policy Updates

The following policies/documents have recently been updated:

- Remote Learning Policy
- Pupil Premium Policy
- SEND Information Report 2023

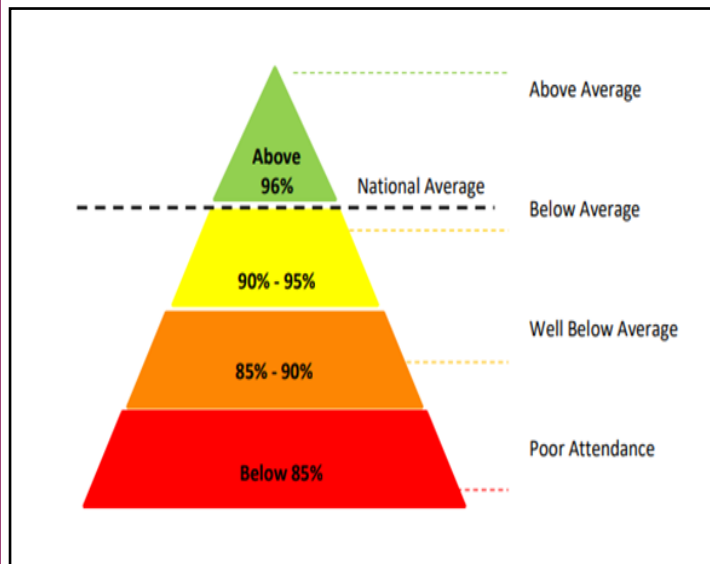
These can be found on the school website. Please also refer to the Parent Lite Privacy Statement on our website.

## Attendance

Good attendance is a critical factor in ensuring positive outcomes for our children. There is a clear link between attendance and attainment. Any absence affects your child's education, and regular absence seriously affects their learning and disrupts teaching routines.

We are currently on 95.5% - which has dipped since last half-term and is just below our target of 96%. We actively promote and encourage 100% attendance for all our children. Please see the checklist below, of the national guidelines on how long a child should remain absent from school.

We regularly monitor the attendance of all our children. If your child is frequently absent from school, we will do our best to support you with strategies to ensure your child can attend. If you are struggling to get your child into school, or find that you're frequently late, please speak to your child's class teacher as there is support we can give you.



### When should my child return to school? NHS

<b>Chicken Pox</b> When all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> None*	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> None*	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> None*	<b>Impetigo</b> When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> After first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> None*	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> None*	<b>Threadworms</b> None*	<b>Tonsillitis</b> None*		

## South West Schools Trampoline Competition

Congratulations to Dylan in Year 4 who came third in his group at the South West Schools Trampoline Competition on 2nd December. Dylan did brilliantly and was behind second place by only 0.15 of a mark!

Dylan was awarded a bronze medal and is through to the next round taking place in Worthing on 21st January.

Well done Dylan we are all very proud of you. Good luck at the next round!





## Online Safety

### Tips for parents/carers for a tech-free Christmas

There's no disputing how integral the digital world has become to modern life. It can prove difficult for many young people to stay off smart phones, tablets and other devices for a single day – even one as special as Christmas.

In fact, according to a survey by e-commerce platform *Groupon*, almost 80% of parents and carers would prefer a festive period that's free from technology. Going online, of course, is useful for checking in with friends and relations who we can't be with, or for arranging celebrations; however, staying off our devices can really help us appreciate the things that genuinely matter this time of year. Do you want this precious time together to be filled with screen time? Shouldn't the holiday period be filled with making memories to cherish?

Follow the 12 top tips from the National College to help with having that tech-free Christmas.



### Blackdown Education Partnership - Big Exercise Promise

Starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, we have a plan to get fit together; every member of our Trust community: students, staff, parents/carers, governors and other family members can join in.

There will be 3 challenges set at Wellesley Park; a step count challenge for each class, a special activity held on Friday lunch breaks for the whole month, and a walk/scoot/bike to school challenge for all families to participate in together. Alongside this, we will be raising money for UNICEF, as chosen by our School Council.

We are excited to launch this hearty event in the New Year, with more information to follow.



JANUARY 2024

OUR  
BIG  
EXERCISE  
PROMISE

#bettertogether



## Local Community Christmas Events



### Don't be alone on Christmas Day !

Join us at the  
United Reformed Church  
Mantle Street

12:30 pm for 1:00 pm Meal

Limited places, so early booking recommended.

Suggested donation:  
£5.00

Please contact John & Chris Salter on:

Tel: 01823 669043

Email: [salters@talktalk.net](mailto:salters@talktalk.net)

Please inform us of any dietary / support needs when booking

## SEND Update

Christmas, whilst fun and exciting for most people - can also be overwhelming, over-stimulating and anxiety-inducing for others.

Here are some links for Christmas support, for any families with a child who has ADHD / autism / or who struggles with social communication and/or sensory needs:

- [Tips \(autism.org.uk\)](https://www.autism.org.uk)
- [Preparing for Christmas: autism resources](#)
- [10 Tips for Enjoyable Christmas with a Child with SEN | SENSational Tutors](#)
- [SIE-Christmas-Sensory-Survival-Kit.pdf \(open-academy.org.uk\)](#)



## Safeguarding

Christmas can be an emotionally challenging, as well as financially and mentally taxing time - for adults and their families.

Below are some links which may provide you with some guidance and help - if required:

- Mental Health Support for young people: [Mental Health Support For Young People over Christmas | Young Somerset](#)
- Financial support: [Family Fund](#)
- Varied support services: [Useful contacts - Christmas and mental health - Mind](#)
- [Supporting children & young people during the Christmas Holiday Period | Association of Child Psychotherapists \(childpsychotherapy.org.uk\)](#)
- Domestic abuse: [Support for victims of domestic abuse | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

### What to do if you have a concern of significance:

#### Safeguarding is everybody's business

If you are worried about a child or young person who could be in danger please contact Children's Social Care by phoning **0300 123 2224** or emailing them at [childrens@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:childrens@somerset.gov.uk). Otherwise, contact the police.

You can contact the police directly by dialling **101** and they will discuss with Children's Social Care what action should be taken.

If you would like to speak to a social worker outside of office hours please phone the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on **0300 123 23 27**.

If you have concerns regarding a child / adult's safety / wellbeing / safeguarding over the Christmas holiday period then please do take responsibility to report this to the right support services - as detailed above.

*Additionally* - Wellesley Park also has it's own safeguarding email address which will be checked multiple times throughout the holidays - however, please do not *just* use this, if the situation is critical / you believe the young person or adult to be at risk of harm - for this, please contact the police / social services straight away. Our school email is: [safeguarding@wellesleypark.bep.ac](mailto:safeguarding@wellesleypark.bep.ac)



## Children In Need

Thank you for all the donations for Children In Need. We raised **£203.98** for this worthy cause. The children looked great in their yellow and spotty outfits! Well done to everyone.



## Wellesley Park Explorers

We have been learning about 'Pattern' these last few weeks and the children have shown a real interest in the various activities based around this. We have been following a two colour pattern and some of the older children even managed to follow three colours! We were very impressed!

A few of us have also been following patterns using Autumnal media, such as conkers, acorns and leaves. This was a huge success and some of the children now have a much better understanding of pattern.

It has been all things Christmas this week. We have made paper chains, Christmas cards to take home, baubles and there has been more glitter than you can imagine! The children have enjoyed lots of dressing up like little elves and they have helped to decorate the Pre-school Christmas tree too!

We practiced our threading skills by threading cotton reels onto string, pretending it was the Christmas lights for the tree. This helped with our colour recognition and fine motor skills and we had lots of fun doing it. Gosh we have been busy!



## Reception

The Reception children have been very busy getting into the Christmas spirit! We have learnt about different celebrations, such as, birthdays, Bonfire Night, Diwali, and of course, Christmas.

The children made Diwali lamps using clay, which they decorated with paint and glitter. We listened to, and learnt about, the Nativity story and its importance to Christians.

The children have been busy making Christmas cards and decorations. We have learnt about night and day, light and dark and the different seasons. The children looked at the work of Van Gogh and did their own versions of his famous 'Starry Night' paintings.

We have had great fun rehearsing for the Nativity play and have done really well at learning the songs! Reception have really enjoyed performing our Twinkly Nativity to their families.

Happy Christmas from Reception!



## Year 1

Wow! What an amazing half term we have had. It has been super busy but also very enjoyable.

In English, we finished innovating the story of 'Little Charlie' and it was wonderful to read the ideas the children had for their own versions! We have now begun our non-fiction topic 'Aliens', which is a non-chronological report. The children are already getting to grips with the text, using a story map to support them. We have sent these home to practise over the holidays.

In Maths, we have completed our addition and subtraction to 10 topic, as well as shape, which the children have done amazingly in! When we return to school in January, we will begin our new place value to 20 topic, which will build on our number knowledge to 10.

We wanted to take this moment to thank the children for all their amazing effort, both in their learning and in their nativity performances. We would also like to thank Mrs Saunders for all her hard work - we will miss you! Thank you.

We hope you all have a super break and enjoy every moment!

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!



## Year 2/3

This week Year 2/3 have completed their light unit in Science. The children used their bodies to make shadows and see what shapes they could make and then the children made some fantastic shadow puppets experimenting with a range of materials. They had fun choosing which materials would be the most successful to help them make the shadows for their characters that they had hoped for and which materials they could use for the light to reflect through and add colour.

We have had a lovely term with Year 2/3 and they have all worked really hard. We are sad to see Miss Floyd and Mrs Sampson leave us this term. But we wish them well with their new adventures. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Murphy back after Christmas.

We hope you all have a restful, fantastic Christmas break.





## Year 4

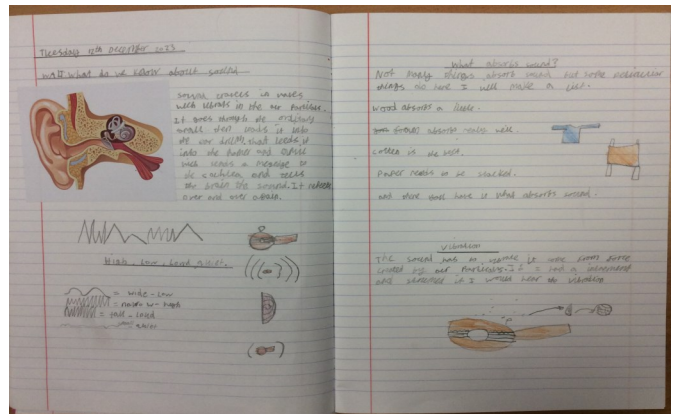
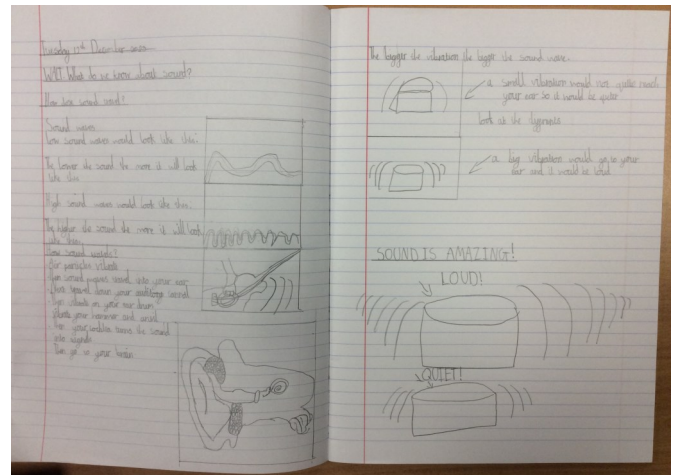
How is it Christmas already? Year 4 have had a hard-working term and have shown amazing determination during this busy part of the year.

With some hair-raising suspense stories now written, our new focus in English, is on discussion texts. Already, we have had some super debates in class from 'Should mobile phones be allowed in school?', to 'Is school uniform necessary?', with the children being able to argue both for and against, using a neutral tone.

We have now finished our class book, 'The Firework Makers Daughter', comparing our ending predictions, to the descriptive firework finale. It's safe to say, this book has been a hit with the children, with many questions already being asked about our book for Spring. It's fantastic to see such a thirst for reading from them all!

The children have shown us how far their maths knowledge has progressed, by each of them excelling in their end of term maths assessments! With constant times table practise throughout this term, combined between lessons and short-burst games, Year 4 have blown us away with their progression in the MTC practises we have held this term.

With our Science topic, *sound*, coming to an end, the children have enjoyed the many experiments where they have investigated changing the amplitude and pitch of different objects. See the pictures of some examples of their explanation texts. Every child should be so proud with their dedication and resilience this term and have each earned a well deserved break. Have a wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in January!



## Year 5

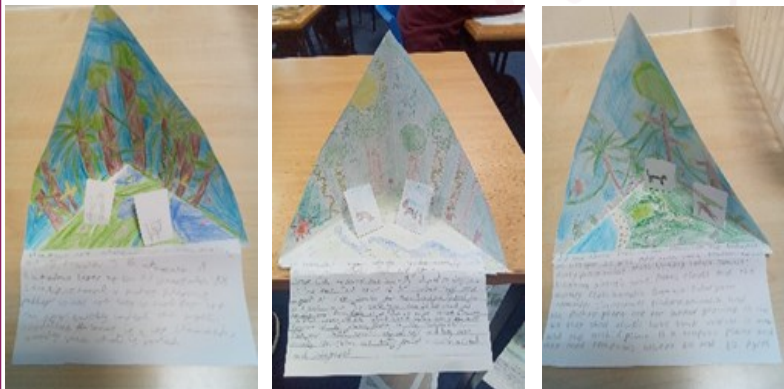
What an amazing half-term for Year 5!

We have completed a huge amount of learning and the children have all worked extremely hard and remained resilient throughout our assessment week.

In English this half term, we have been looking at warning tales and focusing on personification, alliteration, detailed sentences of 3, metaphors and similes. The children have written some fantastic short burst writes, and enjoyed understanding characters feelings during hot-seating.

In Maths, we have nearly come to the end of our unit on fractions, although a tricky unit, the children have shown such wonderful progress over the last few weeks and they should all be very proud of themselves!

In guided reading we have finished *The Nowhere Emporium*, which the whole of year 5 absolutely loved! The children have produced some lovely work around the book, and it has been a joy to see the children enjoying the story as much as they did.



In Geography, we have come to the end of our topic on biomes. Year 5 have shown such amazing interest in this topic and they have created some brilliant Triarama's of tropical rainforests, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

This half-term we were also lucky enough to visit the cinema, to see 'Teenage Kraken', the children loved the movie, and they all behaved impeccably during the visit!

The Year 5 team wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in January.

## Year 6

What a fantastic end to the year we have had! We are very proud of the determination and resilience Year 6 have shown towards their learning so far - this bodes well for their future success.

In English, we have begun our new narrative unit which is a portal tale with a focus on high-quality setting description. Our model text 'The Gas Mask' has strong links to World War 2 and the children have enjoyed finding out more about this significant part of history. Our learning in this unit will continue into the new year.

In Maths, we are continuing our learning around fractions. We have so far got to grips with addition and subtraction of fractions and will be moving on to multiplication.

In Guided Reading, we have reached the end of our novel 'Rooftoppers' by the excellent Katherine Rundell. The children have worked hard throughout the story to relate to the characters created and think deeply about the many themes in the book. We are now reflecting on an emotional ending and creating book reviews in the form of Explosion Books! Watch this space!



The Year 6 Team would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year! See you all in 2024!

