



Wellesley Park Primary School

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Homefield, Wellington
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Headteacher's Comment



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our very last newsletter for this half term and what a busy half term it has been - with school trips, swimming lessons, visitors, sporting fixtures, school leaders being voted in, Hello Yellow day for mental health awareness, clubs restarting, open school morning for prospective new parents, a new outdoor learning classroom, phonics workshops and much, much more besides! No wonder the time has flown by!

As always though, I have been incredibly impressed by our Wellesley park pupils as they have settled back to a life of school 'normality' brilliantly. I am already seeing huge progress and I can't wait to see what they achieve in the next half term.

On Wednesday evening, we held our PTA AGM and welcomed some brilliant new parent volunteers to the committee - I know that this year is going to be full of fabulous events as we try to raise funds for kitting out our very sad school library, which requires a full refurbishment and new stock - our aim is to create a library that truly is the heart of Wellesley Park and where a love of books and reading can be celebrated and enjoyed by all. We also welcomed a new Chair of the PTA, Sarah Vine, and a new Vice Chair, Simon Flowers-Jones. I know that you will welcome them both to this new position and provide lots of support to their efforts for Wellesley Park, throughout the year. So far, we know that events will include - dates and timings to be confirmed by PTA / school shortly:

- A Christmas disco - PTA
- A Christmas gift shop - PTA
- A mulled wine and mince pie afternoon/early evening to include singing and a celebration of learning throughout the school - PTA
- An after Christmas family bingo evening
- A Valentines disco

Plus, our school usuals:

- A Christmas jumper and dinner day
- One afternoon Christmas film session, in the last week of term
- A class Christmas party

I hope that this all starts to get you in the festive mood - remember, only 65 days to go until Santa comes!

Have a wonderful half term everyone, stay safe and healthy

Best wishes

Emmie Hartley-Criddle

Head of School

DSL

SENDCo

Staffing Updates

Huge congratulations to Mrs Pilling (class teacher), who has said that she is very happy for me to share the wonderful news that she and her husband are expecting their third child! I am sure that you will all join me in congratulating Mrs Pilling and her lovely family, on such an exciting event.

Mrs Sampson (TA) has stepped down from lunch duties, but will be continuing with TA support in the mornings.

Mrs Potter will be leaving as a midday supervisor in our school hall. We will miss her support and fun in the dinner hall every lunchtime!

Mrs Sheehan (TA) has accepted a position working for Somerset County Council, which will start a few weeks after half term. We all wish Mrs Sheehan all the best for her new career.

Miss Gardner (PE/Forest School) has this week accepted a place on an Outdoor Learning course at the Mendip Sports, starting straight after half term. We wish her all the best with this exciting opportunity and we know that both pupils and staff will miss her very much.

Forest School

If your child currently has Forest School, or was about to have Forest School next half term, then I apologise in advance if changes have to be made to this provision. Due to the short notice of this staffing change, we will be unable to run Forest School to full capacity for the duration of this next half term, *at least*. We will try, where possible, to prioritise provision for our pupils who have an EHCP, and then for those who have an EHCP referral ongoing/required and for whom Forest School is much needed.

Apologies in advance to any children who this may affect negatively.

Mr Upham will be contacting families of children who we can provide Forest School for today (*if we can sort out the staffing timetable to allow for this provision*) via dojo.

There will be no Forest School for the first week back, in order to allow us the time to confirm staffing and for any TAs involved to have time to plan and prepare.

Thank you all for your support and understanding with this.

Keeping Safe Online — during the school holidays

As a parent/carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online and you don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe. Here is some advice and web links to resources to support you, as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibility and positively.

Chatting to your children about staying safe online can be difficult. These conversation starters may help:

Gaming - What games do you or your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play the game together?

Sharing – How can they help you stay safe online? What is okay and not okay to share?

Help – How do you update your privacy settings- can you show me?

Family – Are there any activities that we could do together on the internet? (Chrome Music Lab for example)

[Parental controls - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

Attached are two, one-page explanation sheets of the risks involved with playing the popular games Roblox and Minecraft - as being aware of the risks is key to knowing how to keep your child safe in the future.

Update Policies

Please note the following policies have been updated. These can be found on our school website www.wellesleyparkschool.co.uk

Home School Agreement/Remote Learning Policy/Students and Parents Privacy Notice/Privacy Notice
Academy Governors/Governance Structure/Membership of Committee/Governance Arrangements/Governors Handbook/Suspension and Permanent Exclusion

Attendance - by class for this half-term

Gruffalo	95.63%	Matilda	91.64%	Galadriel	96.55%
Jasper	94.40%	BFG	97.92%	Thorin	98.46%
Mrs Tiggywinkle	96.55%	Hufflepuff	93.21%	Akela	95.27%
Peter Rabbit	94.16%	Gryffindor	96.54%	Bagheera	94.63%

Update re Parent/Carer Newsletter

In light of a review of workload for our school teaching and office staff, we are making a change to the regularity of our parent newsletter updates. For this review we have taken into consideration how regularly / and in what form we communicate and share information with parents, how often staff are being required to complete 'on top of' tasks that are not directly related to the children's learning and whether there is any repetition of information being shared. We have also received some parental feedback that the newsletters are too regular and therefore less impactful than they should be.

Therefore, from after this half term holiday, the following lines of communication will be in place - most of which are in place already and are remaining. I hope that you will find these changes reasonable, whilst still ensuring a high-level of positive communication for parents/carers:

- Class teachers will be uploading a minimum of 1 post a week, to your child's class dojo page, regarding a celebration of learning in their class. Where relevant this should include photographs. This is *in addition* to any posts regarding letters / homework / general updates etc.
- Class teachers will upload to their class dojo page every Friday, a celebration of Super Students for their class. This may be posted after school on a Friday.
- The dojo messaging service for parents/carers and class teachers will remain as is.
- Updates for school dates / special events will be emailed out to you and/or shared on the school dojo page, whenever they are required / amended.

On the Friday of the last week, of every half term, parents and carers will receive a full Wellesley Park newsletter which will include learning highlights from each year group, including pre-school, plus the additional advice and support for our parents, staffing updates etc. Ensuring that our newsletter remains high quality, purposeful and a real celebration of our children's learning.

We really hope that you understand our ongoing need to review and amend current practice, as part of our responding positively to school needs. The teaching and learning for your children, must always remain our top priority and hopefully these changes will go a little way to supporting our wonderful staff with this.

Thank you as always for your support and understanding.

Wellington Planning

Year 5 and 6 have been involved in an exciting project planning the future of Wellington this week:

Somerset West and Taunton Council are excited to offer a unique opportunity for young people in Wellington to help inform and shape what their town will look like going into the future. We are undertaking a visioning exercise within the community, which includes a pop-up event in the town centre, workshop for key stakeholders within the community and an online activity too. As part of this, we are very keen to hear what young people have to say - how they view the place where they live, the challenges and opportunities, and what they would like to see in the future.

We have explored our routes to school and how they could be improved, discussed facilities available in the town and what we'd like to see more of and finally completed a survey to give our aspirations for Wellington.

Next month, we will be visited by the principal planning officer, who will tell us how our ideas will shape the future of Wellington. You may wish to ask your child about this.



Children in Need

Children in Need 2022 will be taking place on the 18th November. Children in Need believe that every child should have the childhood which they deserve and that children have the support needed to thrive.



At Wellesley Park, we will be taking on a sponsored fun run in our classes on this day, with a prize for the class who raises the most money. We will also be asking children to dress up in all things spotty on this day, prizes will be given to the spottiest child in each year group. Sponsorship forms will be coming out to all children after half term.

Let's get spotty!!!

Phonics at Wellesley Park

Our children in Reception and KS1 have done so well with their phonics over the last half term! It has been so wonderful to watch the progress the children have made and to see their enjoyment for phonics and reading truly blossom! It was great to see the positive impact of our phonics groups across the key stage, allowing our children to build on their self-confidence with their own phonic knowledge.

In Reception, the children have begun learning their single sounds. They have learnt how to pronounce them, how to form them and then had a go at writing them! The children are already half way through the Phase 2 sounds, meaning they have nearly learnt all the single sounds. They have also been introduced to the sound 'ck' and learnt the term 'digraph', meaning 'two letters that make one sound'. Tricky words have been introduced too! The children are learning these by sight and have learnt 'is' and 'i'.

In Year 1, the children have recapped the Phase 3 sounds to ensure they were confident and fluent with these and some have begun learning the alternatives for these sounds in Phase 5!

Phonics is crucial for our children's development of reading, which is something we do an unbelievable amount of times in a day without even realising it! This essential life skill is something we feel strongly about at Wellesley Park and we embed phonics in many ways in addition to our daily phonics lessons, including in activities, games and competitions across classes! Here are some tips on how to continue phonics learning at home during the half term.

- Go on a sound treasure hunt! Hide different sounds that have been learnt around the house and garden.
- Get creative and make your own sound cards! Use these to make words and your child can become the teacher, making words for you to sound and blend!
- If the weather shines, get outside with some chalk and write as many sounds and words as you can!
- Use the website Phonics Play and play the free games available (Dragons Den, Buried Treasure, Picnic on Pluto). Choose the phase for the stage your child is on (Phase 2 Reception, Phase 3, 4, 5 Year 1's – if you're not sure, send a dojo message to the class teacher to check which phase is appropriate for your child). www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Also, Little Wandle sell sound cards that we use in school for parents which can be purchased for your use at home. Google 'Little Wandle at Home Phonics Flashcards'.

I hope these ideas are useful and remember: PHONICS IS FUN!!!

Miss Winsor



Children's Wellbeing (and your own) over the half term break

Whilst school holidays are generally a happy time for families to enjoy together, it's worth being aware of the additional pressures this can bring. Children (and adults) need routine and the lack of structure during the school holidays can cause some of us to really struggle. We've listed some things below that might help.

Self-care and your own wellbeing: No surprises, but parental stress can increase over holidays, which can impact on children. This is usually due to parents feeling overloaded or stretched between home and work. Make sure you've something planned in for yourself. Remember, self-care is not selfish. Self-care allows us to maintain balance and continue functioning like a well-oiled machine that increases our ability to help care for others.

Add structure, but don't forget rest: Sit down as a family and make a collective calendar. Schedule some movies or fun days out, along with some time for rest. Term time is a busy time for everyone and rest days are essential. In fact, planning a rest day in to your week will make you feel less guilty when the day arrives – especially if it's scheduled into your calendar.

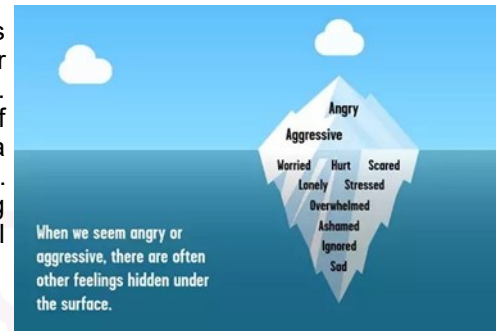
Maintain healthy routines: Changes in routine can be disruptive for some children and lead to increased behaviour problems. Plan some morning activities and add a little structure to their days. Knowing what to expect on a daily basis can help to reduce feelings of anxiety and some familiar structure will ease the transition back to school after half-term. Re-establishing those bedtime routines in the final days of the holidays can be really helpful to.

The great outdoors: Tearing children away from their screens and into the garden, let alone the woods can be difficult, but rain or shine, encouraging your children to spend more time outside can dramatically boost wellbeing. Spending time in nature has been shown to boost children's confidence, their creativity and their imagination. This rings true for adults to, especially for stress-relief!

Name it to tame it

Sometimes we create an idea in our minds about what the school holidays might look like but we also know that things don't always go to plan. Our children will be tired, we'll be stretched and emotions will be running high. Remember that more often than not their behaviour is a form of communication. We may see an angry outburst, but underneath there will be a lot more going on that they're just not able to verbalise. Try 'Name it to tame it'. A science-backed technique you can use to calm intense emotions or spiralling negative thoughts. Support your child by helping them to understand and label their feelings.

[Name it to tame it: How labelling emotions helps kids manage them - Mindful Little Minds Psychology when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf](https://www.littlemindspsychology.com/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf)
(youngminds.org.uk)



Useful resources – Sources of Support

[Activity ideas for children aged five to 12 - Support for Parents from Action for Children](#)

Action for Children offer free advice for parents and carers of children aged 0-19 in the UK. They have some fantastic resources on their website from advice on child development, behaviour and sleep to activity ideas for children of all ages.

[Home - My Family Coach](#)

We know that it can be tricky to find the spare time in the holidays but if ever you have a moment to yourself we would recommend exploring the 'My Family Coach' resource online. My Family Coach helps parents and carers understand their child's behaviour. It's a free website written by behaviour experts with over 20 years' experience working with over 5,000 schools. My Family Coach will support you through the tough times, inspire you with new ideas and share practical tips to make parenting that little bit easier.

[HappyMaps | Support for Your Child's Mental Health](#)

HappyMaps is an award-winning charity developed by healthcare professionals with help from parents and young people. They've gathered together what we think are some of the best mental health resources for parents, carers, and young people, all in one place. Their website is really easy to navigate and contains some fantastic resources including a 'Parent's Survival Guide' and a section specifically on Children's wellbeing and Primary School.

[Disney Dance-Alongs - This Girl Can](#)

Not just for girls! Follow Disney dance-along easy to learn dance routines. Great for a rainy day. Perfect your dance routines and show them off to your friends when we return half the half-term break.

[Cosmic Kids App](#)

Try it out! It might actually help you as well. You can access a free trial through the website or search Cosmic Kids Yoga on YouTube. Yoga for children can help to increase attention span and improve concentration. It can also help to build confidence, compassion and empathy for themselves and others.

Preschool

At preschool, we have been noticing some changes around us! The wind is getting colder and it is filling our playground with beautiful Autumn colours. So, we decided to investigate things that happen during Autumn, we have been finding different ways to represent Autumn leaves, using 'puffy' paint for ghosts and winding wool to make Halloween pumpkins.



Reception/Year 1

How has this half term already finished? We are super proud of ALL of our children in Gruffalo and Jasper; they have truly blown our socks off! We hope you all have a well-deserved break and re-energise ready for next half term, which we are sure will be just as jam packed.

Over the last fortnight, Receptions have continued their maths focus on patterns and took this outside in their play with some musical instruments, using a variety to carry out repeating patterns of sound with their friends. We also looked at the pattern of repetitive language in the story 'We're going on a bear hunt' which led to us going on our very own adventure!

In Year 1, we finished our first topic of place value to 10 and have begun addition and subtraction to 10. We have introduced the language of parts and wholes, plus, add and equal to and also looked at addition fact families. Very busy!

Both classes have enjoyed getting creative when innovating our Talk for Writing story. Rather than having Daisy the cow stuck in the mud, we have thoroughly enjoyed reimagining the text in different ways. Some of our favourites included a hermit crab saving a shark from a shell and a zombie being rescued by a sharkman from some sticky slime.



We want to thank all of our parents for your support over this half term and we look forward to getting the chance to share even more with you on parents evening. Have a great half term everyone!



Year 1/Year 2

This week, year 1 and 2 have been thinking about what they might do if they were the King or Queen. We had fun deciding on our King and Queen names, then drew ourselves on a throne. We talked about the similarities and differences with Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria and how we might be as Kings and Queens. In RE, we are continuing to learn about Jewish traditions, we have learnt all about the celebration of Shabbat and what Jewish people do and don't do during this time. In art, we have painted beautiful pictures continuing our understanding of primary colours and colour mixing.

Year 2 have also been hard at work having a go at their first booklets in preparation for SATs in May. The children have all shown amazing resilience - well done!

We hope you all have a fantastic half term - we can't wait to share with you all the exciting learning planned for next half term.

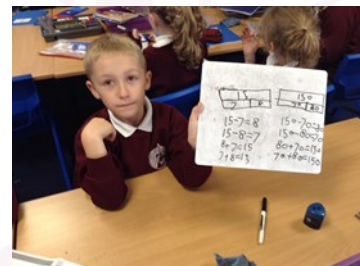


Year 3

On Thursday 13th October, Year 3 went to Court Fields to partake in a various athletics activities including the high jump, relays, hurdles, shotput and long jump. Both children and staff had a very enjoyable time with the event being very well organised. The pupils were mixed in small groups with pupils from different schools and had 5 minutes at each activity. All of the children participated well and had a go at every activity even if they were a little nervous. Also, they were all good ambassadors for Wellesley Park; extremely well polite, listening to instructions and showing good sportsmanship to their classmates and pupils from other schools.

Matilda class enjoyed their Art lesson with Mrs G today. They were drawing and sketching using chalks and charcoal and created some beautiful cave paintings linked to their History Topic on The Stone Age.

The children have enjoyed writing their own Defeat the Monster Tale this week in English. They have worked really hard this half term learning how to structure the story, to use power of 3 sentences, noun phrases, similes and adverbs. We look forward to reading them together.



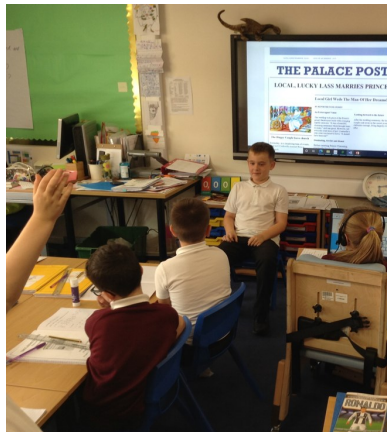
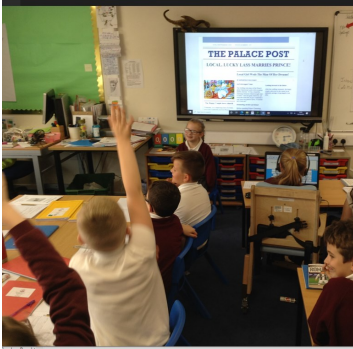
Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic end to the term - it has gone so fast. In Guided Reading, we are enjoying our new fantastic book by Philip Pullman - *The Firework Maker's Daughter*. We are looking forward to finding out more about our main characters in the chapters to come.

In English, we have begun our first Non-Fiction unit on Newspaper Reports. We had great fun becoming the characters from our model text in hot-seating. We are excited to get to grips with the many features of this genre on our return after half-term and write our own! Budding journalists at the ready.

In Maths, we have come to the end of our addition and subtraction unit. The children have worked hard to understand column addition and subtraction particularly with 4 digit numbers and where there is more than one exchange.

Have a lovely half-term everyone 😊



Year 5

Another busy few weeks for Year 5.

We came to the end of our story, 'Perseus and Medusa' and started our new explanation text, *The Meduser Pleaser machine*. We have been exploring how to make Medusa happy and designing our own machine to make something in our lives easier.

In Maths, we have been looking at addition and subtraction and will be moving on to multiplication and division after half term.

Both classes have really enjoyed PE where we have been working on our netball skills with a focus on footwork, passing and receiving the ball, making space for the ball and shooting.

In Science this week, we have been looking at shadows and how they change throughout the day. Only problems is, there hasn't been a lot of sun so we have struggled to see our shadows especially in the morning.

Thorin class have been having music lessons with Miss Leech for the first part of the Autumn term, Galadriel will be having theirs after half term. We have been learning to read music and begun to learn how to play the glockenspiel.



Year 6

It's been an exciting few weeks in Year 6! We have started exploring formal, persuasive letters and have already tackled using formal language and transitional adverbs to enhance our writing.

In maths, we have faced tricky long multiplication and division methods and applied it to multi-step word problems.

We travelled back in time and history and experienced what life would be like in a Victorian prison. We picked oakum and experienced the shot drill, the tread wheel and silence and isolation- I don't think there are any volunteers to go back to the 1800s just yet.



On Wednesday, we had a great time dissecting and investigating the structure of the heart (lamb, not human!). The children investigated the fat and muscle surrounding the heart and then used scissors to cut through and explore inside. They found the left side to be thicker than the right and were able to use their science learning from this term to explain why using scientific vocabulary. We were extremely proud of their maturity and fascination.

