



Westwood Academy

Westwood Weekly

Friday 15th September 2023.

Headteacher message.

What a fantastic week it's been at Westwood!

I'm thrilled to announce that our new house captains in year 5 have been chosen. They truly shone during their interviews with excellent presentations. We can't wait to see the leadership they bring to our school!

Our first girls' football training session on Wednesday was a big hit, maybe some future Lionesses on our hands here at Westwood...

It was wonderful to have so many parents in the school on Monday to meet the teachers and find out more about the year ahead.

On a bittersweet note, we've learned that Sian, our incredible head of the PTFA, will be stepping down. Her dedication has brought great improvements to our school, and we are so grateful for everything she has done! Please check out page 2 of the newsletter for more information.

Looking ahead to next week, children will be learning more about the Harvest Festival on Wednesday. It's a great opportunity for us to come together and find out more about how we can support our community.

Friday the 22nd is "Genes for Jeans" day - a chance to dig out your best denim and show your support!

Have a wonderful weekend everybody 😊



Open mornings

We have 2 open mornings planned for parents of new starters to come in and have a look round the school and ask any questions. These will be Wednesday 11th October and Wednesday 8th November at 9.30 and 11.00. The tours will be by appointment only. If you require an appointment, please contact the school office.

Year 6 to 7 secondary admission round for September 2024

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opened on Tuesday, 12 September 2023, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2024.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October 2023.

Attendance: Our school target is 97%

This week: **96.07%**

Year to date: **96.98%**



We expect pupils to be in school everyday.

Any pupil with below 90% is considered as a case of "persistent absence".

This week, through to Thursday, **Year 5** got **99.33%**, the highest in the school. Well done!

Key Dates (new/changes this week in bold)

21.9.23 Music workshop Yr 5&6
 22.9.23 Jeans for Genes
 25-29.3.23 Cycle to school
 27.9.23 Rocksteady Pupil Music Assembly
 2.10.23 Black History
 3.10.23 Parent Consultation Meetings. 13.40-18.50
 School closes at 13.30
 10.10.23 Year 2 school trip
 10.10.23 World Mental Health Day
 11.10.23 Open morning
16.10-27.10.23 Half Term
 7.11.23 Yr 6 Chelmsford Museum
 8.11.23 Open morning
 23.11.23 Exhibition Evening
 30.11.23 Return to school
 16.11.23 School photographer (individual & sibling)
 27.11-1.12.23 Book Fair
21.12.23-3.1.24 Christmas Holidays
 4.1.24 Return to school
19.2-23.2.23 Half Term
 26.2.24 Return to school
 7.3.24 World Book Day
 11.3-15.3.24 British Science Week
 19.3.24 School photographer (Groups)
 21.3.24 Exhibition Evening
29.3-12.4.24 Easter Holidays
 15.4.24 Return to school
 13.5-17.5.24 SATS week
 13.5-17.5.24 Book Fair
 27.5-31.5.24 Half Term
 3.6.24 Return to school
 17.6-21.6.24 Yr 6 Residential
 27.6.24 Exhibition Evening
 19.7.24 Last day term

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.



Instagram Check out our Instagram page @WestwoodSEAT. We will also continue to share updates on our Westwood Academy Facebook page too. Tune in to see all of the exciting learning we are getting up to at Westwood!

☀ Calling all Parents and Guardians! ☀

We have a special request that can make a big difference for our nursery and reception classes.

We're in need of cooking items like wooden spoons, pans, sieves, and funnels. These tools help our youngest learners develop fine motor skills and

teamwork 🧑🍳

We're also looking for donations of Duplo and Lego sets. These items spark imaginative play, problem-solving, and storytelling - all crucial skills for the

future. 🧱🧩

If you have items to donate, please drop them off at the school reception time.

Thank you for helping us create an engaging learning environment for our little ones!

Message from our PTFA Chair:

After a lot of careful consideration, I have decided to step down within my role as chair of Westwood PTFA. I have been part of the PTFA since my daughter started in 2012 and she took over as chair in 2019. I have enjoyed working closely with the school and helping raise funds for the children, but I feel now is the time to step down. My son is now in year 5 and I would like to enjoy his last two years at the school attending an event rather than running it 🤔. I like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the years and backing some of my more crazier ideas 😊.

If you feel you would make a good chair of the PTFA and would like to be considered for this challenging, yet fulfilling role please send in a small paragraph to the school office as to why you think you would be suited to this role. Once we receive any interest we will then have an AGM meeting and a new chair will be appointed. If you would like to know more about what is involved in the position please come and see me.

Merits and Reader of the Week

You are all superstars, and a special well done to the following children who all received Merits this week.

Year 1 Neve and Albie	James
Year 2 Ivy and Jack	Amelia
Year 3 Kyla and Jackson	Thomas
Year 4 Florence and Phoebe	Austin
Year 5 Henry and Frazer	Joshua
Year 6 Angelica and Ethan	Mack

Lunchtime Awards

Year 5, Evie, Bella and Aspen



We are writing to urge you to please be mindful of our pupil safety at drop off and collection. Please ensure that our school is a safe place for children and families by parking in the correct zone.

We are counting on our families to set a good example and to help us keep our school community safe.

Thank you to all who are already doing this.

Attendance.

We expect pupils to be in school everyday. We can not authorise term time absence except in exceptional circumstances and where appropriate, Essex County Council will issue fines. Our target for the whole school is 97% attendance, and we are expected to promote positive attendance and support all pupils to be able to attend school regularly. We monitor attendance weekly and will invite parents and carers of pupils who have attendance that causes concern to meet with us to improve. Attendance for each pupil is included in the year end school report – the chart on the right gives an indication as to how much missed learning time each child's percentage equates to each year. We have a statutory duty, as parents do, to ensure that pupils are at school every day. Thank you for understanding and supporting our whole school community by ensuring excellent attendance whenever possible.

Attendance	Hours missed	Weeks missed	Missed days
100%	0	0	0
97%	30	1 week 1 day	6
95%	50	2 weeks	10
90%	95	3 weeks 4 days	19
86%	135	5 weeks 2 days	27
80%	195	7 weeks 4 days	39
75%	242.5	9 weeks 3.5 days	48.5
70%	290	11 weeks 3 days	58
60%	390	15 weeks 3 days	78
50%	485	19 weeks 3 days	97

Earrings.

A friendly reminder that earrings need to be studs and not hoop or dangly earrings. If children wear earrings to school, **they must be removed for PE/on PE days.** Essex County Council recommend that earrings are not worn during PE. **All earrings will need to be removed prior to PE lessons for safety reasons. If children have their earrings in on the day of PE they will unfortunately not be able to take part. If you have any concerns regarding this, please contact us prior to the PE lesson.**

If you are planning to have your child/ren's ears pierced, please can it be arranged for the start of the 6-week summer holiday to reduce potential risk during PE lessons. Thank you for your support.

Nail Varnish and other jewellery

May we remind families that nail varnish should not be worn and the only other jewellery that is allowed is a watch.



We expect full school uniform to be worn correctly at all times, including PE uniform.

PE kit expectations

On PE days children should be dressed in correct Westwood Academy PE kits. This consists of navy shorts/joggers, a white t-shirt, white socks, navy fleece and appropriate trainers. No branded clothes should be worn.



Woodys.

Our Before and After School Provision, Woodys, is available for families who need to drop off early or pick up late from school. It is a paid service and **places have to be booked in advance**, so that we have information about each child that will be attending and to be sure that we have the right number of staff available. To book places at Woodys, please follow this [link here](#). This link is always featured in the "Regular Information" section at the end of the newsletter.

Nursery News.

The nursery key workers are able to be contacted via Tapestry or if you have a more specific question, the Nursery email is checked regularly: nursery@westwoodacademy.org

Achievements.

Send in your achievements outside of school to office@westwoodacademy.org and we'll publish them in the newsletter

Karate Club.

Westwood hosts a karate club on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday. Please see Mr Eade for further details.

Logan has moved up another level in swimming completing his Stanley 7
Now working towards his goldfish badges.
Well done Logan!



Musical Theatre

with Laura

Does your child love to
SING, DANCE & ACT?!

Join Laura on a FRIDAY after
school for lots of singing, dancing &
drama!

ALL YEAR GROUPS WELCOME!

TO BOOK PLEASE
TEXT/WATSAPP
07887690425

YOUR CHILD'S NAME
YEAR GROUP

ANY MEDICAL CONDITIONS
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

FRIDAYS
1.30-2.30PM £5
FRIDAY 15th SEPT-
FRIDAY 1st DEC
TOTAL £55



Woody's Care Provision Details.

T: 07580 461715

Opening Hours.

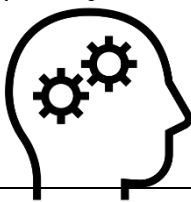
Mon-Thu 07.30-08:45, 15:10-17:00

Fri 07.30-08:45, 15:10-16:00

Bridging Club Fri 1:30 – 15:10

Home Learning.

When available, can be found on our website by clicking this icon:



This week, school dinners will be from the Summer Menu, Week 3— click below. Click icon below to see menus.



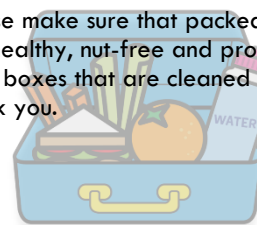
Click below for...

Woody's Care Provision Booking Info

For support with home learning, Please send a message to your child's class teacher on Dojo, or speak at the gate.

Packed Lunches.

Please make sure that packed lunches are healthy, nut-free and provided in lunch boxes that are cleaned daily. Thank you.



Online Safety.

MINIMUM AGES.

Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook

13

Whatsapp, Tik Tok

16 to register

13 to use

YouTube

18 to register

13 with parental permission.

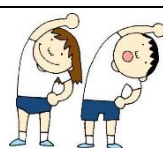
Games – check PEGI rating.

Click [here](#) for more on online safety.



Please remember **snacks** and **water bottles** each day, as well as appropriate **coats** for cold weather and **sun cream** when it's warm.

Please ensure pupils are provided with a PE kit throughout the school year. Please speak to the school office to make us aware of any difficulty with this. PE kit is part of the school uniform, details of which can be found [here](#).



If you have any out of school achievements that you would like mentioned in the school newsletter, please email the office at:

office@westwoodacademy.org

We are nut free. Help us safeguard those with allergies and please do not send any products containing nuts into school.



Follow us on Facebook – Click below to go to our page.



Click our logo to go to our website.



Click [here](#) for details of our school uniform.

THE HAPPY TANK Tick each practice that you complete each day

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
Breathing							
Reflection							
Kindness							
Affirmations							
Gratitude							
Happy Tapping							

Scan me to fill your Happy Tank with The Kindness Coach

FILL YOUR LIFE WITH HAPPY HABITS

What to do

Advice on
childhood illnesses

Go to school; if
needed get
treatment as shown

Can be catching.
Some restrictions for
school attendance

Don't go to school
and see the GP

What it's called	What it's like	Going to school	Getting treatment	More advice
Chicken Pox	Rash begins as small, red, flat spots that develop into itchy fluid-filled blisters	●	Pharmacy	Back to school 5 days after on-set of the rash
Common Cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat	●	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Conjunctivitis	Tearry, red, itchy, painful eye(s)	●	Pharmacy	Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat	●	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
German measles	Fever, tiredness. Raised, red, rash that starts on the face and spreads downwards.	●	G.P.	Back to school 6 days from on-set of rash
Glandular fever	high temperature, sore throat; usually more painful than any before and swollen glands	●	G.P.	Child needs to be physically able to concentrate
Hand, foot & mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, small painful blisters inside the mouth on tongue and gums (may appear on hands and feet)	●	G.P.	Only need to stay off ill feeling too ill for school
Head lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)	●	Pharmacy	
Impetigo	Clusters of red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness	●	G.P.	Back to school when lesions crust or 48 hours after start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, and watery inflamed eyes. Small red spots with white or bluish white centres in the mouth, red, blotchy rash	●	G.P.	Back to school 4 days from on-set of rash
Ringworm	Red ring shaped rash, may be itchy rash may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty	●	G.P.	
Scabies	Intense itching, pimple – like rash Itching and rash may be all over the body but commonly between the fingers, wrists, elbows, arm	●	G.P.	Back to school after first treatment
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister-type rash	●	G.P.	Only stay off school if rash is weeping and cannot be covered
Sickness bug/ diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea	●	Pharmacy	See GP if symptoms persist after 48 hours
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around anus	●	Pharmacy	Ensure good hand hygiene
Tonsillitis	Intense Sore throat	●	Pharmacy	See GP if temperature lasts more than 48 hours or cannot swallow
Whooping cough	Violent coughing, over and over, until child inhales with “whooping” sound to get air into lungs	●	G.P.	Back to school after 5 days of antibiotics or 21 days from onset of illness

See www.patient.co.uk for further information on each of these conditions

This leaflet has been produced in partnership between



This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals however, if you are unsure about your child's wellbeing we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check.

Home learning at Westwood 2023

Please see the home learning expectations for each year group below. Supporting your children with home learning helps to build on their school learning as well as helping to adopt good learning behaviours.







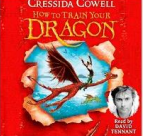



Please kindly note that home learning is no longer optional and is a requirement.

We will no longer be using Sumdog and instead will be providing each pupil with a White Rose homework book which matches our Maths learning in the classroom. As well as this, KS1 and some of our Year 3 pupils will be following the Read Write Inc programme. Instead of stage books they will be bringing home their Read Write Inc book to work on for the week, along with a library book chosen during their library session. New Read Write Inc books will be sent out each Monday. Lastly, across the school we will now be using Purple Mash to set spellings. Spelling lists will be sent out with homework on Friday but there are extra activities to complete on Purple Mash based on the weekly words which teachers will set as 2dos for the children.

Homework will be set weekly and will be checked/marked by adults in class. Please send White Rose homework in every Wednesday to be marked in school. Spelling tests will be on Friday and new homework will come home each Friday too. As always, if you have any questions regarding homework please see the class teachers, we are happy to help. Thank you for your continued support!

Reception	<p>The expectation is to read each night, signing the reading record to show how your child is getting on.</p> <p>In addition to this, phonics books will be sent home following our Read Write Inc scheme. The class teacher will guide the class on which activity to complete each week.</p> <p>Class teachers will also set challenge homework throughout the school year linked to topics/ learning focuses within the classroom. This will be communicated to parents as the year goes on.</p>
Year 1	<p>The expectation is to read each night, signing the reading record to show how your child is getting on.</p> <p>Spelling practise each evening in preparation for weekly spelling test.</p> <p>Completion of one Maths activity in the White Rose homework book each week, as guided by the class teacher.</p> <p>In addition, half termly challenge homework will be set based on the topic to engage pupils and enrich learning.</p>
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 5	
Year 4	<p>The expectation is to read each night signing the reading record to show how your child is getting on.</p> <p>Spelling practise each evening in preparation for weekly spelling test.</p> <p>Completion of one activity in the CGP times tables book as guided by the class teacher. This is to prepare the children for the year 4 Multiplication test in the Summer term.</p> <p>In addition, half termly challenge homework will be set based on the topic to engage pupils and enrich learning.</p>
Year 6	<p>The expectation is to read each night, signing the reading record to show how your child is getting on. Spelling practise each evening in preparation for weekly spelling test.</p> <p>White Rose maths book, CGP arithmetic, comprehension and GPS books will be sent home to be used to support the upcoming SATS tests in the Summer term. The class teacher will communicate which tasks to complete.</p> <p>In addition, research and fact finding challenge homework will be set linked to topics.</p>

Additional Links for Reading at Home

 <p>Kid's Fun Learning</p>	 <p>Free e-books</p>		 <p>Oak Academy</p>
<p>Videos of some great books being read aloud.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFMow5TKHosUmHtVlzuAwg</p>	<p>Some fantastic e-books, including some Read Write Inc books too.</p> <p>https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/</p> <p>Storytime sorted by ages.</p> <p>https://www.booksfortopics.com/storytime-online</p>	<p>Authorfy have some great 10 minute challenges from authors and there is even more book fun on their website. You can sign up for a free account.</p> <p>https://authorfy.com/10minutechallenges/</p>	<p>Online lessons for all year groups!</p> <p>https://www.thenationalacademy/</p>
<p>COMICS</p>		 <p>The Reading Realm</p>	 <p>Cressida Cowell</p>
<p>Here are some links to help you make your own comics.</p> <p>http://davidconnell.uk/activities/comics-drawing/</p> <p>http://fdslive.oup.com/www.oup.com/oxed/children/kevin-comic-sheets.pdf</p>	<p>Where you can read, watch, hear and explore children's poems.</p> <p>https://clpe.org.uk/poetryline</p> <p>https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/</p> <p>https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/children</p> <p>https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/</p>	<p>Learning from home resources, ideas and more. There is also an app you can get with lots of texts to read and activities to do.</p> <p>https://thereadingrealm.co.uk/category/resources/</p>	<p>On her YouTube channel, children's author Cressida Cowell reads extracts from her books like How To Train Your Dragon and shares other magical ideas.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCe01xn13M8q2dslw0mvW9lg</p>
 <p>Michael Rosen YouTube</p>	<p>LoveReading</p> <p>4 KIDS SHARING BOOK LOVE</p> <p>Love Reading 4 Kids</p>	 <p>Book Trust Home Time</p>	 <p>Free audio books</p>
<p>Over 400 videos of Michael Rosen reading his children's stories and poems.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7D-mXO4kk-XWvH6IBXdrPw</p>	<p>Books, videos and competitions</p> <p>https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/kids-zone/</p>	<p>More book fun, quizzes and videos here.</p> <p>https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/?q=&sortOption=AtoZ&pageNo=1</p>	<p>Lots of free audio books for children to explore.</p> <p>https://stories.audible.com/discovery</p>