



Westfield Arts College

Parents Newsletter

Headteacher's News

Since our last newsletter it has been busy at Westfield, with lots of events, outings, residential visits and a pilot Ofsted inspection to keep us occupied! The Christmas festivities were very enjoyable, and we've since held several other events which you can read about in this newsletter.

I am feeling very settled now at Westfield, and have had the opportunity to meet many of you in school when you've visited for parents evenings or other meetings. We have also had huge interest in places for pupils from other schools, and have held many visits with prospective families. On these visits I often hear very positive comments about the good reputation of the school, which makes us all proud to be part of it.

In January we sent out questionnaires for pupils, parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete these and give us your views. We collated all the responses and sent this out to you recently so you can read what other parents feel. I'm really pleased to hear so many positive views, and your comments about how we can improve the school and our provision for your children are very useful.

In December we agreed to be part of a pilot inspection by Ofsted, who have published a new draft framework for inspecting schools. There is a strong focus on the quality of our education, and how well we know that our pupils are making good progress. The inspection was for two days in March and was a very positive and useful process, although it was very intensive and tiring for all involved. From this we have a very good idea about our strengths and what else we can do to improve. I sent you a letter with some feedback which I hope that you all received.

We are currently in the process of updating the design of our website. It's kept very up-to-date with the latest news, but needs a general tidy up of the information. If you have any suggestions for our new site and information you would find useful then please send an email to the school office with your ideas. I know that lots of you follow our Facebook page and our Instagram, where we celebrate all our creative activities, is also proving popular. We hope that many of you will be able to make it to our Sixth Form Easter garden party and the Easter bingo, both coming up soon.

Best wishes
Seán Kretz

World Book Day



There were lots of activities on World Book Day, including

- Coming to school dressed as your favourite book character
- A parade of costumes in assembly
- A 'Book in a Jar' competition
- A 'Who's Reading' competition
- A photo competition sharing stories with pets and/or reading in extreme places
- A book stall

It was great to see so many pupils and staff in costumes!



Red Nose Day 2019

Thank you!

Through non-school uniform, selling red noses, telling jokes and lunchtime discos, we raised a massive **£229.55** for Comic Relief!



Friends of Westfield



Friends Of Westfield have been busy making funding available for the school recently. A new "green gym" is being installed in the school field this spring. Also we are helping to provide a new screen in the main hall, as well as contributing towards a new sensory room, and, if that's not enough, providing some essential teaching resources. Please come along to our future fundraising events so we can keep supporting school in projects where they need our help.

Friends of Westfield Quiz Night

It was a great turnout for the Westfield quiz on Friday 8th February when 7 teams battled to win the coveted Quiz champions trophy. Refreshments were provided by Friends of Westfield along with a raffle which raised over £113.30 Thanks to Carl Greenham for hosting a fun packed evening and volunteers who helped on the night. Watch this space for dates of the next quiz.

Autism Top Tip Give processing time

Most children with Autism need more time to process information, particularly verbal information.

Not having enough time to process information can be overwhelming for a person with autism. Some young people have said that it is a bit like the 'buffering' we get with a computer. If we keep clicking or giving more information this overloads the system and finally the system crashes. In our children we may see them shut down or become cross or frustrated.

Visual information can speed up a child's processing. However illness, anxiety and stress can slow it down. The NAS suggest to help our children process information 'be calm and patient to allow time'.

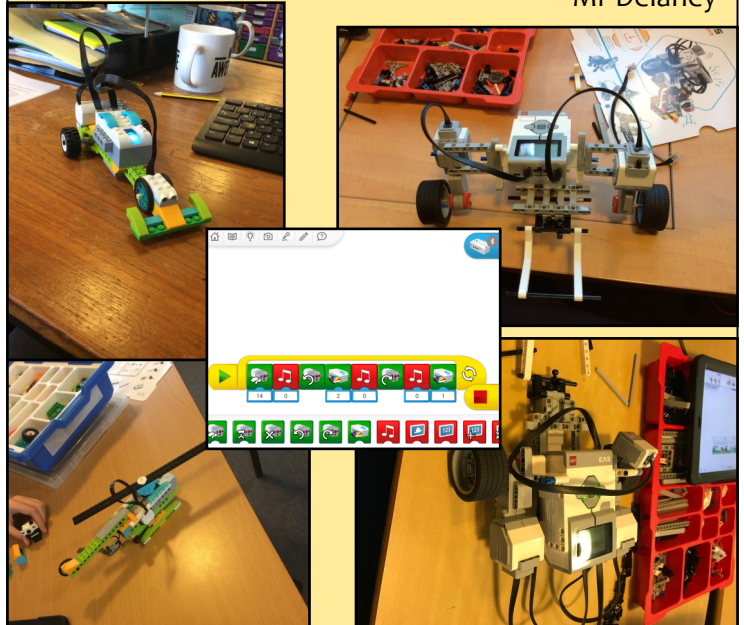
Aisla, Caroline and Kate (NAS EarlyBird Trainers)



IT News

Last term in Computing we are learning coding. We are lucky enough to have a set of Lego Wedo and Mindstorms. Students learn about building, making projects move using code. Students use STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) skills to build their creations. This half term we will be focusing on coding software such as Kodu and Scratch.

Mr Delaney



Share your best tips for healthy eating

At school we are always encouraging our children to eat as healthily as they can.

We know how difficult it can be to encourage some children to try new foods and how limited their diets can be. We are also well aware of



how hard it is to cut down on foods which are high in sugar and fat. We always appreciate you trying to avoid these foods and would ask that you try not to send in sugary drinks, chocolate or crisps for break-time snacks. Limiting these in packed lunches is also helpful. We would like to build up a bank of tried and tested tips for healthy eating which you as parents and carers have found successful. Perhaps you have some recipes which you know has transformed your child's eating habits? It would be wonderful if you could send these in and we can share them on our website.

Any ideas are welcome!

Mrs Bidwell

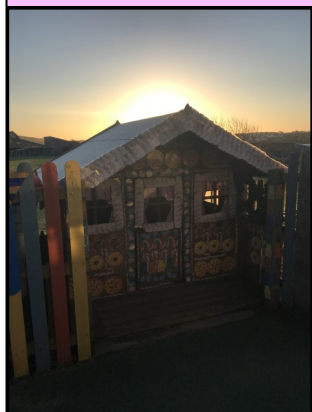


Lady Cecily's Sound Box

The Kinetic Theatre company visited Westfield in January to perform their show, Lady Cecily's Sound Box. The company tour the UK putting on plays based on the National Curriculum for Science. The show is a melodrama set in the Victorian era. Many traditions, attitudes and techniques of the time were used throughout the show. Through the play pupils learnt about various aspects of sound. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the play finding it entertaining and educational.



Chesil Class



The children in Chesil Class are having great fun, listening and finding out about the characters in lots of stories from long ago. So far we have read, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children's absolute favourite so far is, 'Hansel and Gretel', so much so, that we have turned our playhouse into a house made of sweets. All of

the pupils helped in some way, whether it was finding images using IT, laminating, cutting or stapling. We are all very pleased with the finished result. As you may agree? We think it looks brilliant!

Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for me to fill shoe boxes and those who sent in completed ones. As a school we had a great response. We managed to fill 26 boxes to be sent off. I received one a little too late to be sent so I have kept that ready to go next year. We also



had a few things left over but not quite enough to make up a complete box so I have put those away for next year too. So thank you all again and I look forward to next year.

Liz Dench

Allotment News

Spring is only a couple Mondays away, but first we must get past winter. The Allotment is slowly showing signs of life. The daffodils, hellebores and snowdrops are starting to flower.

Students have planted their cabbage plants, which are nice, strong plants and these will head to the kitchen in June time.

Wyke planted some sweet peas back in November and these are looking good. The students had to pinch the heads out to encourage strong plants and roots. These will be sold later in the spring to raise funds to help pay for our new shed.

We have also planted some tomato seeds, 4 different types, yellow, black and red and yellow plum.

Students have also been looking after the birds. We had to clean the feeders before filling and put out fresh water for them. Wyke visited Lorton Meadows and walked around Withy woods. The class could hear lots of different birds, but got very excited by hearing a woodpecker.

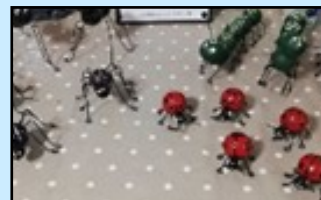


Sixth Form Allotment News



It's all go at the Sixth Form. The raised beds are starting to be planted up with broad beans, cabbages, potatoes and two types of onion. They have also started to plant flower seeds in the greenhouse. These will go towards the flower sale in the summer.

We have started to landscape the back garden. The staff and students are working hard to raise funds for an outside eating area. We need to lay a solid concrete patio. The kitchen area will be made from recycled pallets, these are being collected slowly. There also plans to purchase a barbeque, sink and taps at a later date. You can purchase ants, ladybirds and caterpillars at 6th Form to help with funds.



CAN YOU HELP?

With spring not so far way, we were wondering if any parents, carers or grandparents are looking to change or update their garden plant pots. To save throwing them away or taking them to the tip. We would be happy to collect and give them a new home. Also any plastic plant pots would be greatly received, along with any unwanted plants.

Caroline Hales & the student gardeners

Rights Respecting Schools News

Last term Mrs Collinson has been working to relaunch our efforts towards achieving the Gold award in the Rights Respecting Schools initiative. So far a staff working group and the secondary rights reps have met

to discuss how we will go about raising the profile of this work throughout the school. Primary pupils will also meet before half term.

Our secondary representatives said they value the right to socialise and the right to learn, as well as the right to have the same opportunities as everyone else.

Our work for the rest of this school year will focus on the theme of 'good health', both for ourselves and for the world we live in.



The 6th Form Café is open every
Friday 9.15am -12pm

Full English Breakfast, toast & hot drink for £4
Please phone to book as we have limited spaces.

Call Tina at the Bungalow
01305 837364



Sixth Form News

As part of the 6th form Enterprise we are having an Easter Garden Party. It will be on Thursday 28th March 11am to 2.30pm at the Bungalow. The café will be serving hot cross buns, Easter biscuits, cake, hot drinks and squash. Also homemade soup and crusty rolls. There will be stalls, Easter activities including an Easter egg hunt, raffle, face painting and lots more.

All students, staff and families welcome!



Dates for your Dairy

Mon 25th March	Fraser Portraits—Class photos
25th-29th March	Sixth Form New Forest trip
Fri 29th March	Easter Bingo
Mon 1st April	HPV Immunisations
1st-4th April	Sixth Form residential
2nd-4th	Lulworth residential
Thurs 4th April	Easter Service
Thurs 4th April	Break up for Easter Holidays
Tues 23rd April	Back to school
Fri 26th April	Jubilee Challenge training walk
Mon 6th May	Bank Holiday—School closed
Tues 7th May	National Theatre Connexions
10th-11th May	Jubilee Challenge
Tues 14th May	GCSE exams start
Fri 24th May	Break up for half term
Mon 3rd June	Back to school



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