

Dear Families,

Well it certainly has been an action packed 7 week half term!

Firstly, a big warm welcome to the newest addition to our Westwood family - Baby Barnes was born this week and he and mummy have already joined us for their first celebration assembly!



This half term, our children have been busy both in and out of school with so many visitors coming to see us in school and also so many trips out of school too. Year 3 and 4 visited the Time and Tide Museum, Carlton Marshes have been in to work with Year 5 and 6, Rock Choir performed at Snape Maltings and the whole school were visited by The Royal Institute of Science for an 'Explosive Food' workshop! We also held our first whole school assembly since before the pandemic for our Easter celebration with the church.

We have also been pleased to welcome families back into school this term. We have held share sessions in EYFS, KS1 parents have been in to celebrate their children's work and Year 5 and 6 parents have been in to taste pizzas created by the children! Our Parents evenings were a huge success and we were so pleased to be able to share with you your children's progress.



Once again, thank you for your continued support of our school, it really is our pleasure teaching your children and working with our local community.

We are so Proud to be Westwood!

Enjoy the Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on

Monday 25th April.

Mrs Aldous & Ms Creed



Pre-School, Nursery & Reception

Nursery and Pre-School

This term in Nursery we have been looking at some Traditional tales including The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks, Jack and The Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Little Red Riding Hood.

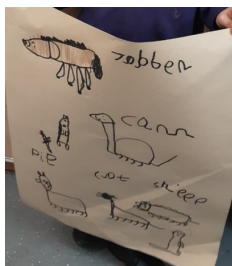


Each week the class have found something new or unusual in our room to spark their imagination and knowledge of the well-known stories. The children have participated in lots of different activities linked to these, including character role play, storytelling inside and outside, planting, measuring, creating pictures and models using different media, mark making, trying new foods and lots of number play. The children have also shared some wonderful ideas about the characters and tales we have looked at and created a funny class story together.



Reception

This term in Reception we have been looking at traditional stories, a Fairy Godmother gave us a clue to which story we will be looking at for the week.



The children have been retelling stories using props, creating masks, and using their phonics knowledge to write about either the characters or stories. We enjoyed dressing up for world book day and had yr 5 come and read us stories.



In maths we have been looking at height, weight, capacity and this week we have been looking at length.

Now that our class stick insects have grown we have been able to hold them, looking at their long bodies and legs.

Years 1 & 2

Year 3 and 4

This term we have learnt about The Stone Age. This ended in our Time and Tide visit. We got to throw spears at deer and learnt about tanning animal skin. We also created a shelter using willow and learnt about the footprints found at Happisborough.



On World Book Day the children had the option to dress as a character or a word- take a look at some of our costumes.



We also loved our Science workshop on 'Explosive Food' we saw some incredible experiments.



Years 5 and 6

DT Celebrating Culture and Seasonality

Our Design and Technology unit has been focused on testing, designing, preparing and making pizzas, ensuring that there was an element of seasonality as a topping. The children really enjoyed a session from Morrisons all about seasonable fruits and vegetables.



Woodland Science: Carlton Marshes

Our Woodland Science unit this half term has been investigating 'How can we reduce our carbon footprint?' We invited Jo, an education officer, from Carlton Marshes into our woods for a session about tree identification and a greater understanding about the importance of trees.



Drama Session

Last week, we welcomed a special drama artist, Joe Leat, in to school to lead a fun-filled drama session with lots of creative and imaginative scenarios for them to act out. They all entered into the spirit of it and really enjoyed the session



Music and Dance

This half term, in our music lessons we have been learning about syncopation and working collaboratively along with the rhythm.

In Dance, we have been learning a routine called 'Dance by Chance'. They have created some imaginative routines in small groups.



Sporting Success

ALT tournaments

For a very short half term, there was a lot going on! The first tournament of the half term was our ALT UKS2 Football in which we finished 4th place overall. Then it was our ALT UKS2 Netball tournament, we only lost one game overall and took home the silver medals, special mention to Sophie for scoring 9 points over the whole tournament. Next was something a little bit different, on the 25th our KSI football team took part in the Ipswich Town



Community Trust event at Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club. The sun was shining and we ended up coming 3rd!

Sports Clubs

Our sports clubs have been a huge success this half term with children participating in a range of sports including: Dodgeball, Multisports, Football and Basketball. This summer term children will have the opportunity to try a variety of sports including: rounders, cricket, tennis and football.

Upcoming Fixtures

NSSP Year 5 Rounders - 4th May
ALT Year 5 Football - 6th May
ALT UKS2 Girls Football - 13th May
ALT SEN Football - 20th May

Diary Dates

Monday 25th April	Children return to school
Friday 29th April	Sea shanty workshops
Monday 2nd May	Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday 3rd May	Year 1 Writing Cafe
Wednesday 4th May	Nursery Cafe
Thursday 5th May	Nursery Café
Thursday 5th May	Year 2 Writing Café
Week beginning 9th May	Year 6 SATS
Friday 13th May	Reception visit to Hundred River Farm
Wednesday 25th May	Year 6 visit to Wood Farm Barn
Friday 27th May	Last day of term
Monday 6th June	Children return to school

HOUSE POINTS

The totals for this half term are:

Sapphire - 1985

Emerald - 1983

Ruby - 1898

Diamond - 1727

Congratulations Sapphire your house captains are busy organising your treat!

ATTENDANCE.

Attendance has been much improved this term and Year 5 and 4 have both earned themselves breakfasts this half term by winning the attendance race 3 times!

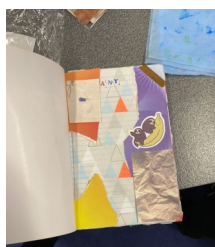
READING

Reading at home is so important for our children and we can tell how hard they have been working as the tubes are bursting with cubes! Keep up the reading over the Easter holidays! Why not pop in to the local library and see if you can find a new favourite book

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have had a fantastic range of lunchtime and after school clubs available for the children to enjoy this half term.:

Film club, Journaling, Board games, Chicken club, Gardening, Spanish and sewing to name but a few!



WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on the school website as we update this regularly. The address is:

www.westwoodprimary.org

You can also follow us on:



Twitter: @Westwood School



Facebook: Westwood Primary School



Instagram: westwoodprimary

CONTACT DETAILS

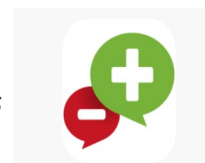
Please ensure we have your up to date contact details. This includes current address and telephone numbers.

We MUST have two contact telephone numbers in case of an emergency.



PARENTMAIL

Please ensure you sign up to ParentMail, this is how you will receive ALL means of communication.



ALLERGY INFORMATION

As you will already be aware, we are a nut-free school - we have children who have allergies to a variety of different nuts as well as peanuts—and ask that parents check the ingredients of items in packed lunches, avoiding anything that states it contains nuts.

Please speak to the school office, if you have any problems - paper copies may be available upon request.



Every class will have pupils who are neuro-diverse. Statistics show that around 10% of the population are believed to be dyslexic and 1 in 57 people are on the autistic spectrum. These are only two out of a variety of different needs we may come across in a classroom. Just as it is important for teachers to have the relevant knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity to ensure children in their classes can succeed, parents need this too. As they grow up children will come across neuro diverse people, it's important they are equipped for this .

How do I support my child if they have dyslexic type difficulties?

It is more likely that a child will display some difficulties without having a formal diagnosis of dyslexia. It is commonly accepted that someone with dyslexia is usually characterised as having difficulties with reading and/or spelling and is also likely to have some working memory difficulties (holding and processing information in the brain). Here are some tips for parents if your child is experiencing these types of difficulties:

Read often: It is important to persevere with this, even if a child is reluctant to do so. Reading materials should be accessible to them.

Practice spellings and writing in a multi-sensory way: We need to engage more than one sense at a time. The simplest way to do this is for pupils to say each letter as they spell a word. You can also get more creative by getting your child to practice their spellings on chalkboards, whiteboards, tracing in sand etc.

Try apps: The modern child is likely to be keen to engage in anything on a tablet! Little and often tends to be the key so encouraging them to sit down every day for 15 minutes or so can really help reinforce key learning.

How do I support a child who may be on the autistic spectrum?

No two children are the same so we must be careful not to generalise too much.

- **Structure:** Regular routines are likely to help children with these types of difficulties. This could be an early morning routine for example. It is however important to try and encourage some flexibility, so building this in gradually over time can help.
- **Visuals:** Pictures may help a child understand what is happening, or the routine they need to follow. A simple checklist of everything they need to put in the school bag with a picture, for example, could help them organise themselves rather than you having to do it all!
- **Prepare for change and new experiences:** The uncertainty of something new can, unfortunately, lead to children with autism being unable to cope. Showing them pictures of where they are going, giving them time to ask questions about what it will be like and telling them well in advance can all help with this.
- **Explicit teaching of social skills:** A lack of social skills can often be the stand out characteristic people can identify in children and adults with Autism. Most people gradually pick up social skills from others around them but this is not always the case. Just like when you learn to drive, you are told exactly how to do everything and why (along with having plenty of practice!), a child on the autistic spectrum is likely to benefit from this type of approach when in social situations. This will include making friends, approaching people they don't know and understanding how someone else is feeling based on their body language.

My child is making comments about another child with additional needs in their class, what do I do?

This is always going to be tricky and there is no one approach that is guaranteed to work however following these principles can help.

• **Don't ignore it:** You may feel awkward about addressing what your child is saying however this could compound the problem. You are not expected to be an expert however acknowledging what they are saying is important. Correct misconceptions if you can, but equally if you don't know anything about it then be honest with them. One of the most important things a parent can do is ensure language around different needs is not being used in a derogatory way by your children just as they would around racist, sexist or homophobic language.

• **Be sensitive:** Every individual will be on their own journey. Some children will have a diagnosis, others won't. Some will talk about it, some won't. Some parents will talk openly about their child's needs whilst others will still be processing it. It is important to be mindful of this.

• **Watch TV programmes which feature neurodiversity:** This can make it far easier for children to understand different needs as they can see real people and how it affects them. It takes the pressure off you as a parent having all the answers and also may help open up a conversation.



Safeguarding and Mental Health News



Who to contact if you have a concern about a child:

If you are worried about a child's safety please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Immediately.

Miss Chloe Mansi
Safeguarding Lead &
Pastoral Support Advisor



FISH—Food in School Holidays

Easter is fast approaching and F.I.S.H are providing **FREE hot meals to families** through the Easter Holidays.

They provide the hot, 2 course meal for the whole family, not just the child.

Please head to: <https://www.facebook.com/lowestoftfish> to see the venues across town that our serving the community. Please private message on the Facebook site to book your place!

YMCA

On a Friday we have Gemma and Kayleigh from the YMCA in school. They can work with any child in **KS2 (Years 3 to 6)**.

They are available for One to One work with children supporting them with a variety of needs such as confidence/self-esteem, anxiety/worries or support with friendship & social skills. They also run a lunchtime club that children can attend.

If you feel as though your child would benefit from these sessions, please speak with Miss Mansi.



Online Safety Concerns



WhatsApp

Currently, the minimum age of use for WhatsApp is **16 years old**. However, many of our children have access to WhatsApp which often causes issues in school. Whilst there are many benefits to children using devices, there are also many risks. As a parent/carer you are responsible for closely monitoring your child's usage of the Internet and mobile phones. In school, we work hard to develop the skills and attitudes that will help our children use technology positively and safely; however, outside of school their online usage is completely out of our hands so we urge you to be vigilant and monitor this closely. Below is some tips on how you can do this:

Leave a group— if your child is in a group that is making them feel uncomfortable, or have been added to a group that they don't want to be a part of, they can use the WhatsApp group settings to leave.
Explain about blocking— if your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat.

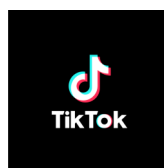
TikTok

Like most social media platforms, there are concerns over the safety of children using TikTok because of the content they could potentially be exposed to. As the demographic of TikTok has widened, so has the type of content accessible on the platform. Currently, the minimum age of use for TikTok is **13 years old**.

However, again we are aware that many of our children have access to this. With this in mind, parents must monitor usage and educate children about keeping safe whilst using the app.

Learn about reporting and blocking —

Make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anything breaching it's guidelines, while you can also block any users through their profiles.





Safeguarding and MH News Continued..



Safeguarding

We have a lot of really useful information on our school website. Follow the 'Our School' tab and then click on 'Safeguarding'.

There are a number of stars at the bottom of the page which are full of helpful links, policies and videos.

There is also an area specifically for children.



Mental Health Support—Hub of Hope

Since we all experience some kind of mental or emotional distress at some point in our lives, **the Hub of Hope is really for everyone.**

The services and support listed on the Hub of Hope are not only for when things become unbearable. They are also for those times when we notice we are starting to struggle, or when we need extra support as we start to emerge from a particularly difficult time.

The Hub of Hope lists support and services for family members and friends to enable them to find help for themselves, as well as for the person they are supporting.

Please follow the link for more information: <https://hubofhope.co.uk/> or alternatively you can download the Hub of Hope app on your smartphone.



Could you foster?

Would you like to find out how you can provide a family home to children in your area? Nexus Fostering is a well-established and highly regarded fostering agency, based in Norwich, who are urgently seeking full-time foster carers willing to foster older

children and siblings. The agency is rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' in all areas and place a high premium on the quality of support and care that

they provide to every one of the foster carers and, in turn, the children and young people placed with them.

To find out more about becoming a foster carer in

Norfolk and Suffolk please call 0800 389 0143 or



could you foster?

we urgently need foster carers in your area

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

We can help you to provide a young person with a stable, secure home.

Call us on 0800 389 0143
Visit us at www.nexusfostering.co.uk

People who can help

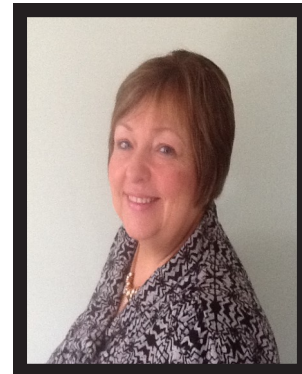
In addition to your child's class teacher, who should always be your first point of contact, the following peo-



Mrs Rae Aldous
Executive
Headteacher



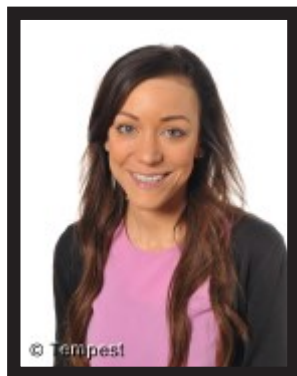
Ms Louise Creed
Executive
Head of School



Mrs Jackie Cutchey
Chair of Governors



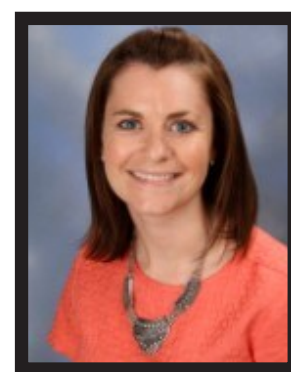
Mrs Danielle Gillings
Assistant Headteacher
EYFS Lead



Miss Beth Jones
Assistant Headteacher
KSI Lead



Mrs Rachel Kounnas
Assistant Headteacher
LKS2 Lead



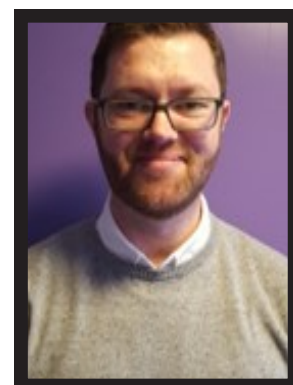
Mrs Kelly Hough
Assistant Headteacher
UKS2 Lead



Mrs Kate Grey
SENDCo



Miss Chloe Mansi
Parent and Pupil
Support Advisor



Mr Stephen Clarke
Safeguarding
Governor