



# WESTWOOD NEWS

## Spring Term (1) 2022



Dear Families,

It has been another jam-packed half term and it is unbelievable to think we are now half way through this school year! There have been lots of exciting opportunities taking place throughout the school during the last 7 weeks and the children have relished the opportunity to apply their learning in a range of different ways, including visits, visitors (such as author and comedian, James Campbell and a Happy Smiles Dental Nurse) and showcases of learning. Miss Mansi, our Pastoral Support Advisor, along with the Mental Health Ambassadors, organised and led a series of events to mark Children's Mental Health Week including an assembly, dress up day and reflective activities.



Our Pupil Leader groups have continued to organise events and are playing an active role both within school and in our wider community. They have developed their action plans and are steadily putting these into practice with many more ideas to come in the second half of the academic year. Our Eco Warriors team, for example, have planted a number of trees around our school grounds to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



We are very pleased to inform you that Mrs Andrews will be returning from her maternity leave after half term to work within EYFS & KSI. Sadly, Mrs Dorward will be leaving us during next half term as she has decided to change careers—we would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the children at Westwood and wish her every success in her new role. As many of you are already aware, I (Mrs Barnes) am expecting a baby in April so I will be starting my maternity leave just before the Easter holidays.

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 half term break and we look forward to welcoming the children back on  
**Monday 28th February.**  
Mrs Aldous & Mrs Barnes



## Pre-School, Nursery & Reception

### Nursery and Pre-School

In Nursery this term, we have been exploring what is beyond our sky, learning about space, the planets and how people travel into space.

Our role play area became a space station and we worked together to build rockets after reading *Roaring Rockets*. We then talked about what we would take with us if we were to visit the moon and pretended to have a picnic on the moon, just like baby bear in the story 'Whatever Next'.



We were then invited to Alien school and explored the differences between our school to theirs. The children then had a go at recording one another talking about what they most liked about alien school. Space-ghetti was a favourite!



The following week, we shared the story 'Aliens love underpants' and we designed our own bloomers using different patterns. However, one day the sneaky aliens came down and took our pants! Luckily, we found them in the woods, we did try to make an alien trap but we never caught them, they are much too fast.

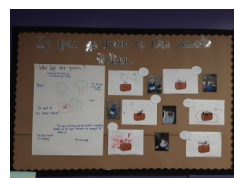


We have also been looking at time, day and night and our daily routines when reading 'How to catch a star' and 'Night Monkey Day Monkey'. For our last week at school, we will be reading 'The Smeds and The Smoos' which links closely to our school's No Outsiders ethos, we plan to talk about being kind to others who may be different or look different and plan to have a pretend Smeds and Smoos wedding!

### Reception

This half term in Reception, we have been learning about 'What's beyond the sky?'. The children have led their learning and been asking fabulous questions around this.

We have been writing about: items that we would pack to take to space, what we could see when looking through a telescope and what we would do if an alien came to visit. We have been making rockets using a variety of resources to see which one would fly the highest.



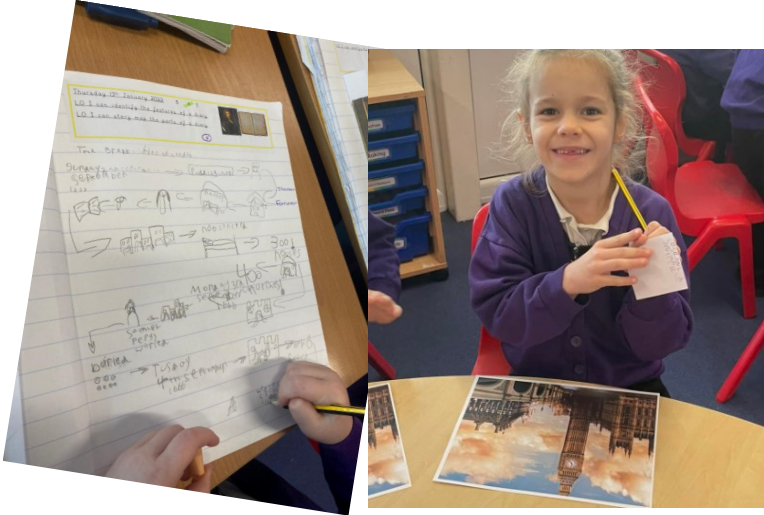
We have been learning how many planets are in space and about astronauts, and now know some American and British astronauts' names. In maths, we have been looking at subitising, one more and one less than a given number and 3D shapes.





## Years 1 & 2

This half term we have been studying the history of The Great fire of London. We have loved being Historians this half term! We have written stories and poems all about old and new London.



We have been making sure we stay active this half term in our PE lessons and joining in games at playtimes.



We were also lucky enough to welcome the Happy Smiles team from Plummer's dentist to teach us all about keeping our teeth healthy.

## Years 3 & 4

This half term, Lower Key Stage 2 have studied the topic of Weather and Climate. We created our own desert biomes and learnt about the biome we live in. by visiting the woods.



For our Science topic, we welcomed Ed and his Mini Monsters, some of our children were brave enough to hold some of the creatures. We then classified them using a key.



We also had another fantastic visit from author and comedian James Campbell - we always love the stories he shares and hope it inspires our future writers.

We celebrated Mental Health Week by Dressing to Express!

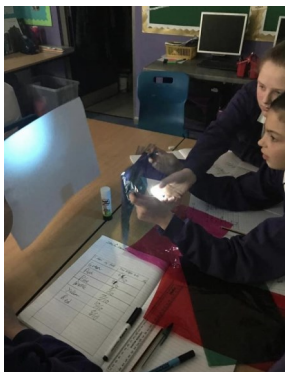
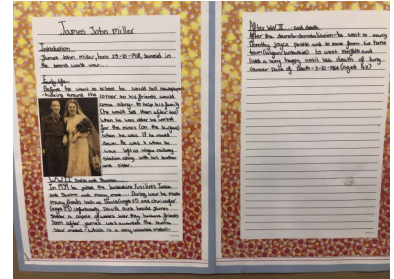
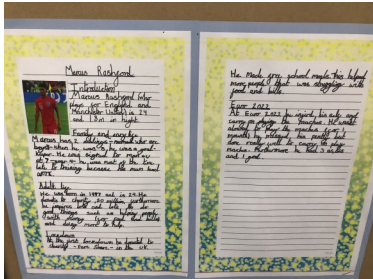




## Years 5 and 6

### Our Literacy Unit: Biographies

It has been such a fantastic Literacy unit this half term. Our focus was 'People Who Have Changed Our World' and we wrote about famous people or people we know who have changed the world for the better. They enjoyed researching, planning, drafting and publishing their final pieces, which are now proudly on display around school.



### Science: Light

This half term, the children have been learning about the behaviour and interaction of light. We started off by asking the question 'Does light travel in straight lines?'. Next, we focused on shadows and the children were

tasked with constructing an experiment to discover how a shadow can be manipulated.



### CO Crew Science session

Earlier in the half term, each class had a workshop about the dangers of carbon monoxide. The children really enjoyed the hands-on session and they are now aware of the dangers, symptoms and how to stay carbon monoxide safe.

If you would like to find out more, you can visit this website:

<https://www.thecocrew.co.uk>



We have been enjoying our Gymnastics sessions based on 'Flight'



During our Netball sessions, we have been working well together as a team.



In our Computing sessions, we have been creating videos and experimenting with the iPads.



## Sporting Success

### ALT Tournaments

What a half term for tournaments! This half term saw us compete in four different events from KSI Panathlon to Year 5&6 Hockey. At the beginning of the half term, the KSI Panathlon team finished third overall in some very arctic weather. Then it was the turn of the Year 5/6 hockey team who finished unbeaten and took the trophy home in 1<sup>st</sup> place. To finish the half term, we had the Year 3 girls' football and the Year 4 girls' football tournaments. Both teams finished unbeaten across the tournaments and took home the silver medals behind two very strong Red Oak teams, which they both beat during the tournament!



### Sports Clubs

This half term was very busy with a large number of before school, lunchtime and after school sports clubs on offer. It was great to see so many children joining in and keeping active. If there are any sports clubs you would particularly like to see on the timetable, do speak to Mr Stent and we will see what we can do for future sessions.



### Upcoming Fixtures

We have 7 confirmed tournaments for next half term and are hoping to add more to the fixtures list as they become available. We will, of course, keep families updated and endeavour to include as many children as possible in these events.

Tuesday 8th March

ALT KS2 Panathlon

Friday 11th March

ALT Year 6 Boys football

Wednesday 16th March

NSSP This Girl Can Festival

Friday 18th March

ALT UKS2 Netball

Wednesday 23rd March

NSSP Year 3 Cricket

Friday 1st April

ALT LKS2 Cricket

Wednesday 6th April

NSSP Year 6 Netball

#BETHEBESTTHATYOUCANBE



### Diary Dates

There will be more events taking place and we will let you know as soon as possible!

Wednesday 16th February	Last Day of the half term
Friday 18th February	SCHOOL CLOSED—Additional Bank Holiday
Monday 21st February— Friday 25th February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 28th February	Children return to school
Wednesday 2nd March	Will Mabbitt author event
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Wednesday 9th March	Year 6 DT Workshop—Morrisons
Thursday 10th March	Snape Maltings Performance
Tuesday 15th March	Years 5 & 6 at Pakefield High School Performance
Thursday 17th March	Class Photos
Friday 18th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 22nd March	Year 2 visit from Rev. Helen
Thursday 24th March	Royal Institution Science in Schools event
Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th March	Parent Interviews
Friday 8th April	Last Day of the half term
Monday 11th April— Friday 22nd April	Easter Holiday
Monday 25th April	Children return to school

### HOUSE POINTS

The totals for this half term are:

Diamond = 1958

Ruby = 1932

Emerald = 1464

Sapphire = 1257

Congratulations Diamond your house captains are busy organising your treat!

### ATTENDANCE.

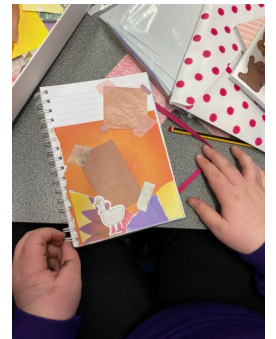
During this half term, there have been so many breakfasts won!

Well done to:  
Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 & Year 6

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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

Science, rock choir, board games, history detectives, chickenless chicken club, journaling, sewing, mindful colouring and Lego



## WEBSITE

Please keep an eye on the school website as we update this regularly.

The address is: [www.westwoodprimary.org](http://www.westwoodprimary.org)

You can also follow us on:



Twitter: @Westwood School



Facebook: Westwood Primary School



Instagram: westwoodprimary

## 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.

## CONTACT DETAILS

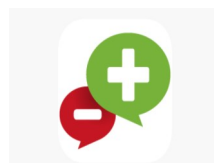
Please ensure we have your up to date contact details. This includes current address and telephone numbers.

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.



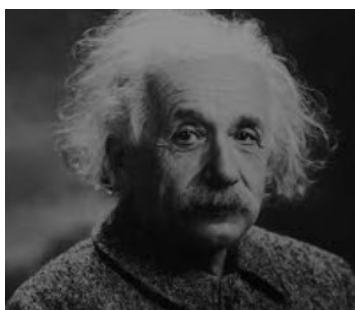
Please speak to the school office, if you have any problems - paper copies may be available upon request.





# SEND NEWS

What do all these people have in common?



**They all have Dyslexia! What is Dyslexia?**

Dyslexia is a neurological learning difficulty (or learning difference) which is commonly known for how it affects reading and writing skills. However, dyslexia is actually more about information processing, as dyslexic people have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which then goes on to affect learning.

Dyslexia exists on a spectrum, and dyslexic people's symptoms range from mild to severe. It is strongly hereditary and as many as 1 in 10 people may have dyslexia.

## What does dyslexia look like?

Children with dyslexia often have difficulty with short-term and working memory, meaning they struggle to hold more than one or two points in their head at one time. They may also have problems in other areas, such as reading maps, or organisational activities. However, many dyslexic people show strengths in other areas such as reasoning, and in visual and creative fields.

A dyslexic pupil may :

- Use unpredictable and inconsistent poor spelling,
- Putting letters and figures the wrong way round,
- Reading slowly or making errors when reading aloud,
- Visual disturbances when reading such as letters and words moving around or appearing blurred,
- Answering questions well verbally, but having difficulty when writing the answers down.
- Struggling to learn sequences, such as the days of the week or the order of the alphabet

## What do we do to support a child with dyslexic tendencies?

Break instructions down into small steps and have regular visual reminders of the task

Reduce stimuli in classroom as distracting.

Change the colour of the page text is on.

Use dyslexic friendly font and print out resources for pupils to have in front of them.

Use technology to support in writing tasks - typing assignments rather than handwritten.

Allow verbal answers to assess understanding when suitable.

Use interactive strategies such as a scavenger hunt etc.

Use visual or multi sensual approaches so pupils use their whole bodies to learn.

Regular 1:1 reading or paired reading.

We use the Nessy and Beat Dyslexia programme.

Do not call on the pupil to read aloud in class situations.

Have an awareness of self-esteem and self confidence issues around learning.

## Further information and support:

British Dyslexia Association - <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

NHS Dyslexia - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dyslexia>



# 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  
Email: [cmansi@westwoodprimary.org](mailto:cmansi@westwoodprimary.org)



## Children's Mental Health Week 7th–13th February

We celebrated Children's Mental Health Week from Monday 7th to Friday 11th February.

Within school, all year groups watched the 'Place2Be' Virtual assembly on Tuesday, throughout the week the children participated in Mental Health activities during our lunchtime clubs and on Friday, during our celebration assembly the children wrote down their own goals for 'emotional growth' whilst we listened to our empowering song: Reach for the Stars. ★

On Friday, we also raised money for Place2Be charity by holding a 'Dress to Express' Non-Uniform day. We would like to say a big Thank you to those of you who donated £1 for Place2Be. It was great to see so many children express themselves through colour and clothing!

For more information on Children's Mental Health Week and Place2Be Charity, please go to: <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>



## Safer Internet Day Tuesday 8th February

As part of ensuring that online safeguarding themes are integrated as part of our curriculum, this term we delivered the Safer Internet Day assemblies and activities to all children from Y1 to Y6.

The main theme this year was 'exploring respect and relationships online' with the aim of helping children understand how to be respectful to others online and celebrating young people's role in creating a safer internet, identifying how their behaviour is shaping the online gaming community.

All children participated with enthusiasm in the assemblies, contributing great thoughts and ideas to our group discussions. For more information on how you can support your children on this topic at home, please click [here](#).



## 'Hub of Hope'

The Hub of Hope is the UK's leading mental health support database. It brings local, national, peer, community, charity, private and NHS mental health support services together in one place for the first time. 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.







## Safeguarding and MH News Continued...



### Important Online Safeguarding Updates

#### Roblox –

The INEQE Safeguarding Group have recently received multiple reports from parents and school staff about harmful content on gaming platform Roblox. The latest reports we've received have outlined worrying accounts of younger children being sent 'friend requests' from strangers and exposure to sexualised content, with in-game characters imitating sex in the Roblox game Brookhaven.

To help parents understand how to keep children and young people safe, the INEQE have created an important Parents Guide.

Please click here to access the guide: [Roblox: A Parent's Guide to Protecting Children from Harmful Content](#)

#### Poppy Playtime/Huggy Wuggy –

Poppy playtime is an online game being described by users as an 'introduction to horror'. Poppy Playtime features frightening images and themes that are paired with child-friendly items. Huggy Wuggy is one of the characters within the game; a giant, horrifying blue creature with bulging eyes, wide red lips, and long limbs who actively follows you around as you try to complete the game. He appears in the dark unexpectedly to try and catch you and when he does, he bears his wide grin and eats you.

Videos, versions of the game and associated material are becoming increasingly popular on YouTube, specifically YouTube kids, Roblox, tik tok etc.

There have been reports of "Huggy Wuggy" featuring on YouTube kids singing about hurting children and 'hugging them until they take their last breath'. For more information, please read this helpful guide: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/12/03/poppy-playtime-online-safety-review/>



### 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 email [foster@nexusfostering.co.uk](mailto:foster@nexusfostering.co.uk).



## could you foster?



**we urgently need foster carers in your area**



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](http://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 people are readily available to help you with any issue, if needed.



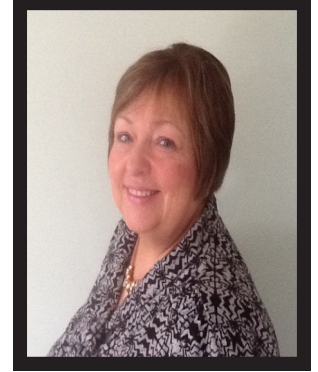
*Mrs Rae Aldous*  
Executive  
Headteacher



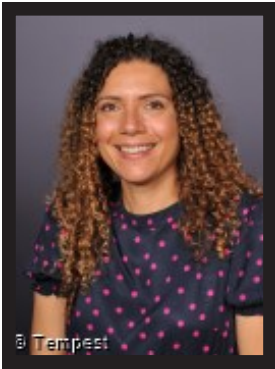
*Mrs Lauraine Barnes*  
Westwood  
Head of School



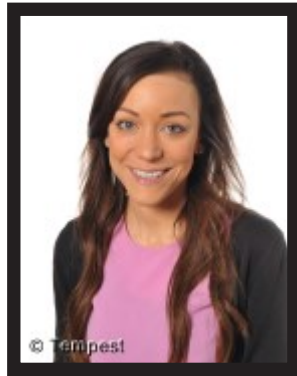
*Ms Louise Creed*  
Grove  
Head of School



*Mrs Jackie Cutchey*  
Chair of Governors



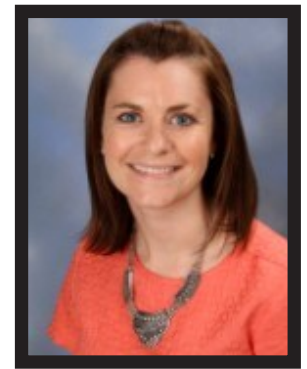
*Mrs Danielle Gillings*  
Assistant Headteacher  
EYFS Lead



*Miss Beth Jones*  
Assistant Headteacher  
KSI Lead



*Mrs Rachel Kounnas*  
Assistant Headteacher  
LKS2 Lead



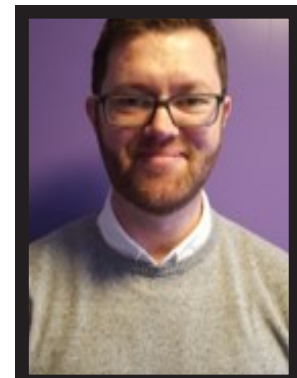
*Mrs Kelly Hough*  
Assistant Headteacher  
UKS2 Lead



*Mrs Kate Grey*  
SENDCo



*Miss Chloe Mansi*  
Parent and Pupil  
Support Advisor



*Mr Stephen Clarke*  
Safeguarding  
Governor