

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our Year 6 pupils for showing such resilience and determination during their SATs (Statutory Standard Assessment Tests) this week.

The administration of the KS2 (Year 6) assessments is very formal and somewhat daunting. We are very proud of how the Year 6 conducted themselves and took the experience in their stride. Well done Oak class!

Our Year 2 pupils will continue undertaking a range of assessments next week. We have been so impressed with their positive attitude and eagerness to complete their 'King Charles Challenges!'.

Please do everything that you can to make sure your child attends school and is punctual each day. If your child is unwell, please phone the school in the morning as soon as possible after 08.30, and speak to office staff (rather than leaving a message).

KS1/2 teacher assessment judgements and/or test results will be reported to parents by the end of the summer term.

Kind regards

Mrs Tubbs

[a.tubbs@westerndownland.hants.sch.uk](mailto:a.tubbs@westerndownland.hants.sch.uk)

**Cashless School**

We have been working towards cashless school status for some time with most transactions now going through the Scopay system.


There are a number of payments for school lunches, trips and visits & nursery charges which are outstanding. We would be grateful if outstanding payments could be settled and accounts kept in credit.

Please let me know if you have any queries or difficulties settling outstanding balances.

**Community**

Please ensure that your child does not climb on the field fences alongside the Green Close. Please remember not to park in Steels Lane—this must be left clear at all times for local and emergency traffic. The school bus needs lots of room to turn around so please do not park too close to the junction. Please also leave the staff car park clear for staff to park.

Thank you for your support.



## Stars of the Week

**Year R— Luke Jackson & Isabelle Singleton-Moir**

**Year 1— Max Campling, Albie Olive & Leo Schepens**

**Year 2— Evie Fowler & Amelia Emery**

**Year 3— George Saunders**

**Year 4— Sasha Harrison**

**Year 5— Ivy Prince**

**Year 6— Toby Giudice**

**Staffing update**

It is with regret that I have to inform you that **Mrs Nicholls** will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Mrs Nicholls has been with us for an incredible 14 years and has worked across the school to support teachers in delivering the curriculum and targeted intervention. Mrs Nicholls has been instrumental to the school, working alongside Mrs Miller to achieve high outcomes and academic success at the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6). Her experience and knowledge has been invaluable. Mrs Nicholls has decided to take retirement. I know that she will be missed by staff and pupils alike, particularly Mrs Miller! I am sure you will join me & the team in wishing her well for the future.



**Miss Bostock** has also decided that she will not be returning to school following Maternity leave, wishing to make the most of this special time with her daughter. Like Mrs Nicholls, Miss Bostock has worked across the school to support teaching and learning. It is unfortunate that Miss Bostock is leaving us but we know that she will continue to visit the school and keep in touch.



Staffing arrangements for September will be shared with parents in due course.

## **ECT Moderation**

This week we were visited by the Early Career Teachers Moderation team who quality assure the induction programme for newly qualified teachers and see how statutory entitlements are being met. The school was selected via a sampling process. The team met with myself, Miss Grindey & Mrs Mace. Our programme support was recognised as 'best practice' and with such will be shared with other schools supporting Early Career Teachers. A big thank you to Mrs Mace (our ECT mentor) for her support and guidance.

## **Holiday Requests**

Attendance at Western Downland Primary School continues to be impressive, but we very much rely on parents working with us to maintain this.

You will be aware that the law makes it clear that parents must avoid taking holidays in term time because absence from school can seriously impact on a child's learning. Whilst there may be occasions when a child is unable to attend school (e.g. illness), all other absences should therefore be kept to a minimum and if possible avoided.

We ask all parents to work with us to make sure holidays always sit within traditional school holiday breaks. If you do need to request a holiday during term time, you must get permission. You can only do this if:

You write to me in advance.

There are exceptional circumstances (details below).

Please note, should your absence request be declined you will receive a standard response letter detailing the decision and the potential of a penalty notice fine if the holiday goes ahead. These fines apply in all cases where the threshold for unauthorised absence has been met and there are no exceptional circumstances. The fine will be £60 per parent, per child. So for a family of 4, with two children over the age of 5, the fine for holiday hitting the unauthorised absence threshold will be £240. These fines are managed by the Local Authority, the funds from these fines do not go to the school.

The fact a holiday is cheaper during term time is not considered as exceptional circumstances.

Each request for leave of absence will be considered by the Headteacher on an individual basis.

We strongly recommend talking to us before ever booking term time holiday, to avoid any unnecessary costs (e.g. penalty fines) or unexpected impact on education (e.g. missing trips, visits or assessments).

## **Multiplication Tables Check**

The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for primary schools. The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils in Year 4 can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in Mathematics. It helps schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided. We will administer the MTC to all Year 4 pupils between Tuesday 4th June and Friday 7th June. The check will be administered by Miss Savage as part of the children's normal classroom practice.

For more information about the check, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiplication-tables-checkinformation-for-parents>

## **The Glebe Project**

I am delighted to announce that the school is working with the local community to develop an area of land behind the Forest School at the infant site. We have successfully secured a grant from New Forest District Council as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy of £14,000. This will be used alongside donations from the Friends' of Western Downland & the Damerham Fair Committee to create an area where children can shelter from the sun and play games. This will also double up as an outdoor Forest classroom.

If you know of anyone that can offer professional services or materials, particularly timber or mulch surfacing, please contact the school office. Further details and developments to be shared in due course!

## INSET Days (2024-2025)

Teachers in Local Authority schools have five days each year when they work in school without the children present. These 'In Service Training' days are called 'INSET days' for short. These days are vital to school and professional development. Next year our INSET days are as follows;

Monday 2nd September 2024

Thursday 24th October 2024

Friday 25th October 2024

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 27th June 2025

The Hampshire term dates can be found on the link below:

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/education/school-year-2024-2025.pdf>

## School Day 2024-2025 Consultation

You will have received a letter detailing proposed changes to both the infant & junior school day to ensure we meet the minimum expectations set out in new government guidelines. If you have any comments please contact us at [adminoffice@westerndownland.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@westerndownland.hants.sch.uk) by 7th July 2024.

After this time, we will share the comments with various stakeholders in preparation for the 2024 - 2025 academic year.

School Diary	
SUMMER HALF TERM HOLIDAY 27/5/24—31/5/24	
Monday 3rd June	INSET DAY
W/c 4th June	Multiplication Tables Check
Wednesday 5th June	Friends Meeting, 8pm The Compasses
w/c 10th June	Year 1 Phonics Check
Tuesday 11th June	Bag2school
Thursday 20th June	Whole School Sports Day
Sunday 23rd June	Damerham Dash—5km and children's colour run
Friday 28th June	Sponsored Walk
Thursday 4th July	School Production
Friday 5th July	Moving Up day
Saturday 6th July	Friends Coffee Morning @ Martin
W/c 8th July	Year 6 Wales Residential
Wednesday 10th July	Reports due home
Friday 19th July	Year 2 End of Year Awards & Little Foresters Graduation
Monday 22nd July	Leavers Lunch
Tuesday 23rd July	Leavers Service @ St Andrews Church, Rockbourne
SUMMER HOLIDAY—24/7/23	