

### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

It's been another busy week in school. Classes are now fully immersed in their Explore projects. These projects have a geographical focus and build upon those taught in previous years, giving coherence to pupil's learning and a chance to extend their knowledge year-on-year. Projects are driven by enquiries and based upon concepts which encourage pupils to ask and answer questions and make connections in their learning. You should have received details of your child's project enquiry sent home on our 'Roots to Routes' documents.

Please ask your class teacher if you have any questions about your child's learning or wish to find out more information. Your feedback will help to further shape curriculum plans so please do contact me with your comments and reflections.

This half term is always busy. There is so much to look forward to. Please add these key events to your diaries (dates below).

Have a lovely long weekend. Hopefully we'll see some long awaited sunshine!

Kind regards

Mrs Tubbs

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

### **Pupil Premium**

If your income has reduced significantly you might be eligible for pupil premium. You can check your eligibility using the link below: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/freeschoolmeals/juniorsecondary>

You only need to do this once and it will last for the duration of your child's time at their current school. This will ensure that our school and the children we serve are as well funded as possible.

### **Home to School Transport**

I have been made aware of a number of incidents occurring on the bus to and from school. Parents/Carers are responsible for the behaviour of their child whilst waiting at the bus stop and while they use School Transport. Please ensure that your child fully understands what is expected of them whilst on the vehicle and adheres to the Behaviour Code of Conduct. Please see attached. This Code of Conduct is in the interests of safety. Parents should be aware that Hampshire Transport can refuse a child travel should they not adhere.



## Stars of the Week

**Year R— Cora Tirrell & Wilf Thompson**

**Year 1—Patrick Finnis & Arthur Saunders**

**Year 2—Scarlett Thorne & Mickey Dougherty**

**Year 4—Alexander Booth & Sam Phillips**

**Year 5—Josh Hooper & The Whole Class**

**Year 6 - Jake Franks**

**Golden Leaf—Darcy Jervis, Scarlett Thorne & Mickey Dougherty**



### **Transition**

It's that time of the year when we think carefully about the children's transition to their new classes. A transition is a period of change, from one significant stage or experience, to another. Many of these transitions are common to most children and can usually be anticipated or expected, whilst others may need more support to understand and cope with the changes involved in moving classrooms and getting to know new members of staff, rules or routines.

More difficult transitions tend to occur from Nursery to YR, YR to Y1, Y2 to Y3 and Y6 to Y7. However, we do not underestimate the move from other year groups for all children who may struggle with transition. At Western Downland, careful planning in advance takes place to anticipate and meet the needs of our children. We have discussed activities to support the more difficult transitions as well as enhanced transition activities for specific pupils.

Parents of pupils in Year 2 will receive a letter outlining the transitional activities planned for the summer term. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Worsfold if you have any concerns, questions or queries.

## Statutory Standard Assessment Tests

The month of May is always busy in school, mainly due to the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) that take place.

During the week beginning Monday 6th May our Year 2 pupils will complete their KS1 assessments. From this academic year, KS1 tests have become optional, but we have chosen to use them to help identify where pupils need additional support as they transition into key stage 2 (KS2). These tests are not strictly timed and children are given breaks between papers. KS1 SATS are internally marked, and are taken in much more relaxed conditions. The attached leaflet provides additional information for parents.

If you have a child in year 6, they will take national curriculum assessments in:

- English grammar, punctuation and spelling
- English reading
- mathematics

The tests help measure the attainment of pupils in relation to the standards set out in the national curriculum, and help teachers and parents identify where pupils may need additional support in a certain subject area. The tests are also used to assess schools' performance, and school-level results data is used to produce national and regional performance statistics.

For the academic year 2023/24, the KS2 tests are scheduled to take place from Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2024:

| Date             | Subject                                   | Test papers                               |
|------------------|---|---|
| Monday 13 May    | English grammar, punctuation and spelling | Paper 1: Questions<br>Paper 1: Spelling   |
| Tuesday 14 May   | English reading                           | English reading                           |
| Wednesday 15 May | Mathematics                               | Paper 1: Arithmetic<br>Paper 2: Reasoning |
| Thursday 16 May  | Mathematics                               | Paper 3: Reasoning                        |

More information can be found in the attached leaflet.

Please do everything that you can to make sure your children attend school and are 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.

## 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>

## 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 Diary                             |   |
|--|---|
| W/c 13th May                             | KS2 SATS  |
| 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                   |   |