

Friday 15th December 2023

## Our vision

Valued - Inspired - Prepared

## Our values

We shape our learners to be:

Safely independent - Respectful citizens

Inquisitive thinkers - Confident communicators - Resilient learners

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the final weekly newsletter of 2023, however you will be receiving an end of term one from your child's class next week.

As the term and calendar year draws to a close, I am in a reflective mood, proud of all the hard work and successes achieved by both the staff team and the learners. There are of course far too many to list now but I do know that since I took the substantive Headteacher role, the school environment has changed significantly and the vision and values are now embedded.

As you know, I have communicated a few times about attendance, as it is such a hot topic with the DfE at the moment. I am pleased to report that our overall school attendance figure is currently 90.4% for two terms, this is above the national figure for special schools which is 87.3%. You will continue to receive a termly email from now on with your child's attendance information.

If your child's attendance is 80-90%, which there may be good reasons for such as medical appointments, we may need to contact you to see if we can support you further. If attendance is below 80% then we will have to contact you and invite you into school for a meeting to discuss strategies to help improve your child's attendance.

There is much to look forward to for the remainder of the academic year, but for now I wish you all a lovely weekend and then a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely



**Jamie Peacock**  
Headteacher

## **Around the School**

We had a very festive start to the week with a visit from Nikki Holt. Nikki is a Makaton tutor and so shared some Christmas signs with the classes in our assembly. She also shared the story, We're Going on an Elf Hunt. A link to this story can be found on our virtual library <https://www.westhavenschool.org.uk/virtual-library/>.

To end the festivities, we shared in a signing and signing rendition of Jingle Bells.

We were also treated to a fantastic Christmas lunch, thanks to the team behind Cafe Haven.

## **Lower School:**

Wells and Bath classes had a visit from the fire and rescue service this week as part of their Skills for Independence learning. The learners were very respectful and inquisitive and asked lots of relevant questions. They also took turns trying on the uniform.

We have also been getting out and about in the community, practising our road safety skills.

Thank you to everyone who was able to make our Christmas class showcases this afternoon. We are now well and truly in the festive spirit and full of good cheer.

We hope you will also be able to make our end of term assembly on Wednesday at 10am. A reminder that, in line with many of the other local schools, you will be able to take your child home afterwards.

## **Middle School:**

We've had such a busy week in Middle School. It started with preparing to learn groups attending an assembly with Nikki Holt where we learnt some Makaton signs for Christmas. We heard a Christmas story and sang some songs together. On Wednesday we had a wonderful Christmas lunch and Christmas hat competition. This year there were some exceptional hats- one even had a working propeller motor with spinning baubles!

On Thursday some of our classes visited the SS Great Britain where they had an opportunity to explore the ship and partake in a workshop that explained who Brunel was and why this ship was important. This trip acted as a culmination of the learners'

learning around the Industrial Revolution. Today we have welcomed lots of you in for our Christmas Showcases, we hope you enjoyed them.

Our end of term assembly will be on Wednesday at 11.00 am, all parents are invited to this and you are welcome to take your children home following the assembly.

### Upper School:

Wow what a busy last full week of term!

The week started with all tutor groups recording their verses of a well-known Christmas song. We do hope you will be able to join us for the final celebration assembly of the year on Wednesday 20th, where a viewing of our version of the song will be shown!

A massive well done to the Year 11 learners who completed their mock art and photography exams this week. Each subject was a full-on day in exam conditions. The masterpieces you created were fabulous and show off the skills you have developed over the course.

W6 have had the opportunity to visit Bridgwater College and Wells Cathedral. Both interesting and worthwhile visits for different reasons.

Highlight of the week has to be Christmas lunch! Again, this year, the Westhaven Cafe staff cooked Upper School (with the exception of W6 who cooked their own)

a yummy meal. It was lovely for all the learners and staff to sit together and enjoy the festivities - music playing and crackers pulled.

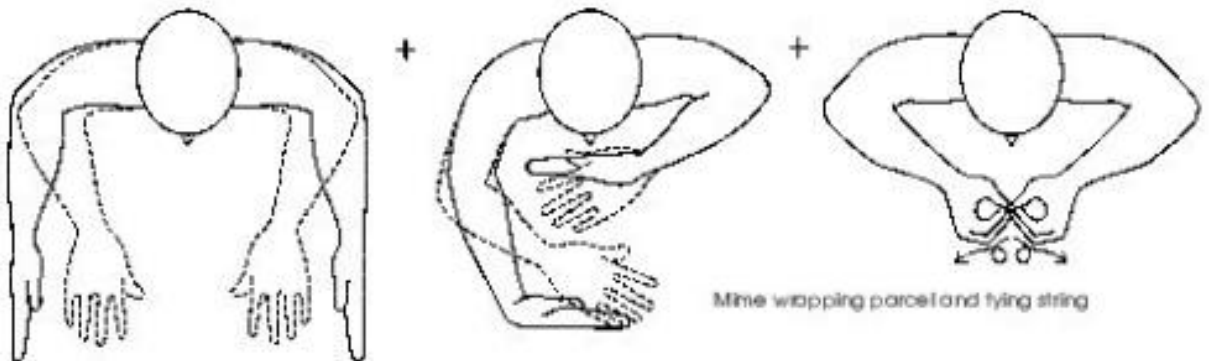
### Staff in the Spotlight: Mrs S Merreywether

<b>Favourite Book Quote</b>	<i>"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do".</i>
<b>Favourite Quote about Reading</b>	<i>"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body".</i>
<b>Favourite Book to Read to Children</b>	The tiger who came to tea - Judith Kerr
<b>Favourite Childhood Book</b>	James and the giant peach - Roald Dahl

### Word of this Week:

<b>KS1</b>	kind
<b>KS2</b>	generous

Sign of this Week: Present



### Maths Matters: Christmas Maths Puzzle!

Nick has a box of ornaments that he uses to decorate his tree each year.  
 All of them are blue, except for six.  
 All of them are green, except for six.  
 All of them are red, except for six.  
 How many of each colored ornament does Nick have?



### Sports Desk:

What a fantastic term. I have been blown away again by the efforts of our learners; they are constantly leaving PE lessons with new personal bests. This is by far the hardest decision for my Sport Superstars of the Term since I joined Westhaven. I hope everyone enjoys their Christmas break and is looking forward to next term where our topics will be Touch Rugby, Boccia and Curling and table tennis.

### Headteacher Awards:

- Evan from Cardiff class visited me (his first time) for his wonderful writing, which incorporated many of the terms word of the week.

A festive poster for 'End of Term Celebration Assemblies'. The background is dark blue with a string of white lights and pine branches with gold stars and ornaments. A white outline of a Santa hat is in the top left. The title 'End of Term Celebration Assemblies' is written in a white cursive font. Below it, the text 'These will take place on the last day of Term 2, Wed 20 December 2023, timings as below:' is in white. The timings are listed: '9.00 am – Upper School', '10.00 am – Lower School', and '11.00 am – Middle School'. A paragraph follows: 'If you wish you will be able to take your child/ children home with you after the assembly has finished.' At the bottom, it says 'Looking forward to seeing you there!' in white.

**End of Term  
Celebration Assemblies**

These will take place on the last day of Term 2,  
Wed 20 December 2023, timings as below:

9.00 am – Upper School  
10.00 am – Lower School  
11.00 am – Middle School

If you wish you will be able to take your child/  
children home with you after the assembly has  
finished.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

A sign for Westhaven School with a colorful border. The text 'WESTHAVEN SCHOOL' is at the top in bold orange letters. In the center is a cartoon nut character with a red prohibition sign over its face. At the bottom, the text 'IS A NUT-FREE SCHOOL' is written in bold orange letters.

**WESTHAVEN  
SCHOOL**

**IS A NUT-FREE  
SCHOOL**

We have some learners in our school who have nut allergies. *Anaphylaxis (allergic reaction)* can occur as a result of digestion, inhalation or any other contact with nut-based products.

For their safety, please can we request that you do not send your child into school with any nut-based products for packed lunches, break time snacks or for any other occasion. This includes products that may contain traces of nuts.

With very many thanks for your understanding and cooperation.



Family  
workshop

Term 3



Westhaven  
School

## Family wellbeing

Led by Tammy Chaplin, Joanne Evans

Guest: **Adrian Hemmings**

**Where:** Westhaven School

**When:** Monday 22nd January {9.30-10.30}

**What to expect:** Signs of poor mental health - Five ways to wellbeing - Capacity cup theory (Dr Emma Hepburn, 2021) - Mental health and wellbeing support team at Westhaven - Who can help

# Weekend Walks

peoplefirst<sup>P</sup>

A free and friendly group for young people aged 16-25 with a learning disability and/or autism

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Start point</u>
Sunday 16.12.2023	Clevedon 'Coleridge' walk	Clevedon sea front bandstand
Saturday 06.01.2024	Weston-super-Mare Uphill	Uphill Boatyard entrance
Sunday 21.01.2024	Nailsea Ty Sculpture Trail	Sculpture Trail car park



to



Come and meet people and keep fit. Please arrive at the start point ready for 10:00am. We hope to see you there.



01934 426086

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Weston-suoer-Mare, BS24 7DX

# people first GAMES GROUP



## Weston-super-Mare

### Winter 2023—Spring 2024

December: 5th, 19th

January: 2nd, 16th, 30th

February: 13th, 27th

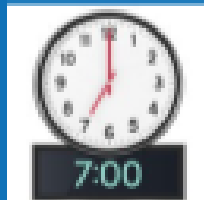
March: 12th, 26th

April: 9th, 23rd

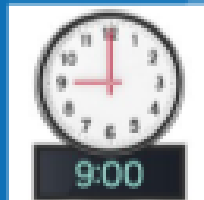
A free and friendly board games group for young people with a learning disability and/or autism.

NSPF groups are free of charge. Bring a game along if you wish.

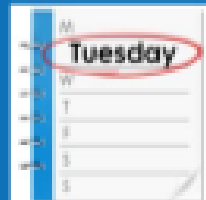
Start at    Finish at



7pm



9pm



At The Campus  
Highlands Lane  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS24 7DX

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Enabling **choices**.



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### Diary Dates:

Wednesday 20 December 2023

End of Term Celebration Assemblies:

9.00 am - Upper School

10.00 am - Lower School

11.00 am - Middle School

Friday 22 March 2024

M&M Production of Oliver Twist

**North Somerset Term Dates - 2023/2024:**

Term 1	04 September 23 - 20 October 23
Term 2	30 October 23 - 20 December 23
Term 3	04 January 24 - 09 February 24
Term 4	19 February 24 - 28 March 24
Term 5	15 April 24 - 24 May 24
Term 6	03 June 24 - 23 July 24

**Bank Holidays (school closed to all pupils) - 2023/2024:**

May Day Bank Holiday	6 May 2024
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**Westhaven INSET Days (school closed to all pupils) - 2023/24:**

- **Monday 4th September 2023**
- **Tuesday 5th September 2023**
- **Monday 30th October 2023**
- Thursday 4th January 2024
- Monday 22nd July 2024
- Tuesday 23rd July 2024

**North Somerset Term Dates - 2024/2025:**

Term 1	Monday 02 September 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024
Term 2	Monday 04 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024
Term 3	Monday 06 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 04 April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025
Term 6	Monday 02 June 2025 to Tuesday 22 July 2025



**Bank Holidays (school closed to all pupils) - 2024/2025:**

May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 05 May 2025
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