# Westhaven Weekly Newsletter

Friday 19 April 2024



# Our vision

# Valued - Inspired - Prepared Our values We shape our learners to be:

Safely independent - Respectful citizens Inquisitive thinkers - Confident communicators - Resilient learners

Welcome back to term 5, I hope you all managed to have a lovely Easter break. You may be aware that at school we hosted some activities for the learners and those that attended had a fabulous time. A huge thank you to all the staff that worked during the holidays to provide this excellent service. We do intend to offer this again in the summer holidays so watch this space if you are interested.

There have been a few works completed at school, mainly painting and decorating inside the buildings, but also increased security of the site with new CCTV and electronic access points, including vehicle number plate recognition added at the front of school to the main gates. Rolling improvements continue to be made, with the big project of a new and improved Key Stage 3 & 4 playground in the summer holidays!

I sent a separate letter out this week with details about changes to the DfE guidance around attendance. Unfortunately, the government do not give any special dispensation or consideration to children with additional needs. But, I hope that you know by now that I am an advocate for them and completely understand the reasons for taking them out of school at quieter times, albeit any request has to be unauthorised. Since my time in post, I have not issued a fine and I certainly don't intend to start doing so. However, good attendance is important and absence from school can have a significant impact as outlined here <u>https://tinyurl.com/drwsbez3</u>.

It has been lovely for me to visit all the classrooms throughout the week and talk to all the learners, they have come back in a positive frame of mind and are looking forward to the summer terms. In particular, at this time of year the focus is on our Key Stage 4 learners at the top of the school who are about to embark on the 'exam season', we wish them all the best of luck during this time.

W6 have had a wonderful time on their residential to Kilve Court this week, they and the staff will sleep well this weekend!

This week we welcomed some new staff to the Westhaven team. Our new Head of Maths, Miss Alice Miller, Miss Ellie Constable as Maternity Cover Teacher in Exeter class and Miss Louise Bass as LSA in Plymouth class. We wish them every success in their roles.

Have a wonderful weekend, whatever you have planned.



Jamie Peacock Headteacher

#### Across the School:

Mr Orchard opened the week with an assembly all about politics. He talked through what happens in a general election, who gets to vote and how the election process works.

We have also had a focus in our classes on Earth Day 2024. The theme this year is the planet against plastic.



A huge thank you to all who donated and took part in Wear a Hat Day. We were able to raise £67 for brain tumour research.

#### Lower School:

It has been lovely to welcome the learners back and hear all about their adventures over the Easter break.

All classes have enjoyed starting their new learning topics for the term. Please remember to check Class Dojo for updates on all that we have been getting up to.

#### Middle School:

We've had a great week of learning in Middle School! It has been great to hear about all of the fun lots of Middle school have had over the holidays, they have certainly come back refreshed and ready to learn.

The highlight of the week for me has been seeing some of School Council join a meeting about the playground refurbishment and share some ideas and very valid points. I am very proud of them indeed.

#### Upper School:

Upper school have returned with positivity and smiles. It has been wonderful to hear the adventures learners experienced over Easter (and the chocolate consumed!). All learners

have settled back into routines and are enjoying the introduction of new topics in their learning.

W6 learners enjoyed a wonderful time at Kilve on their residential trip. A number of activities were undertaken including a very windy fossil hunting trip to the beach, a night walk with torches, archery, colouring and games of Uno which became quite tactical and competitive! A wonderful socialising and team building experience for all who attended.

Favourite Book Quote	"We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the	
	stars." Oscar Wilde	
Favourite Quote about	"Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay	
Reading	where we are."	
Favourite Book to	Ice Palace by Robert Swindells	
Read to Children	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo	
Favourite Childhood	Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce	
Book		

#### Staff in the Spotlight: Mrs N Leggett

#### Word of this Week:

KSI	careful
KS2	steadily
KS3, 4 and 5	incessant

#### Sign of this Week: Earth

#### Maths Matters:

A magical island is inhabited entirely by knights (who always tell the truth) and knaves (who always tell lies).

One day 25 of the islanders were standing in a queue.

The first person in the queue said that everybody behind was a knave.

Each of the others in the queue said that the person immediately in front of them in the queue was a knave.

How many knights were there in the queue?

#### Headteacher Awards:

- Alex, Harry and Beth, all from Plymouth class, for their Phonics and SPaG work.
- Kyra in Exeter for her handwriting and also her wonderful Art work.

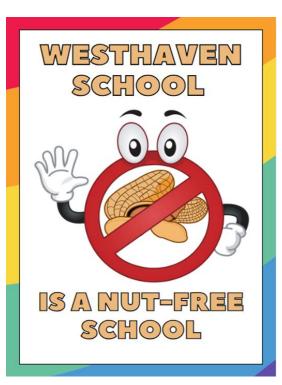
#### Sports Desk:

I have thoroughly enjoyed our first week back for the best two terms of the year for PE. We have been outside enjoying the sunshine and we have already had lots of amazing PE lessons, where learners have come straight back into school ready to learn and improve. My highlight this week is watching our lower school learners enjoy a PE lesson led by a professional Yoga teacher. They were so engaged with their Yoga and learnt lots of new skills. Well done to everyone for a great start!









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.



he Optima Football Stadium - Home of Weston-super-Mare AFC, Winterstoke Rd, Weston-super-Mare BS24 9AA

# PTA AGM

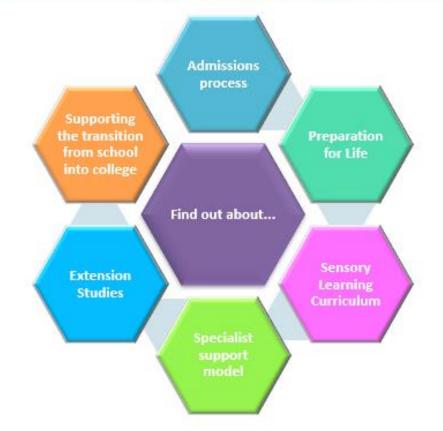
Just a reminder that the PTA AGM will take place on Tuesday 23 April at 6.00 pm online.

A link to the meeting will be sent out next week.

**Everyone most welcome!** 

# Foundation Learning Information Event

WESTON



We welcome all parents and carers of young people leaving school in the next academic year to come in and find out what we have on offer within Foundation Learning.

This will be an interactive and engaging event allowing you to meet staff, ask questions and to explore what happens next.

The information event is being held on:

# Thursday 25th April @ 5:30pm

The event will be held at the Knightstone Campus, Weston College



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LeisureCentre.com

## **Diary Dates:**

Friday 19th April 2024	Deadline: Please can all Readathon money be logged and sponsor cards be returned to school
Tuesday 23rd April 2024	Parents Evening PTA AGM
Friday 19 July 2024	Last day in school for learners this academic year (Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 July are INSET days)

## North Somerset Term Dates - 2023/2024:

Term 5	15 April 24 - 24 May 24
Term 6	03 June 24 - 23 July 24

May Day Bank Holiday	6 May 2024
May Day Bank Holiday	6 Mdy 2024

# Westhaven INSET Days (school closed to all pupils) - 2023/24:

- 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:

Westhaven INSET Days (school closed to all learners) - 2024/25:

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025
- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025