Westfield Primary Community School

Where children come first

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Year 1 Autumn Term Newsletter

Wednesday 16th September 2026

Dear Year 1 families,

We hope you have had a wonderful summer break and are well rested ready for a super autumn term. We are so excited to welcome you into Key Stage 1 and look forward to working with you.

Autumn 1

We will start our new science based topic 'If you go down to the woods today' finding out all about trees and if they are deciduous or evergreen, we will also be identifying some common plants in our local environment. We will be finding an answer to our big question 'Who would live in a habitat like this?' by investigating geographical features to support our ideas. We will revisit and build on our knowledge from Reception by looking at seasonal changes and the impact of weather. Through exploring the work of the artist Paul Klee we will be colour mixing, completing observational drawings and investigating warm and cold colours. Look out for an invite to our very own *Teddy Bears Picnic* during the week beginning 21st September!

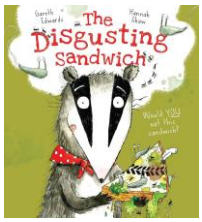
Autumn 2

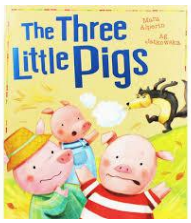
After half term, we will move onto our exciting topic 'We are chocolatiers' where we will be answering the big question 'Who brought chocolate to York?'. This history based topic explores the lives of Joseph Rowntree and Joseph Terry and their influence on York's chocolate story. We will also be using our creative skills to design chocolate boxes, looking at how we can design packaging to influence an audience. What's your favourite chocolate and how does the packaging make you feel?

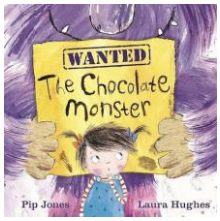
Please note that to protect our children the school gates are locked between the hours of 8.30am and 9.05am and 2.45pm and 3.30pm. If you are travelling to school by car during these times, please be aware that you could be locked in the school car park. Please find alternative parking outside the school gates, if required.

Class texts

This term, we will be reading the following texts to support our learning:







The Disgusting Sandwich follows the story of a sandwich and how it becomes more appealing! The Three Little Pigs, the classic traditional tale of brothers who build their houses to escape the Big Bad Wolf, and the types of materials they use will help us to structure and tell familiar stories. Wanted: The Chocolate Monster will support the children in writing a letter to the chocolate monster while we investigate chocolate.

Supporting your child at home

At Westfield we encourage families to support learning at home. We believe it's important for children to develop positive home learning habits early on and it also gives you a chance to see how your child is progressing.

Regular Reading – Once you have attended the *Teddy Bears Picnic* session, books will be changed weekly. Please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record to school every day. Any lost or damaged books will result in a fine, so please take care of them. Reading is the cornerstone of the children's learning and all staff are incredibly enthusiastic about building a love of reading and story telling.To support your child please read with them often, share books, comics and spoken stories to further develop their love of reading.
Regular Maths It is important that the children get extra practice, beyond the school day, to learn and embed key facts. Numbots log ins will be shared in Reading Records and we hope you can see the benefits of supporting the additional maths games and activities at home. We celebrate the top performers in assembly each week and give certificates for milestones reached.
Phonics Children will bring home regular Little Wandle home learning sheets to complement their phonics learning in school, this may be sounds, decodable words or new spelling patterns. It would greatly support your child if you can go through these sheets regularly to develop confidence in reading for different purposes and consolidate the learning they have accessed in school.

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Key events

Further information will be sent out in due course but here is an overview of what is to come:

Individual photos - **21st September**
Teddy Bears Picnic - **Week beginning 21st September - date TBC**
Taster lunch - **1st October**
Flu immunisations - **5th October**
Break for half term - **23rd October**
School opens - **2nd November**
Parents evenings - **16th & 18th November**
Year 1 Christmas concert - **9th & 10th December**
Christmas lunch and Christmas Jumper day - **16th December**
School closes - **18th December**

PE Days

Please see the chart below for your child's PE days:

Class	Day 1	Day 2
1WH	Tuesday	Thursday
1MM	Tuesday	Thursday
1VB	Tuesday	Friday

Assemblies

We share picture news assembly on Mondays which links to our school virtues. Church assembly is on a Tuesday, where we share bible stories. Celebration assembly on a Friday allows us to come together

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and celebrate the week's virtues, any exceptional learning and certificates from Numbots and additional home learning.

How can I keep up to date with everything?

Keep an eye on the Juniper app Awards and Activities where we'll continue to celebrate your child's successes and share any important updates.

Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to contact details through the Arbor App. All emails and text messages from the School Office will be sent using this information.

Don't hesitate to approach us with any questions. We are always happy to have a quick chat before or after school, but we kindly ask that you wait until all children have been safely handed over before approaching.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

The Year 1 team

Mrs Bootland	**Miss Marley**	**Mrs Hirst**	**Mrs White**