



# Wellesley Park Primary School

Headteacher: Carly Wilkins  
Wellesley Park Primary School  
Homefield, Wellington  
Somerset, TA21 9AJ

28th March 2024



## Headteacher's Comment

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the Spring term, I would like to say how proud of am of each and every child's achievements. Your support, involvement, encouragement and partnership, has ensured that our children to continue to flourish and feel happy in school.

## Staffing update

I am delighted to now be able to announce that following a rigorous recruitment process, we have appointed a new Deputy Headteacher for September 2024. Mr Dan Houton will be joining us from a local school. Mr Houton showed an immediate alignment with our school values and ethos, as well as an enormous energy and passion for learning. Mr Houton and I will work closely together over the Summer Term, to ensure that there is a smooth transition. I would like to thank the staff across our Trust and our School Governors for giving up their time to be involved in this process.

At the end of this term, we say a sad farewell to Mrs Jordan, who has been an integral part of our school community for the past 21 years. Her dedication and support to the staff, children and families at Wellesley Park will be very missed. I am sure you will join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes to Mrs Jordan as she embarks on an exciting new chapter in her life.

## Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended our parents' evening, this week. There were so many positive comments throughout the two evenings regarding the standard of work and progress evident by your children. Also, a big thank you to our Year 6 House Captains, who helped me to serve hot cross buns and drinks to our amazing teaching staff - which was very appreciated!

## Management system

We are changing the Management Information System that we currently use, alongside all schools in the Blackdown Education Partnership, from SIMS to Bromcom. Bromcom is a nationally established web-based platform. We are aiming to migrate to the new system over May half-term and will be using Bromcom from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. We are very excited about this big change but would appreciate your patience and support as we all adjust to a new way of working and communicating with you. Further communication will follow in the Summer term.

With best wishes

*Carly Wilkins*

Headteacher

## Attendance - by class for this half-term

Peake	86.33%	Norgay	95.91%	Shackleton	95.21%	Kingsley	92.79%
Darwin	92.49%	Sharman	84.04%	Earhart	94.51%		
Henson	96.32%	Attenborough	96.51%	Armstrong	85.57%		
Cousteau	95.97%	Spruce	96.89%	Bell	95.13%		

## Wellesley Park School Values

Our Wellesley Park value for this half-term period is “Integrity”.

“Why is individual liberty important in school?”



## Online Safety Update - Clickbait

What parents need to know about clickbait

While scrolling online, you'll almost inevitably have come across posts or links with headlines like "You Won't Believe These 10 Crazy Facts about ...". Such lurid language – and the often-dubious nature of the content it promotes – has become something of a running joke on the internet. Yet, while these articles are often laughed at by communities online, they can have an insidious side.

Clickbait, as it's known, can frequently function as part of a trap: intended to draw users in for the sake of advertising revenue or, in worse cases, masking an attempt to collect their personal information.

Around one in five headlines online are clickbait; that's an estimate from experts at Stanford University, who conducted a study into this phenomenon. As that statistic indicates, this manipulative marketing strategy is difficult to avoid online. There's still plenty that can be done though to limit its influence – especially in relation to young people, who are often more susceptible to sensationalist headlines.

The National College have provided further information as shown above.

### HARMFUL MISINFORMATION



Clickbait tends to play fast and loose with the truth, opting for eye-catching content over objectivity. This is particularly dangerous for younger internet users, who are generally more susceptible to that type of material. A child could be presented with fake news, misleading articles and – in some cases – outright lies without fully understanding what they're viewing and why it's harmful.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Due to the misleading nature of many examples of clickbait, what may seem to be innocuous and child friendly could actually contain age-inappropriate material such as extremist political views or violent, pornographic or sexually explicit content. This is clearly a hazard for young people, who could be upset, disturbed or influenced by exposure to such subject matter.

### HIDDEN MALWARE



While most clickbait is simply trying to promote engagement to earn companies additional revenue, some of it does redirect to dubious sites with the potential to infect devices with viruses or malware. This could put a child's sensitive data – such as their name, their location and their date of birth – at risk of being accessed and exploited by malicious hackers.

### PRIVACY PROBLEMS



Some clickbait leads to sites which could coax a child into volunteering their personal data – using pop-ups to ask them for their email address and phone number, for example, in exchange for accessing additional content or subscribing to various services. Normally, this harvested information is then sold to third parties, who often utilise it for targeted adverts and other sales schemes.

### A DRAINING DISTRACTION



Clickbait encourages spiralling consumption of online content, which could easily result in a young person spending hours scrolling aimlessly instead of doing something productive or interacting with family and friends. This can leave them tired, asocial and lacking focus – and, in the long term, can negatively impact their social skills, education and mental wellbeing.

### IMPACT ON BEHAVIOUR



Depending on the type of clickbait a child is interacting with, you might notice negative changes in their behaviour. Weight loss scams, for example, are common among clickbait and have the potential to influence eating habits and body image – while deliberately inflammatory 'rage bait' articles can leave impressionable young people feeling irritable, restless or argumentative.

## SEND - Mrs Hartley-Criddle's Coffee Mornings

I will be holding coffee mornings for parents/carers of children with/or on the pathway for ADHD and ASC. The purpose is to provide a welcoming time and space for parents/carers to get together, share experiences, challenges and successes and to provide reassurance that you are not alone in having to parent differently to so many others. Drinks, biscuits and cake will be provided.

If you would like to attend, please contact the school office by emailing [office@wellesleypark.bep.ac](mailto:office@wellesleypark.bep.ac) or telephoning 01823 664876.



The coffee mornings will be held in school from 9.00-10.00am on the following dates:

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May - first coffee morning for parents/carers of children with / or on pathway for ADHD**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - second coffee morning for parents/carers of children with / or on pathway for ASC**

I hope to see a few friendly faces at either (or both) mornings.

## Wellesley Park PTA News

This term has been fairly busy. We had a great disco which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to Paula for organising and running it and the parents and staff who helped out - the next one is in June.

Cake sales restarted (Year 4 will be just after Easter break). Thanks to all who donated and bought - we have raised over £200 so far (that's over 400 cakes eaten!!)

The Superwoman's Shop was great fun and we hope all you Superwomen out there got a lovely gift. Thank you to our fabulous Vice Chair Elisa for her brilliant purchasing and shop running skills.

Sam ran a brilliant Bingo Night. It was another amazing evening, we had a full house of people and some amazing prizes including some fab donations from Tim Potters, Crealy and many others. Thanks to all who came and played and the companies that donated. We raised over £700 and we can't wait to do another one!

If you have an idea for an event, please let us know and if you'd like to, please come along to help us organise it. Next term we have cake sales, disco, strawberry evening and more to look forward to, volunteers always welcome!

We're looking forward to seeing all the break the rules outfits on Thursday and from all at the PTA, have a very lovely Easter break.

Sarah V, Simon, Elisa, Kerry, Emma & Sarah F-J



## School Meals

The deadline for booking school meals for the first week back after Easter (wc 15th April) has now passed. If you have not booked a school meal for your child, please ensure you provide them with a packed lunch.

You are still able to book meals for wc 22nd April onwards.

Many thanks.

## Duke's Bookings

Duke's breakfast and after school club sessions for the next half-term are now available to book on magicbooking - <https://wellesleyparkschool.magicbooking.co.uk/>



## Wellesley Park Explorers

We have been very busy here at Pre-school! We are continuing with our theme 'Growing' and have enjoyed planting beans and sunflowers. We have been talking about the compost, what colour it is, what it feels like and the seeds themselves!

The children had a good understanding of how we need to care for our seeds and we have been very excited to monitor their growth and have noticed our beans have started to shoot! We have been reading the story 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and the children have been joining in with this, reciting elements of the text from memory.

We have enjoyed lots of fun Easter activities over the past few days, decorating a large Easter Egg using lots of different media and LOTS of glue!! We had an 'Egg and Spoon' race in the garden which we all took part in, in small groups.

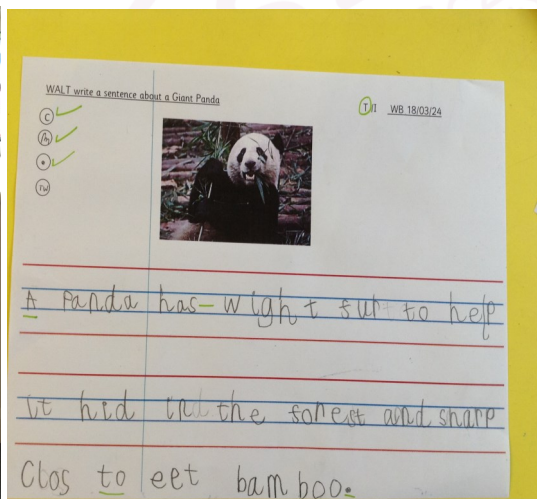
Happy Easter!



## Reception

The Reception children have been doing lots of writing. We have worked on writing super star sentences that start with a capital letter and end with a full stop. We have also tried to remember to put a finger space between each word and to spell any 'Tricky Words', e.g. to, the, go, correctly in our work.

The children have been finding out about giant pandas and they wrote sentences to explain what adaptations a panda's body has to help it live in the forests in China. For example, they have flat teeth to grind and crush bamboo stalks and soft pads on their feet so that they can walk on the snow and wet woodland floor.



We have continued to enjoy outdoor learning at Forest School and it is one of the children's favourite parts of the week!



## Year 1

Wow, what an amazing half-term we have had and its flown by! We completed our instruction topic in English and the children showed their skills with some amazing independent writing of their own instructions! We then looked at poetry for our next topic which has taken us to the end of the half-term. We learned about alliteration and the children created their own alliterative poems which were excellent!

In Maths, we have managed to fill in loads of learning! We completed our place value to 50 topic, and also learnt about measuring height and length as well as looking at mass and volume! We will finish this after the break where we will look into capacity in more detail.

In Science, we completed our topic on humans and had great fun carrying our tests on our senses, including smelling and tasting a variety of objects!

The children loved our Geography topic this half term on the continents and oceans. We learnt the continents and oceans songs to support us in naming all of them and we worked hard at learning to identify each one on the world map. We also linked our previous topic in by identifying the United Kingdom on the world map. The children were amazed to see how small our island is in comparison to the rest of the world!

We are so proud of everything the children have achieved this half-term and we can't wait to see what they get up to next term!



## Year 2/3

The Year 2/3 children have had a jam-packed Spring term and have learned so much!

We have been focusing on plants in Science and the children have each had the opportunity to begin to grow their own sunflowers. They have all become confident in discussing the importance of plants and the processes involved including germination, transpiration and pollination. In Science next term, we will be moving our focus to nutrition. The children will be asked to bring in some empty food packets when we return so please keep some aside for us if you can.

In Maths, the children have begun to look at working with fractions and understanding how we can work out the value of a whole number based on the fraction of it that they are given. Fractions will continue into the Summer term. We are also continuing to focus on timetables and encourage everyone to visit TTRockstars over the holidays if possible.

In English, we have just started a non-fiction text 'Pirates'. The children have worked hard this week to make some wonderful pirate creations in preparation for our unit based on writing an information text and these will be put up on display in classrooms.

In DT this term, the children have had great fun taking on the role of fashion designers. They really enjoyed designing and modelling some of their fabulously stylish paper fashion. We have also concluded our Geography unit focused on Cairo which has given the children an insight to the setting of our new History topic of the Ancient Egyptians.

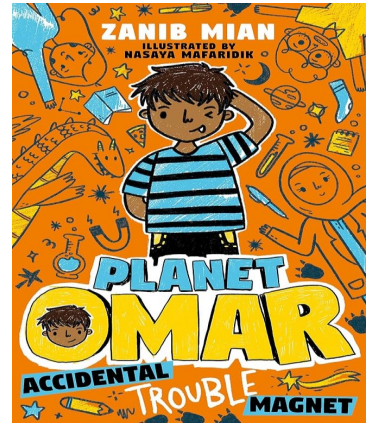
Mrs Mitton, Mrs White and Mrs Murphy are all very much looking forward to the exciting topics we will be sharing with you all in the Summer term, but for now we wish you all a well-deserved and restful Easter break.



## Year 4

While developing our portal stories, we have dived into a world of imagination through unexplained entrances, magic mirrors and sunken ships. The children have come up with some mind-blowing descriptions as their character delves into an unknown world, disregards a warning and suffers immediate consequences. All their stories have been a great read, following the structure of the story well and including the grammar expected of them!

Once again, the children have thoroughly enjoyed the guided reading book we have been reading. After finishing the book, '*Planet Omar: Trouble Magnet*', the children identified the importance of treating others with kindness, even if they do not show the same back. We enjoyed the book so much, we have written a book review to submit to Blue Peter and earn our Sir Quentin Blake badge!



In Maths, we have finished our topic on fractions – a topic which the children have really enjoyed, despite originally finding it difficult. We are very proud to say that the children's understanding in maths is showing amazing promise, preparing them for the Multiplication Tables Check in June!

In Science, the children have been exploring the states of matter. After looking at the processes in which matters can change state, we have undergone an experiment to observe how quickly water evaporates below its boiling point, and how this is effected when a lid is on the cup. Each day, we measured the difference of the water level and concluded that if a lid is left on a cup, the water evaporates and then condenses back into the cup!

## Year 5

We cannot believe it is the end of the Spring term already. What a term we have had!

In Maths, the children have excelled in our decimals and percentages unit, they should be very proud of themselves! We have begun and will continue with our perimeter and area unit after Easter. Remember to keep practising your times tables Year 5 as this will really help you in maths!

In English, we are in the middle of our focus on 'suspense'. The children have shone in this unit so far, and the writing we are seeing has been fantastic. They are putting so much thought into selecting the correct writing tools in order to create a suspenseful atmosphere, it has been lovely to read their work so far.

In DT, the children made their own Turkish flatbread, they thoroughly enjoyed this! It was great to see them all getting involved making and then kneading the dough.

In Science, we have been learning about different properties of materials. The children completed an egg-drop experiment, whereby they had to create a structure to protect an egg, choosing the right materials based on their properties. They really enjoyed this, and most of the eggs survived!

We hope you have a wonderful Easter holiday.



## Year 6

What a great half-term we have had in Year 6! We have been very proud of the resilience and determination the children have shown during our Mock SATs week this week. After Easter, we will be consolidating their learning in all areas and focussing on any gaps to ensure that they are not only ready for SATs in May but to also put them in good stead for their transition to secondary school.

Earlier in the month, we enjoyed a fabulous World Book Day where the children wrote letters based on the book 'The Day The Crayons Quit' in the style of its author Oliver Jeffers. They chose classroom objects to write as and demonstrated their ability to write in character.



In DT, the children have used recycled materials to create their own marble runs. The children have designed, built and evaluated their projects. They had great fun with the challenge of which team could make the marbles descent slowest.

In Science, we have completed our unit in electricity. We have explored circuit making and relevant scientific symbols. The children always enjoy this unit in particular investigating how large a working circuit can be made and how loud (think buzzers and lots of them!).

Finally, in Guided Reading, we are reaching the end of the fantastic book Skellig by David Almond and will shortly be comparing the book and the film. We hope you all have a lovely Easter, and we look forward to seeing you all for the Summer term.

