



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

25th October 2024



Headteacher's Comment

I am very proud of what we have achieved together this half term. As always, our children continue to amaze us with their passion and enthusiasm for learning new things. As you may remember, this was noted in our OFSTED report: *"Pupils say they enjoy school and love learning new things."*

This year, we have already had many enrichment opportunities, including: cross-country, a visit to Wellington Community Farm, a visit from Olympic Rower, Rebecca Wilde, swimming, Harvest Festival and watching a production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

During this half term, we have successfully conducted several parent workshops, including: Year 6 SATS, Phonics, and Online Safety, receiving lots of positive feedback on the comprehensive nature of the sessions.

Thank you to all our parents/carers that attended parents' evening this week. If you haven't made an appointment yet, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher or the office to arrange a time.

This week we welcomed lots of perspective new families to our open morning to learn about our school. They also had the opportunity to take a school tour with our Year 6 House Captains, seeing the environment where their children will be learning and playing. Thank you to the staff who welcomed them into their classroom, pausing their lessons to speak to the parents. All parents reported that they really enjoyed seeing the school in action and commented on our inclusive, supportive ethos.

On behalf of everyone at Wellesley Park, I wish you a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

With best wishes,

Mrs Wilkins
Headteacher

Attendance - by class from 04/09/2024 to 24/10/2024

Peake	99.35%	Spruce	98.47%	Bell	95.54%
Earhart	98.50%	Henson	96.06%	Kingsley	93.36%
Norgay	96.89%	Attenborough	97.44%	Jemison	98.10%
Shackleton	98.22%	Darwin	97.15%		

Wellesley Park School Values

Our Wellesley Park value for this half term period is 'Resilience'.



HOW CAN YOU SHOW RESILIENCE AT HOME?



RECLAIMING NARRATIVES

WHO WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO REACH THE NORTH POLE? | NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC (YOUTUBE.COM)

Attendance Matters

At Wellesley Park, we are deeply committed to our vision of enhancing all children's life chances. A key indicator of our success in this mission is regular school attendance. Our current school target is to achieve 97% attendance by the end of the academic year.



We do appreciate that children can be ill and therefore not well enough to attend school. Any child with attendance of 90% or below is classed as a persistent absence by the Government. Every school is required to take action to work with families to improve attendance. If your child's attendance does drop below 95%, then your child's class teacher may make contact with you to offer support to understand the barriers to good attendance.

Additionally, we have seen an increase in the number of term time leave requests. Absences can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. These are defined as situations that are rare, unavoidable and short. Please note that family holidays do not qualify as exceptional circumstance as typically these can be planned during school breaks which means they are avoidable. The government has emphasised that term time should be dedicated to learning and that absences for holidays do not align with this priority.

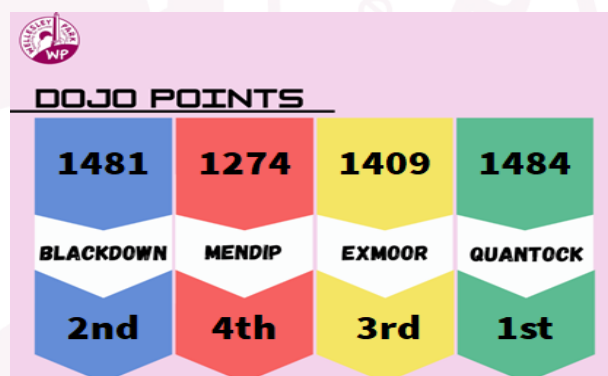
100%	Excellent Attendance
Above 98%	Good Attendance Students with attendance above 98% have had less than 4 days of absence in the year
Below 96%	If your child's attendance drops below 96% you will receive a letter highlighting this
94%	If your child's attendance drops to 94% you will receive a letter and be asked to attend a meeting
92%	If your child's attendance drops to 92% the Pastoral Manager and/or Education Safeguarding Officer (EWS) will become involved
90% and below.	Persistent Absentee (PA) as defined by the Department for Education (DfE). Students with 90% attendance have had 19 days over the year Students with this attendance level are missing a month of school per year and may drop at least one GCSE grade. Parents of students with this level of attendance may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice or have legal action taken against them
85%	Exceptionally Low Attendance/Persistent Absentee Students with 85% attendance have had 29 days' absence over the year. These students are missing 6 weeks of a school year; it will be <u>very</u> difficult for them to keep up with work and they are likely to drop more than one GCSE grade. It is highly likely that a Fixed Penalty Notice will have been served and should attendance not improve significantly after this, a referral will be made for legal action to be taken against parents for failure to ensure that their child attends school regularly

House Dojo Points Update

Congratulations to Quantock house for achieving the most dojo points this year. We hope you enjoyed your non-school uniform day today as a reward.

We are looking forward to seeing how many points each house can achieve in the second half of the Autumn term.

Well done everyone.



Year 6 Parents - Secondary School Applications

Please remember that you must apply for your child's Year 7 secondary place before **31st October**. For any help and advice please visit contact the school office.

To apply visit: [Starting at a secondary or upper school in September \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september)

Online Safety Update - Workshop Takeaways

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent workshop on keeping children safe on applications. We had a great discussion about the importance of protecting our children online, especially as they use popular apps like YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram.

For those who couldn't attend, here are the key takeaways:

- Age restrictions matter: Most social media apps require users to be at least 13. Always check if the apps your child uses are age appropriate.
- Privacy settings: Make sure your child's accounts are set to private, disable location sharing, and limit who can contact them.
- Parental controls: Use tools like Google Family Link or Apple Screen Time to monitor app usage, set limits, and block inappropriate content.
- Communication is key: Talk to your children regularly about their online experiences. Encourage them to come to you if they see or experience something that makes them uncomfortable.
- Recognise risks for younger children: Kids using parents' phones can accidentally access harmful content, make in-app purchases, or interact with strangers.

By taking these simple steps, we can work together to keep our children safe online.

How to make changes to privacy settings

You can block certain apps from obtaining information from your child's device. You can also prevent your child (or anyone other than you) from altering these settings.

- 1 Open 'Settings'
- 2 Tap 'Screen Time'
- 3 Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
- 4 Scroll to 'Privacy'
- 5 Choose the settings you wish to restrict
- 6 After you've made any changes, select 'Use Screen Time Passcode' to lock your changes with a PIN

How to prevent changes to other settings/features

You can also stop changes being made to the iPhone's other settings or features by anyone but you. For example, you can prevent your child from altering their passcode, accounts or mobile data settings.

- 1 Open 'Settings'
- 2 Tap 'Screen Time'
- 3 Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
- 4 Scroll to 'Allow Changes'
- 5 Select 'Allow' or 'Don't Allow' on the settings for which you wish to enable or disable changes

The infographic features a central illustration of a young girl with blonde braids looking at a smartphone. The phone screen displays the 'Settings' app, specifically the 'Privacy' section, with various options like 'Location Services', 'Contacts', 'Calendars', 'Reminders', 'Photos', 'Bluetooth Sharing', 'Microphone', 'Speech Recognition', 'Camera', 'Health', 'HomeKit', 'Media & Apple Music', and 'Motion & Fit'. A 'Screen Time Passcode' screen is also visible at the bottom right.

Wellesley Park Explorers

Our explorers have been very busy this half term focussing on 'All about me'. They have settled so well and have started to build lovely new friendships with their peers, promoting their social development which is so lovely to see. We have spoken lots about our family life, making family trees and filling out personal profiles with the teachers, so we can understand who/what is important to them.

The children have also become little artists, using various materials to create self-portraits, promoting our PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional development) which is the foundation behind children developing holistically.

Funky finger activities have been a firm favourite this half term too. We have enjoyed lots of dough disco, cheerio threading and using tweezers to sort various objects. These activities promote fine motor control, enabling children to gain muscles in their fingers to eventually be able to hold pencils to write and zip up their coats. These form part of our Early Learning Goals.

The explorers have been bakers too have made lots of yummy treats to eat at pre-school for snack - 'jam tarts' and 'biscuit faces'. This has also promoted mathematics through weighing and counting ingredients.

We hope you have a lovely half-term and we can't wait to welcome the explorers back for lots of Autumnal and Christmas activities.



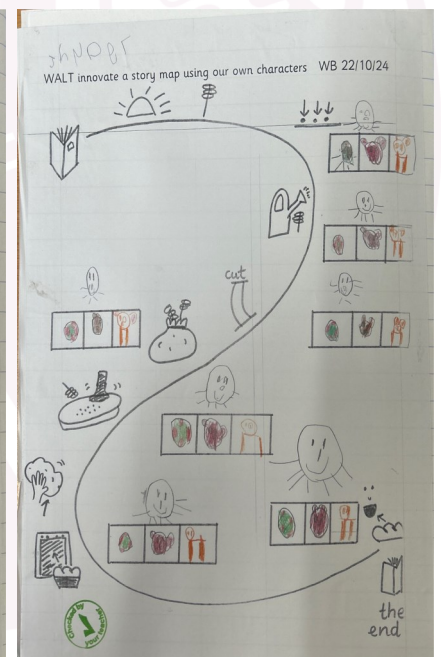
Reception

What a busy first half term for the newest pupils at Wellesley Park Primary School! The children have settled in beautifully and have worked really hard- they definitely deserve a rest over half term!

We have learnt lots of new sounds /phonemes and lots of the children are now reading books with words in to sound out and blend. This is an amazing achievement so early in the year and it is lovely to hear the children reading with enthusiasm! We have also learnt three new Tricky Words: is, I, the.

We have been retelling the story of the Little Red Hen but have now innovated it to include our own characters. We then retell the story with the alternative characters. After we did this as a whole class the children then thought of their own characters. Here are two of the children's story maps with their chosen characters. They have used the story map to tell their story to an adult.

A lot of work has been done on repeated patterns in the last few weeks. First, we did patterns using body percussion, for example, clap, nod, clap, nod. Then we used natural objects like conkers, leaves and sticks to make repeated patterns. The children loved exploring making patterns with two or more objects!



Year 1

We cannot believe how quick this first half term has gone! We managed to fit in an immense amount of learning and the children have impressed me so much with their resilience and effort.

After completing our fiction topic on *The Three Little Pigs* in English, we looked at non-fiction writing. Our focus has been on persuasive language, where we have been persuading someone to buy a house. I have been amazed with the level of writing and use of interesting vocabulary! We have had some excellent ideas, and the children have loved innovating the text to include what they would love in the house!

In Maths, we continued with numbers to 10 but have looked at addition. The children have worked hard with part whole models to help us understand that whole numbers can be split into two parts. This has supported our addition number sentence writing and we will look at subtraction after half term.

The children have worked hard on their phonics this half term. They have begun to learn some phase 5 alternative graphemes for some sounds they already know, which they have done well on. After half term we will continue learning more alternative sounds and I am excited to see this impact their reading!

In Science, we finished our materials unit and carried out some investigations on properties of different materials. The children thought it was amazing when we got to testing out which objects were absorbent or not! It turns out that socks are very absorbent!

We are so proud of all of the children as they have coped massively well with the start of Year One. We hope you all have a wonderful half term!



Year 2

The last few weeks have been very productive in Year 2!

In English, the children have been working very hard learning a whole new set of vocabulary and diary language features. This week, we have had some special items arrive in school... Jack's diary *and* a beanstalk leaf! Over the next couple of weeks, the children will be innovating his diary.

In Computing, the children have been saying how particular pieces of music makes them feel, identifying patterns, experimenting with sounds and creating musical patterns for a purpose using Chrome Music Labs. Why not continue creating wonderful music at home?

In Guided Reading, the children have been learning about the life of Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III. They have been developing their understanding of vocabulary, such as: reign, monarchy, tradition, inherit, duty, good causes and preserve; and learning how to explain their thinking using evidence contained within the text.

Our current book club recommendation is 'Isadora Moon' by Harriet Muncaster. It's a great short chapter book and seasonal!

In Maths, we have been learning to add and subtract in a number of ways. The children have taken to this well and are beginning to spot patterns and apply their fluency skills well.

In PSHE, the children have been identifying positive behaviours and discussing feelings and how to deal with uncomfortable emotions.

We hope you have a wonderful and restful half term holiday, and we look forward to seeing you in November.



Year 3/4

We have had a very busy few weeks in Year 3/4. The children have shown great behaviour for learning and have enjoyed getting stuck into lots of different subjects and learning lots of new things.

In Maths, we have been focusing on addition and subtraction using the column method. All of the children have shown great resilience working with some tricky numbers, especially when exchanging!

In English, we have nearly come to the end of our unit on persuasion. The children have enjoyed learning our model text 'Dragonland', and they have some fabulous ideas for their own persuasion leaflet, including lots of tools we have learnt, such as, rhetorical questions and alliteration, which we can't wait to read.

In Guided Reading, we have begun our new novel 'The Firework Maker's Daughter'. The children have enjoyed the first few chapters and are becoming more confident reading out loud.

This term we were lucky enough to visit Wellington Community Farm. Although very wet and muddy, it didn't stop the children from having fun! We were able to pick our own carrots, go on a bug hunt and do some orienteering. The children loved learning about how to grow different fruit and vegetables.

Year 3 also had the opportunity to visit Court Fields School and participate in a sports festival. They thoroughly enjoyed each activity, from obstacle courses to bean bag throwing and ball sports. Year 3/4 were excellently behaved on both trips and represented our school very well. We are very proud of them!

We hope you have a lovely half term.



Year 5

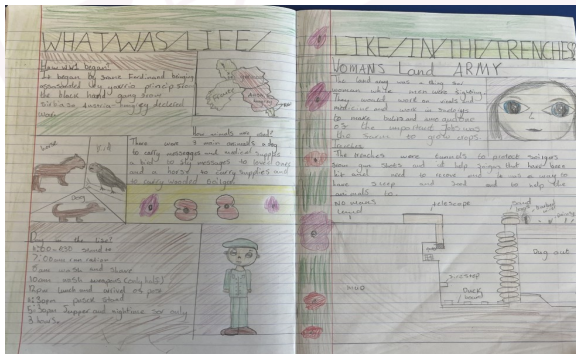
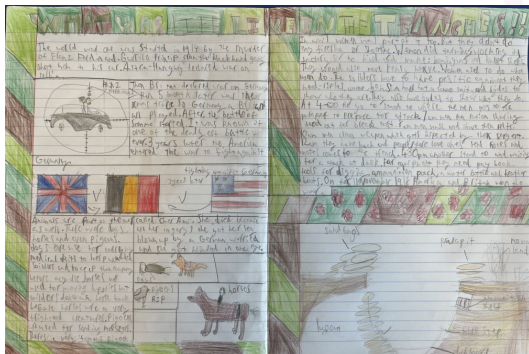
It has been a fabulous end to the first half term in Year 5 with a range of exciting and memorable moments.

In English, we have been writing quest stories focusing on characterisation and recently our chairs unbelievably went on strike! This resulted in us having to write persuasive letters so that they would return. Fortunately, through our use of specific language features we convinced them to come back - phew!

In our topic lessons, we have further explored World War 1 and studied fascinating stories and people such as Jutland Jack. Now that we have come to the end of this unit, the children have all produced some outstanding double page spreads to showcase everything they have learnt this term.

In our Science sessions, we have worked to understand the phases of the moon and answered our intriguing topic question: What is the solar system?

Well done for all your effort this half term Year 5! We are looking forward to another busy term in the run up to Christmas!



Year 6

We cannot believe we are at half term already! Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the year and have shown us what mature, hard-working and resilient individuals they all are. We are looking forward to watching them continue to flourish throughout the year.

In English, we have completed our Talk for Writing suspense unit. The children created excellent stories based on the traditional tale of Hansel and Gretel. They used a wide-range of techniques including pathetic fallacy, personification, dramatic dialogue and show not tell. We are now writing persuasive letters to the witch to release Hansel and Gretel.

We have finished our place value and four operations topic in maths. The children's resilience was tested with tricky long multiplication and division, however, they took everything in their stride and we are now using the techniques to solve worded problems.

This week, we wrapped up our Science learning with heart dissections. The children were fascinated by this activity and were able to consolidate their learning of the heart and make links to what they have learnt.

We travelled back in time during our history lessons and have delved into the Industrial Revolution. This week the children looked at how children were sent to work in factories and have written some fantastic diary entries.

We have lots more to look forward to throughout the year.

