



Wellesley Park Primary School

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

27th September 2024



Headteacher's Comment

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to share that we have had an excellent start to the new academic year! The enthusiasm and energy from both children and staff have been truly inspiring. Our classrooms are buzzing with excitement as we embark on this journey of learning and growth together.

Our School Values

At the heart of our school community are our core values: **Respect, Responsibility, Tolerance, Integrity, Excellence, and Resilience**. These values guide our actions and interactions, helping us create a positive and inclusive environment for all.

- **Respect:** We treat others with kindness and consideration.
- **Responsibility:** We take ownership of our actions and their impact.
- **Tolerance:** We embrace and celebrate our differences.
- **Integrity:** We act with honesty and uphold strong moral principles.
- **Excellence:** We strive to do our best in all we do.
- **Resilience:** We persevere through challenges and learn from our experiences.

We encourage you to discuss these values with your children and reinforce them at home. Together, we can support our pupils to develop into well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the future.

Executive Headteacher Learning Walk

I wanted to take a moment to share some wonderful feedback following our recent learning walk with the Executive Headteacher. It was truly inspiring to see the dedication and enthusiasm in every classroom we visited.

Excellent Learning Behaviours:

The positive learning behaviours displayed by our children were exceptional. Their engagement, curiosity, and respect for one another were evident in every class. This is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our staff in fostering a supportive and stimulating learning environment.

Impressive Learning Environment:

The learning environments across the school were (as always) impressive. Classrooms were vibrant and well-organized, creating spaces where pupils feel safe and motivated to learn. The use of creative displays and resources was particularly noteworthy and added to the overall positive atmosphere.

High Standard of Presentation:

We also observed a high standard of presentation in pupils' work. The pride they take in their work reflects the high expectations set by our staff. This attention to detail and emphasis on quality is helping our students develop important skills that will serve them well in their educational journey.

It is clear that our collective efforts are making a significant impact on our pupils' learning experiences.

We will continue to build on this success - striving for excellence for our pupils.

Headteacher's Comment cont'd

Summer Works

During the six-week holidays, we have undertaken numerous projects. We upgraded our school's water pipes to ensure an effective water supply. Additionally, we completed decking work in our pre-school and EYFS outside area. Both projects are nearly finished, with some final snagging required for the decking and the installation of a new boiler scheduled for the October half-term.

We also installed updated IT screens in most classrooms and a new set of pupil laptops, thanks to a generous £3,500 donation from our wonderful PTA.

Let's make this academic year a memorable and successful one! Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Mrs Wilkins
Headteacher

Attendance - by class from 04/09/2024 to 26/09/2024

Peake	99.35%	Spruce	98.59%	Bell	97.74%
Earhart	97.58%	Henson	96.68%	Kingsley	94.88%
Norgay	98.07%	Attenborough	97.37%	Jemison	99.06%
Shackleton	98.80%	Darwin	98.21%		

Attendance Matters

Our whole school attendance is at 98% which is fantastic.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of regular attendance. Every day at school is a valuable opportunity for your child to learn, build friendships, and develop essential skills. Consistent attendance not only supports academic achievement but also helps children feel more connected to their school community. Let's work together to ensure that our children are present and ready to learn every day.



Good school attendance helps with:

Good attendance helps with...

- Academic Achievement**
Regular attendance helps children keep up with the curriculum and perform better academically.
- Social Skills**
Attending school regularly helps children develop friendships, social skills and learning how to interact with others.
- Routine & Responsibility**
Good attendance teaches the importance of commitment, routine, and responsibility, which are all valuable life skills.
- Focus & Engagement**
Children who attend school regularly are more likely to stay engaged in their learning and develop a positive attitude towards education.
- Building Confidence**
Regular attendance can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence, as they see their progress and achievements over time.
- Enhanced Learning Opportunities**
School provides not just academic instruction, but also extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities.

Wellesley Park School Values

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

"What are your goals for the new school year?"

"How can you achieve them?"



Online Safety Update

Online Safety Workshop

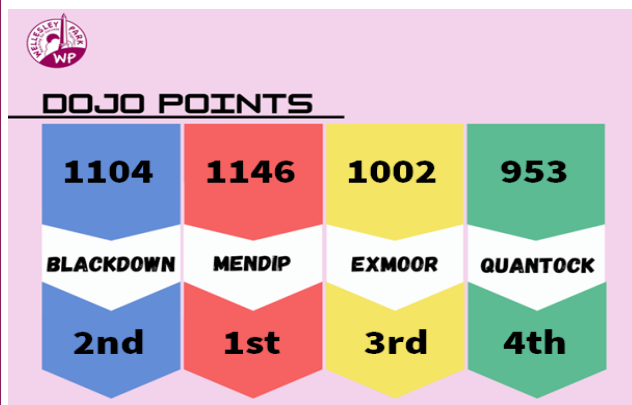
We invite all parents and carers to attend an online safety workshop on **Wednesday 23rd October, from 2.30 to 3.00pm**. The workshop, led by Mr Clancey, will offer valuable advice on reducing the risks associated with commonly used apps. Even if your child does not currently use these apps, exposure to them is still likely, so this session is relevant for all.

Please see our guide on apps and their risks - the full page version is attached with the newsletter.



House Dojo Points Update

House totals so far are as follows:



At the end of each half-term, we will announce the house that has earned the most dojo points. The winning house will be awarded with a non-school uniform day. Mendip are currently in the lead but there is still plenty of time for the other houses to catch up!

If you are unsure of which house your child is in, please check with your class teacher or the school office.

Well done everyone - keep up the good work!

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)

World Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow

This year, schools, companies and communities across the UK are standing together on World Mental Health Day (Thursday 10 October) and brightening up the country by wearing yellow and fundraising for YoungMinds to show young people they're not alone.

By wearing yellow and donating what you can this October, we can show unwavering support to those in need. Every donation helps Young Minds to create vital mental health resources, campaign for local support hubs and run their essential Parents Helpline.

At Wellesley Park, we will be supporting this deserving cause on **Friday 11th October 2024** and would like to invite everyone to come to school on that day wearing yellow! Just a yellow t-shirt/top, or even hairband will be fine! Of course, if you would prefer to wear full-blown yellow please do!

We will be fundraising and details of how to make a donation will follow soon. Look out for further information on our Class Dojo page!



Parking Complaints

We are still receiving complaints and reports of unsafe parking. Please can we remind you to park safely and sensibly, whilst being mindful of our local residents.

Thank you.



SEN - Useful Information/Links

All Things Autism, Family Face Advice and the Mental Health Support Team have provided us with their Autumn timetables of workshops for parents/carers. Please find these attached with the newsletter.

Please also find other useful links below:

For parents of any child with additional needs and / or disabilities: [Somerset Parent Carer Forum CIC Ltd \(not for profit\) company no. 10227489](#) and [SEND events \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

For the parents / carers of any child with / or suspected to have, ADHD: [ADHD Somerset, evening meet up Taunton](#)

For the parents / carers / professionals working with / supporting any child with neuro divergent challenges and differences: [Appreciating Differences in our Neurodiverse children and young people: Our Role in Providing Support using the SCERTS framework \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)

For parents of any child who is struggling to learn to swim (costed - £133 for 10 weekly sessions): [All Stars swimming lessons \(somerset.gov.uk\)](#)



Teacher Training Opportunities



Classroom Experience and Information Events

Event Information
This is an opportunity to gain classroom experience and find out more about SWIFT Teacher Training, our route into teaching, courses and PGCE.
These events are based in one of our partner schools where you will be looked after by an experienced Campus Lead, who will be your host for the session.
Activities could include:

- a guided training walk with the campus lead and school staff
- introduction to observing lessons and different styles of teaching
- seeing how specific subjects are taught
- engaging in learning conversations with colleagues
- learning more about the SWIFT Teacher Training programme
- questions and Next Steps

Who
Educated to degree level; recent graduates, career changers, returners to work; teaching assistants, anyone interested in teaching.

To book
Online booking form [HERE](#)
Or contact: Charlotte Skelding
Email: charlotte.skelding@sw-ift.org.uk
PLEASE BOOK BY **Monday 14th October**

Time and Venue
Phase | Primary/Secondary
SWIFT Teacher Training | Mid Devon and Somerset | Wellesley Park Primary School | Monday 21 October | 09:10 – 11:30
Wellesley Park Primary School | 14 Homefield | Wellington | TA21 9AJ

Although this is a primary school setting, we welcome anyone interested in secondary school teaching, as the information sharing will also include applications for secondary school training, and the Campus Lead can discuss this option further on the day. Any school experience is worthwhile, and a primary school experience will help you to understand the starting points for students in the secondary phase.

Online Information Events
We will also be hosting an online information session, if you are unable to attend our in-person events. This can still include classroom experience; but we will be able to arrange this for a time to suit you **at a later date**.
SWIFT Teacher Training | Online information event
Thursday 3 October 2024 | 1530 - 1600
To register please click [HERE](#)

Further Information
You can find out more information about future classroom experience and information events [HERE](#).


www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk 

Wellesley Park Explorers

Welcome back to all of our children and hello and welcome to all of our 'new' families that have recently joined at Wellesley Park Explorers. We can see that the children have settled really well into pre-school as it can be a tricky time for some children, but they have all done an amazing job and are enjoying our pre-school routines.

This term we are learning 'all about me'. The children have had their picture taken and had the chance to get messy and talk about colours before making some beautiful handprints. We then asked the children 'who lives in your house?' or 'what is your favourite colour?' We then used this artwork to form one of our displays in the classroom.

We are also concentrating on the children making relationships, developing pretend play, having conversations, jumping from topic to topic and develop large and small motor skills, so they can manage buttons and zips.

We have also spoken about things that are happening within our community and we hear that many of the children might be going to the carnival this weekend. We look forward to hearing all about this next week!



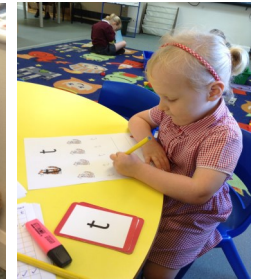
Reception

The Reception children have settled in beautifully and have quickly learnt the routines and expectations in class. They have started phonics lessons and already know nearly a dozen sounds! We have been doing lots of blending of words orally and also using letter /grapheme cards to build simple words like: sat, pin, dog.

Our Talk 4 Writing book this term is 'The Little Red Hen' and the children are loving learning how to retell the story using words and actions, following a story map.

We are doing daily work on writing first names correctly and thinking about how to hold our pencils with a nice pincer grip. The children are already learning to love reading and the book nook is a popular area in the classroom. The children often choose to sit there and look at picture books together!

It is wonderful to see the children interacting and communicating really nicely with each other and forming new friendships across the class. Playtimes have been lots of fun as the children love using the trim trail and climbing on the climbing frame! It has been a great start to this first new term for our youngest pupils!



Year 1

We have had a jam packed first few weeks of Year One! The children have settled in well to the new routines and expectations and are working very hard. I am super proud of them!

In English we have learnt our story of "The Three Little Pigs" using a story map and actions to help embed the text. The children then worked in groups and performed the story in front of the class which was lovely to watch. They have also learnt what a noun is as well as an adjective and have come up with some fantastic examples to describe a variety of nouns. The children have begun to innovate the story and make it their own, using their own noun and adjective ideas for the characters. It's been lovely to see their stories come to life in their writing.

In Maths, we have been looking at place value with numbers to 10. Within this topic, the children have learnt how to compare groups, write digits as words, use the language of fewer, more and the same as well as find one more or less than a given number!

In Science, we began our material topic by looking at raw materials to gain an understanding of the different materials we have around us. We then looked at objects that are made from various materials and worked hard to distinguish between the object and the material. Next, we are going to look at the properties of these materials so we can work towards an investigation which may involve The Three Little Pigs...

In History, we have begun to develop an understanding of the past and present so we could look at the shops in Wellington high street and see how much these have changed within living memory, looking back as far as when our grandparents may have been little. Dave Farrow and Colin Spackman from Wellington Town Council visited us to share lots of primary sources to help us develop our understanding of how much the high street has changed over the years!

We are excited to see where the rest of this half term takes us and to see how much more learning we can squeeze in before a well deserved break for us all!



Year 5

We have had a fantastic start to Year 5 with lots of exciting learning happening in both classes.

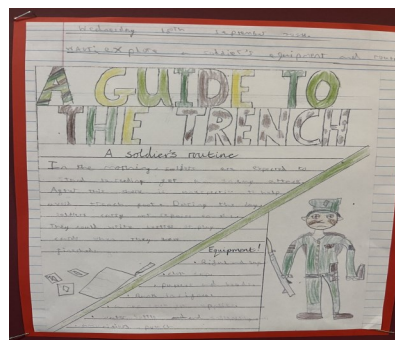
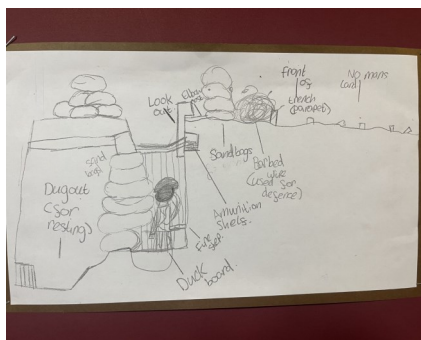
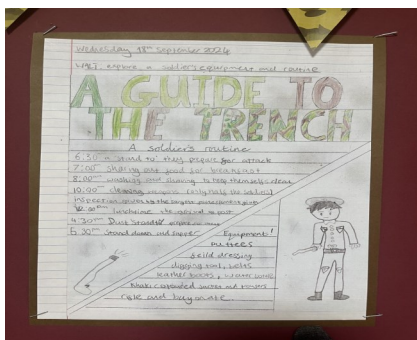
The children have started their weekly swimming lessons at Wellington Pool. We have been so impressed by the resilience and determination the children have shown and have been blown away by their willingness to have a go, even when feeling a little apprehensive.

In English, we are coming to the end of our first unit, a quest story called Perseus and Medusa. The children have designed their own monsters and we have had some fantastic lessons focusing on descriptive vocabulary to really hook our readers.

In History, the children have been gripped with our WW1 topic and have absorbed all of the information we have taught them. They are very inquisitive and have had us answering some tricky questions! Thank goodness for Google! We have learnt about life in the trenches, how the war started and have emersed ourselves in a 'day in the life' of a WW1 soldier.

We were all incredibly lucky to have a visit from bronze medal Olympian, Becky Wilde last week. She was a huge inspiration to us all and the children asked her some fantastic questions.

Overall the children have had a great half term, they have worked hard and produced some wonderful work! Well-done Year 5.



Year 6

Our Year 6 children have had a wonderful start to the year - we are all excited about the year ahead and have many wonderful activities planned. The children have shown tremendous resilience and determination towards their initial assessments; we are really impressed by their overall attitude to learning. We thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Rowing Olympian Becky Wilde.

In Maths, we have been developing an in depth understanding of Place Value and will be moving onto the Four Operations next week. In English, we are identifying and using a range of features within suspense writing; the children have enjoyed using figurative language, personification and pathetic fallacy to enhance their work and build tension for the reader. We have moved onto the innovate stage of our Hansel and Gretel text this week. We have started reading 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell as part of Guided Reading, the children are making fantastic predictions and inferences about the characters. We have been able to understand a range of new vocabulary and investigate a wide range of collective nouns - see if your children can remember any of these.

In Science, we are investigating the fascinating heart and circulatory system. The children were particularly interested by the chambers and the four main components of blood including their role within the body.



Our Victorian History work has involved understanding the Industrial Revolution and what life was like for those living in rural and urban areas. Faye from Jemison class kindly brought in some wonderful artifacts to share.

In PSHE, the children were working collaboratively to build bridges and understanding the importance of listening to each other when solving problems.

Finally, the children have created some amazing artwork based on Picasso for our Year 6 display boards.

