



West Byfleet Junior School

16 January 2026



Headteacher's Message

School tagline ideas welcomed!

Thank you for all your lovely messages about the new school logo design! It's been wonderful to see how well it's been received and we very much appreciate you taking the time to let us know. We are now considering possible taglines for the school. I've led assemblies with the children to teach them what a slogan or tagline is, and to look at what commercial companies do, as well as other schools.



Enabling All To Excel



We talked about some of the themes that would suit our school and link to the new logo—building strong foundations linked to the rock the kingfisher stands on (which in turn links to our school AROCK values: aspiration, resilience, opportunity, creativity and kindness), and getting ready to take flight. Children have since put their own ideas forward by writing them down and posting them into a box in my office. At the end of next week, we'll have a look in the box and a group of staff and children will try to whittle them down to the best four or five which we'll then put to a school-wide vote. I've received a strong idea from a parent already, which has been added to the box—if anyone has any good ideas please do share them! Maybe it will be your idea that helps to shape our school for years to come.

Good luck to our fantastic choir!

47 of our children will be travelling to London on Monday next week to take part in the Young Voices event at the O2 arena. It's a wonderful event where lots of schools join together for a large-scale concert at this famous venue. I think our children sing beautifully, and it's one of the strengths of our school: children are well-taught in singing and have a wealth of great opportunities to perform in our local community, and beyond!

School Pet?

We are considering getting a pet for the school. At this point, I am strongly emphasising the word 'considering'! Animals in school can help give children some meaningful responsibilities, a sense of calm and comfort when things are difficult, and of course a lot of joy and fun. Mrs Thomson and Mrs Strawson will be speaking to groups of children about what kind of pet might work for the school and why, and the children will then be presenting their ideas to the senior leadership team when they're ready. In the meantime, I wondered if there were any parents out there who work in the pet industry, or maybe keep different kinds of pets to the usual domestic ones? We might need a bit of support and expertise, or possibly even some deals on cages or tanks depending on what we go for in the end! Please do let me know if you think you can help.



As always, thanks for your continued support,
Ben Wasserberg
Headteacher

Diary Reminders & Updates

Friday 16 January 2026

Please check each newsletter as dates are occasionally subject to change

Mon 19 Jan	Young Voices at the O2	
Wed 21 Jan	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 2)	13:00-15:15
Fri 23 Jan	Y5 Kingdom of Benin Workshops	
Mon 26 Jan	Y5 Lonsdale Visit to the Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking	
Tue 27 Jan	Y5 Curie Visit to the Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking	
Wed 28 Jan	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 3)	13:00-15:15
Thur 29 Jan	Y5 Franklin Visit to the Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking	
Thur 29 Jan	Y3 Chertsey Museum Vikings Workshop	
Thur 29 Jan	Y4 Chertsey Museum Prehistoric Workshop	
Fri 30 Jan	Full Governing Body Meeting	08:00-10:00
Wed 4 Feb	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 4)	13:00-15:15
Wed 11 Feb	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 5)	13:00-15:15
Wed 11 Feb	Y5 Science Workshop (selected children) at Fullbrook	13:30-14:30
Thur 12 Feb	Y3 Sikh Workshop	
Mon 16 -Fri 20 Feb	Half Term	
Mon 23 Feb	Inset Day	
Wed 25 Feb	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 6)	13:00-15:15
Wed 25 Feb	Primary Music Festival at Dorking Halls (selected children)	15:00-18:00
Thur 26 Feb	Maya Portals to the Past Workshop	
Tue 3 Mar	Parent Consultations	16:00-19:00
Wed 4 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 7)	13:00-15:15
Thur 5 Mar	World Book Day	
Thur 5 Mar	Parent Consultations	15:40-18:00
Tue 10 Mar	Y4 and Y5 to Fullbrook to watch Production of Oliver	09:00-13:00
Wed 11 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 8)	13:00-15:15
Fri 13 Mar	Full Governing Body Meeting	08:00-10:00
Wed 18 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 9)	13:00-15:15
Thur 19 Mar	Y5 Taster Day at Bishop David Brown School	09:00-15:00
Fri 20 Mar	Red Nose Day	
Tue 24 Mar	Y3/4 Easter Singing Service at St John's Church, West Byfleet	09:30-10:15
Tue 24 Mar	Y5/6 Easter Singing Service at St John's Church, West Byfleet	11:00-11:45
Wed 25 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 10)	13:00-15:15
Thur 26 Mar	Y5 Visit to National Portrait Gallery, London	08:00-15:00
Thur 26 Mar	Y3/4 Easter Singing Service at St John's West Byfleet	09:30-10:15
Thur 26 Mar	Y5/6 Easter Singing Service at St John's West Byfleet	11:00-11:45
Fri 28 Mar	Last Day Spring Term, school finishes at 13:25	13:25

School Meals

Please remember to book your child's school meal in advance. The kitchen can not always provide extra meals as they cook to the number that we have provided first thing in the morning. You may wish to set alerts up on SCOPAY to remind you when credit is low on the account. Spring Term menu's are now available to view on the school website. Thank you for your co-operation.

Community and School Notices



At West Byfleet Junior School, we respect every world religion while we learn about their traditions, faith and festivals.

In a world full of stress, bad news, and constant pressure, something unexpected is happening: people are turning back to faith. Generation Z is leading this shift, but it's spreading across all ages. For many young people, going to church is not about tradition or nostalgia—it's a response to modern life. Growing up with pandemics, nonstop social media, climate fears and division has left many searching for something deeper than opinions and endless scrolling.

Church offers a pause. It is a place for calm, purpose and values that push back against outrage culture and control.

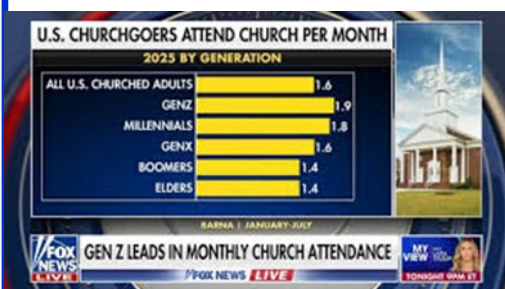
For Gen Z, prayer is all about doing something. It is seen as a way to change from the inside out—building compassion, humility and responsibility. Many believe that real change in the world starts with changed hearts and that prayer inspires action, service and hope. This renewal is not just for the young. Older generations, worn down by isolation and uncertainty, are returning too.

Together, people are rediscovering faith as something that brings peace, connection, renewal and hope. On Sunday 11th January 2026, Sky News reported that Gen Z now shows stronger belief in a higher power and higher church attendance than older generations, according to a YouGov study. Social media influencers like Matilda Draper are helping spread faith online, while experts point to a search for meaning, community and stability.

The Quiet Revival is happening around the world, but mainly in the UK and the US. Quite the fitting story for a Sunday—the day of rest when Christians gather to worship.

Reverend Keith Elford, Vicar of West Byfleet and New Haw, highlighted this Quiet Revival on Tuesday, 13th January 2026. "The Quiet Revival –

Yes, I am seeing more people in church including men who attend our early 8 am service. More and more people are attending St John's on Sundays – Gen Z and older generations. People who are new to West Byfleet."



Unauthorised Absence from School Notice

Just to remind parents/carers that if they take their children out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of 160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996. Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher