



# West Byfleet Junior School

13 February 2026



## Headteacher's Message

### Reflecting on the first half of the year...

Despite it feeling like the children arriving to school for their first day in September really wasn't that long ago, this half term break marks the halfway point of the year! Time flies when you are busy and engaged with all the interest and fun that school brings. I like to use points in time like this to encourage the children to look back on how far they've come since the start of the year—getting better at things requires hard work and practice over a period of time, and sometimes you don't even notice yourself improving until you stop and look back at where you've come from. Do have conversations with your children about how they feel they're doing halfway through the year compared to their first day back in September. It's important that children recognise their own progress, whether that be in a particular subject, or a more general area like feeling more settled and confident now. There is a lot to celebrate!

### A Busy Half Term

This half term has been full of great learning experiences in the classrooms, with lots of special events too. I'm sure dissecting hearts will live long in the memory of our year 6 children, and their scientific and resilient approach to this was commendable. Our year 3 children were treated to a workshop on Sikhism, year 5 had the chance to visit the UK's oldest mosque as well as enjoy a workshop in school on the Benin Empire as part of their history learning, while years 3 and 4 were visited by Chertsey Museum, year 3 for a prehistoric workshop, and year 4 for a Saxons and Vikings workshop.

There have been wider opportunities too for many children: some travelled to London for a late night performing in the Young Voices concert at the O2, Nightingale class started forest school sessions, a group of year 5 children got to join in some exciting science lessons at Fullbrook, our year 5 and 6 indoor athletics team competed at Guildford Spectrum, our year 4 team won the inaugural 'New Age Kurling' Event at Woking Leisure Centre, some of our year 6 children have trained up as Sports Crew Leaders and will be ready to run small games for the younger children at playtimes after half term, our year 5 debating team won a prize at Fullbrook School's debating competition and a group of our highest performing mathematicians from year 5 visited St George's Junior School for an 'aim high' event where they engaged with some really challenging maths!

Thank you to all of the staff and parents for organising and being involved in everything listed above. Our ambition to create opportunities for children to have memorable experiences is one of the many things I love about this school and its community!

The next half term promises more of the same, including our 'Living Eggs' project where we'll keep eggs in school for two weeks and hopefully watch some chicks hatch from them as part of our science curriculum. You should be able to meet the chicks as hopefully they'll hatch in time for parents evening!

### Some Happy News!

Congratulations to Mrs Mitchell, who welcomed her first child, Millie Belle Mitchell, into the world a few weeks ago. The Mitchell family are all doing well and we are all very much looking forward to seeing Mrs Mitchell and meeting Millie!

### Have a Great Half-Term Break

I've heard all sorts of exciting plans for half term from the children - whether you are away for some winter sun, getting a new pet, hosting family, skiing, getting the children involved in holiday clubs or simply having a lovely, normal week at home, I hope the children have a great break and I look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 24th February (please remember that the school is closed on Monday 23rd February for an INSET day).

Kind Regards  
Ben Wasserberg  
Headteacher

## Diary Reminders & Updates

**Friday 13 February 2026**

***Please check each newsletter as dates are occasionally subject to change***

Mon 16 -Fri 20 Feb	Half Term	
Mon 16 Feb	Parent Consultation bookings close on Scopay	09:00
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	Y4 Nightingale Forest Schools (session 2)	13:15-2.45
Thur 26 Feb	Maya Portals to the Past Workshop (in school)	
Tue 3 Mar	Parent Consultations	16:00-19:00
Wed 4 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 7)	13:00-15:15
Thur 5 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Forest Schools (session 3)	13:15-15:15
Thur 5 Mar	World Book Day	
Thur 5 Mar	Parent Consultations	15:40-18:00
Mon 9 Mar	Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple (Windermere - half class)	09:15-11.30
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
Thur 12 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Forest Schools (session 4)	13:15-15:15
Thur 12 Mar	Y5 Lonsdale Class Assembly (parents invited)	09:00-09:30
Thur 12 Mar	Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple (Windermere - half class)	09:15-11:30
Fri 13 Mar	Full Governing Body Meeting	08:00-10:00
Mon 16 Mar	Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple (Aviemore - half class)	09:5-11:30
Tue 17 Mar	Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple (Aviemore - half class)	09:15-11:30
Wed 18 Mar	Y5 Curie Class Assembly (parents invited)	09:00-09:30
Wed 18 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 9)	13:00-15:15
Thur 19 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Forest Schools (session 5)	13:15-15:15
Thur 19 Mar	Y5 Taster Day at Bishop David Brown School	09:00-15:00
Fri 20 Mar	Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple (Snowdon - half class)	09:15-11:30
Fri 20 Mar	Red Nose Day	
Fri 20 Mar	Y3 Trip to Littlehampton	08:15-15:15
Mon 23 Mar	Y6 Trip to Buddhist Temple (Snowdon - half class)	09:15-11:30
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	Y5 Franklin Class Assembly (parents invited)	09:00-09:30
Wed 25 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Swimming (session 10)	13:00-15:15
Thur 26 Mar	Y4 Nightingale Forest Schools (session 6)	13:15-15:15
Thur 26 Mar	Y5 Visit to National Portrait Gallery, London	08:00-15:00
Fri 27 Mar	Last Day Spring Term, school finishes at 13:25	13:25
Mon 13 April	INSET DAY	
Tue 14 April	Summer Term starts	

## Community and School Notices

### FREE taster sessions for Jamming Together & Guitar Club

#### at West Byfleet Junior School

The JustPlay team and our West Byfleet Junior School tutors will be welcoming children who are interested in joining our music clubs:

**Jamming Together** - FREE taster session on 26th February

**Guitar Ensemble** - FREE taster session on 27th February

#### About Our Music Clubs

Our classes are ideal for beginners and children looking to try out playing an instrument in a fun and enthusiastic setting. With progression built into our classes, children will gain a firm foundation in their chosen instruments and enjoy learning together - with optional performances and progression to graded music exams.

All instruments will be provided.

**Jamming Together** Students work as a band, learning popular songs on keyboards, drums, bass guitar, acoustic guitar, electric guitar and vocals. A fun, supportive environment to develop musical skills, build confidence and make new friends!

When: Thursdays, 15:30 - 16:30 (1 hour)

Cost: £13.10 per week

**Guitar Ensemble** Students learn guitar together in a group setting, developing technique and musicality while playing alongside their peers.

When: Fridays, 15:30 - 16:30 (1 hour)

Cost: £11.23 per week

**Only 5 spots left!** Sign up here: <https://share-eu1.hsforms.com/14ftkiWcmQ3msNMHm3Xobhwg3n4n>

### 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.

### 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

## Year 6 Heart Dissection Workshop

Last Tuesday, WBJs witnessed the exciting return of our secondary style heart dissection in Year 6. Dr Metcalfe led a highly engaging and educational session, guiding pupils through the anatomy of the heart and discussing the importance of keeping it healthy.

Our Year 6 pupils demonstrated impressive maturity as they carefully observed and dissected real heart specimens, identifying key structures with precision and curiosity. It was a memorable hands on learning experience that deepened their understanding of how this vital organ works.

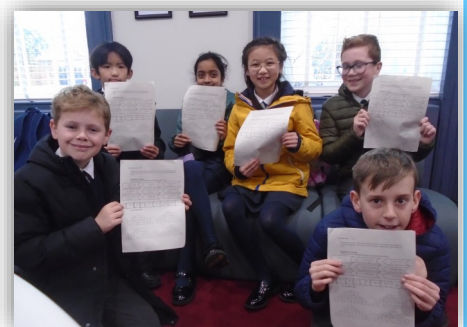


## Year 5 AIM High Maths Workshop

This week, a group of selected Year 5 children had the exciting opportunity to visit St George's Junior School for a Maths-focused *AIM High* workshop.

Throughout the day, the team:

- \* Explored **algebra** in fun and challenging ways
- \* Designed their own **space station layouts**, using maths creatively
- \* Spotted number patterns in an **addition pyramid**
- \* Worked confidently with **negative numbers**
- \* Connected mathematical ideas to **space and science**
- \* Demonstrated excellent **teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving**
- \* It was a fantastic experience, and we will be looking for more opportunities like this very soon!



## Community and School Notices

### Fullbrook—Science Session

On Wednesday 11th February, some of Year 5 got the chance to visit Fullbrook School – it was so much fun! When we got there we were greeted by the staff and three Year 7 children. We walked through the school to the science lab and sat down. We did some fun things, such as an experiment using citric acid and potassium. We mixed them together with water to see what would happen. After that Mr Singh showed us fire bubbles – he made gas bubbles in a small bucket, then scooped some up and lit it with a long stick. It looked like his hands were on fire but it was just a big cloud. He gave us pompoms with googly eyes and we walked back to school. We had lots of fun!

Pippa and Coco



## A helping hand for a healthier family

Do you need help to achieve a healthy weight for your child or teenager?

*Be Your Best is a funded healthy lifestyle programme for Surrey families with children & teenagers aged 5-17 years, who are above the healthy weight range. We can help you make a positive difference to your child or teenager's health & wellbeing.*

*The programme is made up of one-to-one and group sessions:*

#### Sessions include

Live cooking workshop  
Meal planning for the whole family  
Easy food swaps  
Managing screen time  
How to become an active family  
Importance of sleep

#### One-to-one sessions

With a health & wellbeing advisor at a mutually agreed time & location  
**Online group sessions for parents/carers**  
Week days after school via Zoom  
**Online physical activity sessions**  
Group sessions via zoom or on-demand video content

*"Me and my boys are really enjoying this programme and we are so grateful to be taking part." - Mum*

Find out more:



West Hall will be hosting a "Let's Talk Dementia Care and Support" event on Monday 23 February, from 11.00am to 12.30pm, at Woking Library.

This event is designed to support the local community by raising awareness of services available for individuals affected by dementia and mental health challenges. It will also focus on tackling social isolation, empowering independence, and promoting wellbeing.

A range of partner organisations will be in attendance to share information and provide guidance.

Walk-ins are welcome; however, if attendees are able to contact the library in advance, this would be extremely helpful to allow West Hall to gather attendance data and ensure adequate space





# Let's Talk Dementia Care and Support

**Monday 23 February 2026, 11am – 12.30pm**

West Hall care home supported by local organisations  
Event held at Woking Library, Gloucester Walk, Woking, GU21 6EP

Join us for an informal Dementia talk led by Paula Rifai, Home Manager at West Hall care home. We aim to raise awareness, where Paula will share general information about dementia, provide an overview of the condition and look at pathways for support.

We'll be supported by local groups and many more. A warm space to learn, share and feel supported.

To confirm your place or for more information, please contact Woking Library Manager at [woking.library@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:woking.library@surreycc.gov.uk) or via Surrey County Council's Contact Centre on **03456 009 009**.





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