



# West Byfleet Junior School

19 June 2026



## Headteacher's Message

### Thoughts on smartphones for children

There is a growing realisation amongst parents and professionals of the serious downsides to children having their own smartphones. As well as the serious dangers smartphone usage entails, such as online grooming, extremist world views, access to highly inappropriate content and the risks of online bullying, there's also growing evidence that excessive time on these devices negatively affects children's social skills, concentration and general well-being.

Of course, when children see their friends with smart phones, they often desperately want one too and can feel left out. Parents then feel under serious pressure to get a smartphone for their child. There are also many positive aspects to smartphones in terms of learning apps and quick access to information.

However, I feel that at junior school age the negatives outweigh the positives and as such am keen to work with parents to move away from children having smartphones as much as possible. The upcoming social media ban on under 16s will also possibly impact this idea nationally, as without access to some of the apps that will be banned, the need for a smartphone may be diminished.

I understand that many parents value the ability to contact their children, particularly as they become more independent and start walking to and from school. To give you peace of mind while ensuring child safety, it is worth noting that children's phones do not need internet access for emergency communication. Simple "brick phones" or text-and-call devices can serve this purpose effectively.

There are excellent resources available from [Smart Phone Free Childhood](#) and this website is a great place to learn more about this issue.

I understand for some Y5 parents moving into Y6, an immediate ban on smartphones could feel unfair where phones have been bought and plans made for next year, so I'm keen to put some information sessions in place and do some work together as a school community before moving forward with this.

Please be reminded that smartwatches are already not allowed in school. I know the blanket ban can feel excessive to some when many smartwatches don't have internet access or photo and video capability, but we do not have the resources or the knowledge to check every smartwatch, so it's safer to not allow any.

### Y4 British Museum visit

Y4 children enjoyed a brilliant visit to the British Museum last week; seeing the historical artefacts they've been learning about at school in real life was a fantastic experience! We're lucky to have London on our doorstep and with our gallery and museum visits, we hope we can show the children a glimpse of what our capital city has to offer.

### Heatwave approaching!

Please be mindful of the information we sent out this week about the upcoming heatwave—children can wear PE kit or summer uniform next week, must have sun cream applied before school, should bring a bottle of water that can be refilled throughout the day and should bring a sunhat or cap, preferably plain in style.

Kind regards  
Ben Wasserberg

## Diary Reminders & Updates

Friday 19 June 2026

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

|                      |   |             |
|----------------------|---|-------------|
| Mon 22 - Fri 26 June | Y6 Bikeability Training                                   |             |
| Tue 23 June          | Deadline for ordering Tempest Class Photographs           |             |
| Wed 24 June          | Y4 Darwin Swimming (session 8)                            | 10:15-12:00 |
| Thur 25 June         | Y4 Darwin & Shakespeare Forest Schools (session 2)        |             |
| Mon 29 June          | Y6 Ancient Islamic Civilisation Workshop                  |             |
| Tue 30 June          | Transition Morning  |             |
| Wed 1 July           | Y4 Darwin Swimming (session 9)                            | 10:15-12:00 |
| Thur 2 July          | Y4 Darwin & Shakespeare Forest Schools (session 3)        |             |
| Thur 2 July          | Y6 Windermere—DT Burger Making                            |             |
| Thur 2 July          | PTA Disco's Y3 & Y4 - 15.20-16:30 / Y5 & Y6 - 16:50-18:00 |             |
| Fri 3 July           | Y6 Aviemore—DT Burger Making                              |             |
| Mon 6 July           | Y6 Snowdon—DT Burger Making                               |             |
| Wed 8 July           | Y4 Darwin Swimming (session 10)                           | 10:15-12:00 |
| Thur 9 July          | Y4 Darwin & Shakespeare Forest Schools (session 4)        |             |
| Fri 10 July          | Full Governing Body Meeting                               | 08:00-10:00 |
| Fri 10 July          | The PTA Great Summer Mystery Bag Bonanza!                 | 15:20       |
| Tue 14 July          | Y6 Production Evening Performance                         | 18:30-19:30 |
| Wed 15 July          | Y6 Production Matinee Performance                         | 13:45-14:45 |
| Thur 16 July         | Y6 Leavers Party  | 13:00-15:15 |
| Thur 16 July         | Y4 Darwin & Shakespeare Forest Schools (session 5)        |             |
| Thur 16 July         | Y6 Production Evening Performance                         | 18:30-19:30 |
| Mon 20 July          | Y6 Leavers Assembly                                       | 09:00-10:00 |
| Wed 22 July          | End of Year Concert and Awards                            | 09:30-11:00 |
| Wed 22 July          | School Ends at 13:25                                      | 13:25       |

### AUTUMN TERM 2026

**INSET DAYS:** Tuesday 1st September and Wednesday 2nd September

**START OF TERM:** Thursday 3rd September 2026

**HALF TERM:** Monday 19th October to Friday 30th October 2026

**END OF TERM:** Friday 18th December 2026 (**Early Finish – 1.25pm**)

### SPRING TERM 2027

**INSET DAY:** Monday 4th January 2027

**START OF TERM:** Tuesday 5th January 2027

**HALF TERM:** Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

**END OF TERM:** Thursday 25th March 2027 (**Early Finish – 1.25pm**)

### SUMMER TERM 2027

**START OF TERM:** Monday 12th April 2027

**INSET DAY:** Friday 28th May 2027

**HALF TERM:** Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027

**END OF TERM:** Tuesday 27th July 2027 (**Early Finish – 1.25pm**)

**INSET DAY:** Wednesday 28th July 2027



**THE GREAT SUMMER MYSTERY BAG BONANZA!**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July  
Junior School Playground 3:20pm

**ONLY £2.50 PER BAG!**  
EVERY BAG CONTAINS SURPRISE ITEMS!

**HIDDEN INSIDE 4 LUCKY MYSTERY BAGS ARE SPECIAL STAR PRIZES WORTH UP TO £50!**  
Surprise Inside Every Bag!

**HOW IT WORKS:**

- 1 PURCHASE**  
Buy your Mystery Bag(s) in advance on PTA Events.
- 2 CHOOSE**  
On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, children will choose a bag at random.
- 3 SURPRISE!**  
Every bag contains fun surprises!
- 4 WIN?**  
4 lucky bags contain a hidden Star Prize worth up to £50!
- 5 FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**  
Bags will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

☆ BE QUICK – ONCE THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE! ☆

ORDER NOW: [www.pta-events.co.uk/westbyfleetjuniorschoolpta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/westbyfleetjuniorschoolpta)

☑ **The Great Summer Mystery Bag Bonanza is Coming!** ☑  
Get ready for an exciting summer surprise!

For just £2.50 per bag, children can take part in our Mystery Bag Bonanza, where every bag contains a surprise and \*4 lucky bags\* contain a ☑ Mystery Star Prize ☑ worth up to £50!

- ☑ Every bag is different
- ☑ 4 Mystery Star Prizes to be won
- ☑ Bags will be chosen at random
- ☑ First come, first served
- ☑ Friday 10th July
- ☑ 3:20pm (Pick-Up)
- ☑ Junior School Playground

To avoid disappointment, we strongly recommend pre-ordering via PTA Events, as there will be limited availability on the day.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our Summer Mufti Day - your generosity has helped make this event possible.

Good luck everyone... will you find a Mystery Star Prize? ☑☑

Pre-order here:

**\*☑Summer Disco Alert! \*☑☐**

Get ready to groove at our Summer Disco on Thursday 2nd July

**Year 3 & 4: 3.20pm - 4.30pm**

**Year 5 & 6: 4.50pm - 6.00pm**

☑ Dancing, games and a tasty tuck shop await! 🎵🎶

Tickets: £6.50

Available to buy NOW over at:  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/westbyfleetjuniorschoolpta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/westbyfleetjuniorschoolpta)

Don't miss out on the fun – remember this is year 6's final farewell disco! grab your ticket now! ✨



**Summer Disco**

**THURSDAY 2nd JULY**

**YEAR 3 & 4: 3.20 - 4.30pm**  
**YEAR 5 & 6: 4.50-6PM**

£6.50 per Child

*Year 6 LAST school disco!*

Year 3&4 come straight from class, and can go to Wingbats or Discovery after  
Year 5&6 come from home or from Discovery Club,

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

[WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/WESTBYFLEETJUNIORSCHOOLPTA](http://WWW.PTA-EVENTS.CO.UK/WESTBYFLEETJUNIORSCHOOLPTA)



West Byfleet Junior School Parent Teacher Association

## Successful SACRE Visit!

### Review of Religious Education & Collective Worship

West Byfleet Junior School, West Byfleet, Surrey

Rachel Bower (RE Advisor, Surrey SACRE)  
Sarah Harris (Chairman, Surrey SACRE)  
Sadia Khan (Group A, Surrey SACRE)  
Saadia Nazam (Group C, Surrey SACRE)

14.02.2026



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

*“The Surrey Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) plays a vital role in supporting, monitoring and promoting high-quality Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools, ensuring that pupils receive an inclusive and engaging education that prepares them for life in a diverse society,”* through writing the Surrey Agreed Syllabus we use to teach all of our RE lessons.



On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 the SACRE team visited West Byfleet Junior School. The SACRE partnering visit to West Byfleet Junior School was an important opportunity to review and celebrate the quality of Religious Education (RE) teaching and learning across the school. The visit confirmed that RE is a significant strength, with the school successfully implementing the Surrey Agreed Syllabus and providing a rich, inclusive curriculum that promotes curiosity, respect and understanding of different faiths and worldviews.

SACRE recognised the strong leadership of the RE subject leader and senior team in embedding the revised syllabus, supporting staff through professional development and ensuring pupils make meaningful connections through thematic units and the curriculum’s ‘Golden Threads’. Classroom observations highlighted effective teaching practices, including vocabulary development, retrieval activities, discussion-based learning and high levels of pupil engagement. Pupils demonstrated thoughtful reflection, respect for differing viewpoints and enthusiasm for RE.

The report praised the school’s ‘Righteous Enrichment’ programme, which includes visits to places of worship and strong links with St John’s Church, helping pupils connect learning to real-life experiences. Work scrutiny and pupil interviews showed clear progression and a strong understanding of the value of RE in today’s society.

Recommendations focused on continuing to strengthen teacher subject knowledge through resources such as knowledge organisers and enhancing collective worship by incorporating more opportunities for spiritual reflection.



Overall, SACRE congratulated the school on its excellent RE provision and commitment to pupils’ personal development.

The SACRE full report is available on West Byfleet Junior School’s website:

<https://www.westbyfleetjunior.org.uk/page/?title=Religious+Education&pid=280>



### 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

**Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!**

JOIN  
**WEST BYFLEET TOGETHER**  
ON THE 4TH OF JULY 2026

FOR A SUN-SOAKED SCREENING  
OF THE ULTIMATE FEEL-GOOD CLASSIC –  
**MAMMA MIA!**  
At West Byfleet Junior School

OUTDOOR SCREENING OF MAMMA MIA!  
BAR AVAILABLE  
FOOD STALLS ON-SITE  
BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC BLANKETS  
SUMMER EVENING VIBES GUARANTEED

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, WITH THE FILM STARTING AT 7PM.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TOWARDS FUNDING THE WEST BYFLEET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON, HELPING US CONTINUE BRINGING FESTIVE CHEER TO THE VILLAGE EACH YEAR.

**TICKETS:** £5 CHILDREN 0-16, £10 ADULTS

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE! OR VISIT: <https://west-byfleet-cinema.eventbrite.com/>

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY **New Hawell**

## Outdoor Cinema Night – Mamma Mia! at West Byfleet Junior School

Parents, families and local residents are invited to enjoy a special Outdoor Cinema Night this summer, organised by West Byfleet Together.

The event will take place on **Saturday 4 July** on the **West Byfleet Junior School playing fields**, featuring a screening of the popular musical film **Mamma Mia!** in a relaxed, family-friendly setting.

### Event details:

**Date:** Saturday 4 July

**Venue:** West Byfleet Junior School Playing Fields

**Gates open:** 6.00pm

**Film starts:** 7.00pm

Attendees are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and folding chairs to make themselves comfortable while enjoying the film under the summer sky. Food stalls and refreshments, including a bar, will be available throughout the evening.

As well as providing a fun community event, all proceeds will support the annual **West Byfleet Christmas Lights Switch-On**, helping to ensure this much-loved festive tradition can continue for years to come.

Tickets need to be booked in advance:

**Book online:** <https://west-byfleet-cinema.eventbrite.com>

## 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.

Thank you for your co-operation.

## School Council Tuck Shop

It was Kew class's turn to run the tuck shop this week, and Jude, Freya, Archie, Eloah and Henry did a fantastic job leading the apricot sale. They worked brilliantly as a team and represented the class so well.

Well done!



OFFER ENDS 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2026

**PAY NOTHING UNTIL  
JULY 2026**

when you join swimming lessons at  
**Eastwood Leisure Centre**



Pop in and see us or call our team on 01932 960994 today!

We can't wait to see you!

**WOKING** **everyone ACTIVE**

## Swimming Lessons at Eastwood Leisure Centre

We have been asked to share the information by Eastwood Leisure Centre regarding local swimming lessons. Families who are considering enrolling their child may wish to be aware of the current offer, available until Sunday 21 June. The promotion allows new members to save almost £100, including the joining fee and the costs of June and July lessons. Any enquiries should be directed to Eastwood Leisure Centre on 01932 960994. Swimming is an important life skill, and this opportunity may be of interest to families seeking lessons in the local area.



**15% OFF MAD SCIENCE CAMPS**

All pupils and families at the school will get 15% off their booking when using the exclusive discount code below.

All spaces subject to availability and prebooking essential to secure the discount and space.  
Valid for all children aged 5-11 years

**15% Exclusive Discount**  
**SCHOOL15**

**Book Online Today!**

Valid for all pupils and families at your school. Subject to availability - Prebooking essential

Mad Science Camps  
rated **Excellent**

★★★★★

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