

Dear families,

I wanted to send out a newsletter to mark the end of our first term for this academic year – and it's been a busy one! We welcomed a new cohort in Oak Learning Zone and we have seen a lot of growth and development across the academy. In this newsletter, I will share some of the highlights as well as some updates and reminders.

Charlotte Black (Principal)

Summer Reading Challenge

Well done to all those who took part in the summer reading challenge. We have been celebrating these during our Friday celebration gatherings. Some of our learners also got onto the South Glos Library social media page! See below...

THANK YOU to all the wonderful children (more than 5,500!), families and volunteers who made Marvellous Makers, Summer Reading Challenge 2024 such a success! 🥳

❤️ We loved it and hope you did too! ⭐ You are all stars! ⭐



Staff Updates

We would like to say a **MASSIVE** thank you to our brilliant Play Leader and Teaching Partner Melanie Bevis. Over the end of last year and at the start of this year, she has not only been leading our breakfast club, but she has been a teaching partner in Oak Learning Zone. She has been doing this while we recruit for the full time role and has helped the team welcome and settle our new Oak cohort. **Thank you Mel – you have done a brilliant job!**



We are pleased to say that this role has now been filled and we are delighted to welcome back **Alasdair Morton** who will work alongside Ellie Todd in the Oak team.

————— Welcome Back! —————

We are also pleased to welcome **Clare Karslake** back from maternity leave at the start of term 2.



Welcome to the Team

As we as welcoming back old staff, we are also pleased to welcome new staff. Towards the end of last term, we welcomed **Khadijah Hussaini** as a new Teaching Partner in year 5 and **Kelly Blandford** as a lunchtime Play Worker.



Sad to see you go!

We are sad to share the news that our fantastic year 2 teacher **Amber Driver** will be moving on at the end of term 2.

Amber has been a teacher at WFA for over 6 years and she has contributed so much to the school during this time. She has taught in Oak, Beech and Willow and is currently joint phase leader in key stage 1. Amber leaves a legacy of excellent teaching practice and in particular the work she has led around healthy eating and family support. Amber leaves us to work with younger children and we wish her all the best – keep in touch!

Maternity News

We would like to share with you the delightful news that our Vice Principal Hannah McDonnell is soon to be heading off on maternity leave in the new year. We are thrilled for her and her family of 3 (soon to be a family of 5!).



Over this past term we have been putting into action an assessment process to determine what her maternity cover will look like and I am happy to share that Helen Rea (current assistant principal) will be stepping up as Vice Principal in Hannah's absence.

Over the course of term 2, we will be carrying out further internal recruitment to fulfil a range of leadership roles across the academy that will take effect from term 3. We will keep you posted on these developments as they happen.



Sad to see you go!

We are also saying a fond farewell to class teacher **Hannah Parsons**. Hannah is currently on maternity leave and prior to that she was a class teacher in year 1.

Hannah joined us as a trainee teacher and completed her first few years as a teacher with us. She is a skilled teacher, and we wish her all the best for her next adventure!

We are also losing one of our lunchtime leaders – **Sudeepta Patra**. Sudeepta has been working in our out of hours teams for over 2 years. We wish you all the best for the future!



With the above staffing updates, we are pleased to say that year 1 teacher **Eloise Ravenhill** will be staying with us for the rest of this year. She is a great addition to the team and we are thrilled to have her at WFA.

Oak Learning Zone



This term we have welcomed our new Oak learners, and it has been a joy to get to know you better!



Our new Oak learners have enjoyed learning their new routines and getting to know each other.

They have started well and are making their way through their phase 2 learning with Oscar and Olive!



Sarah McClelland
Class Teacher
EYFS Lead



Ellie Todd
Class Teacher



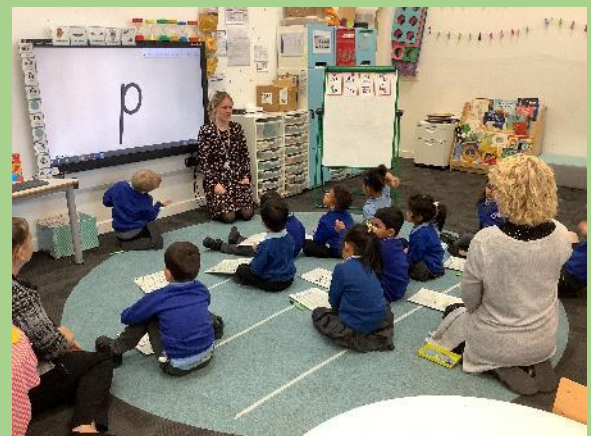
Chelsey Baker
Teaching Partner



Sarah Stone
Learning Partner



Alasdair Morton
Teaching Partner



Olive and Oscar time
(Phonics – Being an author)



Beech Learning Zone

We have really enjoyed watching our new Beech learners getting to know their new learning zone!



Jess Scott
Class Teacher



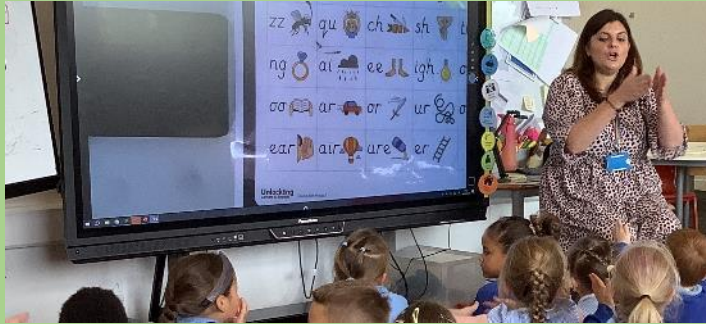
Eloise Ravenhill
Class Teacher



Catherine Chan
Teaching Partner



Ying Huang
Learning Partner



They have been continuing to learn their phonics and have been using their knowledge to help them in their reading and writing.



Year 1 - Term 1 Enquiries

Beech Learning Zone Enquiry 1.1 What helps me in my learning? 21st Century Learning Skills Writing to Inform: Collaborative Home Charter	Beech Learning Zone Enquiry 1.2 What is an author? M.E.G.U.L. Learning to write... Character Descriptions	Beech Learning Zone Enquiry 1.3 What is a scientist? Being a scientist Writing to Inform: Experiment Record	Beech Learning Zone Enquiry 1.4 Where is my school? Being an explorer Being a designer Writing to Inform: A Letter of our work	Beech Learning Zone Enquiry 1.5 How does my garden change? Being a scientist Being a writer
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Term 1 Learning

We are learning to... Being a Mathematician We will be revisiting and consolidating our counting skills within 100.	Being a Writer We will be recapping oral composition, finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We will also be introducing adjectives into our writing.	Being an artist We will be exploring drawing, focusing on line and shape.	Being me in my world. Exploring identity, setting goals and identifying communities.
Being a Reader We will be consolidating our knowledge of phase 4 sounds in our phonics sessions. We will be developing our decoding skills, comprehension and readers voice in our being a reader sessions.	Being a scientist "What is a scientist?" We will be learning about what an experiment is, how to conduct one and how to record our findings. "How does my garden change?" We will be learning about the seasons.	Being a computer scientist N/A	Being a designer "Where is my school?" We will be designing and creating models of significant landmarks in our local area.
Being a geographer "Where is my school?" We will be learning to read maps and identify landmarks in our local area. "How does my garden change?" We will be learning about the seasons.	Being a historian N/A	Being a linguist N/A	Being a musician Learning and rehearsing a song for public performance.
Being an athlete Real PE - Personal cog Sports- Tennis	Being a writer N/A	Being a scientist N/A	Being a linguist N/A

Willow Learning Zone

This term, Willow Learning Zone have really enjoyed going deeper into their learning enquiries.



Year 2 - Term 1 Enquiries

Willow Learning Zone Enquiry 1.1 What makes a successful planet?
 Writing to entertain: Character descriptions, short burst stories.

Willow Learning Zone Enquiry 1.2 How do authors use adjectives?
 Writing to entertain: Character descriptions, short burst stories.

Willow Learning Zone Enquiry 1.3 What animals do we share our world with?
 Writing to inform: Letter to Earth.

Willow Learning Zone Enquiry 1.4 What is a region?
 Writing to inform: Record.

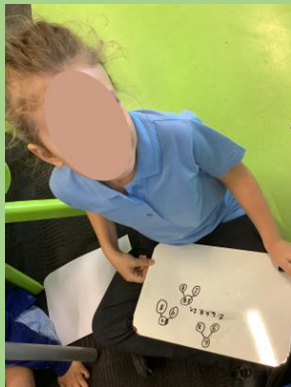
Term 1 Learning

Being a Mathematician
 We will be deepening our understanding of place value, as well as addition and subtraction.

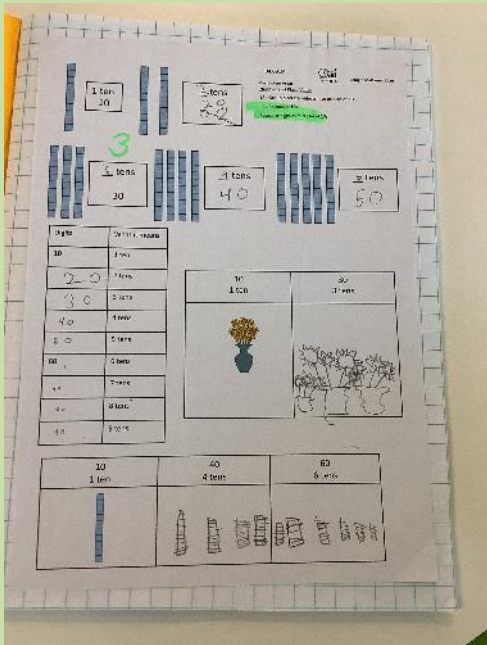
Being a Writer
 We will be revisiting year 1 skills as well as noun phrases, past and present tenses and the features of a recount.

Being a Reader
 We will continue with our small reading groups, with a focus on comprehension.

- Being an Artist**: We will be exploring drawing with different materials and methods.
- Being a Scientist**: We are thinking about 'being me in my world'.
- Being a Historian**: We will be learning about animals and their habitats.
- Being a Designer**: We are not being computer scientists this term.
- Being a Linguist**: We are not being historians this term.
- Being a Musician**: We will not be designers this term.
- Being an Athlete**: We will be exploring regions of the UK and the seven continents.
- Being a Linguist**: We will learn how to greet others in different languages.
- Being a Musician**: We will be learning songs related to Goldilocks and the Harvest Festival.



They have been mathematicians and delving deeper into the place value of ones and tens!



Acer Learning Zone

Our Acer learners have settled in well and have been busy exploring a range of different learning!





Toni Vonk
Teaching Partner



Emma Cave
Learning Partner



William Underwood
Class Teacher



Leyla McLaughlin
Maternity Cover



Ana Braddock
Class Teacher

Being a writer!



Being a geographer

They enjoyed exploring the learning zone to find out more about magnetic force.

Being a scientist

Year 3 - Term 1 Enquiries

<p>Year 3 Learning Zone Enquiry 1.1</p> <p>What do successful learners do?</p> <p>Being a Citizen, Being a Designer, Being a Scientist</p>	<p>Year 3 Learning Zone Enquiry 1.2</p> <p>How do you read pictures?</p> <p>Being a Designer, Being a Scientist</p>	<p>Year 3 Learning Zone Enquiry 1.3</p> <p>Where would I rather live?</p> <p>Being a Designer, Being a Scientist</p>	<p>Year 3 Learning Zone Enquiry 1.4</p> <p>What is a force?</p> <p>Being a Designer, Being a Scientist</p>	<p>Year 3 Learning Zone Enquiry 1.5</p> <p>How does water move?</p> <p>Being a Designer, Being a Scientist</p>
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Term 1 Learning

Being a Mathematician

We will be exploring numbers to 1000 this term, with a focus on developing fluency, problem solving & reasoning skills.

Being a Reader


Developing fluency and understanding as a reader. Exploring vocabulary and building verbal reasoning skills by exploring and discussing language structures across a variety of text types.

Being a Writer

Use subject-specific vocabulary to describe similarities and differences. Paragraphs, punctuation for different sentence types, apostrophes for possession & contraction.

<p>Being an Artist</p> <p>Painting: explore knowledge and feelings of art and artists and techniques, focusing on position. Art: Focus: exploring the artwork of Georges Seurat.</p>	<p>Being a Citizen</p> <p>Jigsaw: Being me in my place.</p>	<p>Being a Designer</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Being a Designer</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Being a Scientist</p> <p>We will be exploring the different forces, focusing on friction and magnets. We will be experimenting with different materials and objects to see how forces work.</p>	<p>Being a Computer Scientist</p> <p>We will be exploring key aspects of the digital world, including e-safety, wellbeing and lifestyle, digital literacy and the purpose of information technology.</p>	<p>Being a Historian</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Being a Linguist</p> <p>We will be learning Spanish, with a focus on greetings and numbers.</p>
<p>Being a Geographer</p> <p>Biomes, climate zones, identifying South West counties. Naming significant cities and identifying changes within our region. Comparative Study: The Mediterranean.</p>	<p>Being a Musician</p> <p>Learning how to play the Ukulele.</p>	<p>Being an Athlete</p> <p>Bristol Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletics Multisports 	

What is a force?



Key vocabulary: Force, Push, Pull, magnetic.

What is magnetism?



Sentence Stems: I know that magnets... Magnets work on...

Based on this image, what might happen?

What do you know about magnets?

Maple Learning Zone

The Maple team have been busy settling into the year well. Their learning dispositions have been excellent, and it is great to see their focus on learning.





Theresa White
Teaching Partner



Agnes Galla
Learning Partner

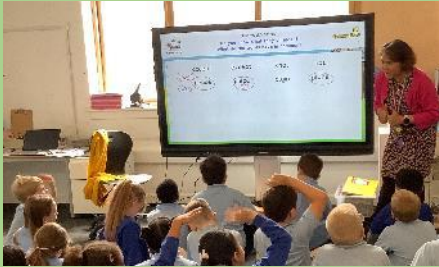


Reuben Boocock
Class Teacher/Phase Lead



Lutz Mae Happe
Class Teacher

The Circus Skills day was a real highlight!!!



Year 4 - Term 1 Enquiries			
<p>Math Learning Enquiry 1.1</p> <p>How many...?</p>	<p>Math Learning Enquiry 1.2</p> <p>How many...?</p>	<p>Math Learning Enquiry 1.3</p> <p>How many...?</p>	<p>Math Learning Enquiry 1.4</p> <p>How many...?</p>
<p>Being a Writer</p> <p>Developing writing skills...</p>	<p>Being a Mathematician</p> <p>Developing mathematical skills...</p>	<p>Being a Reader</p> <p>Developing reading skills...</p>	<p>Being a Performer</p> <p>Developing performance skills...</p>



Year 5 - Term 1 Enquiries

Hazel Learning Zone Enquiry 1.1
Why is it good to be real?

Being a citizen
21st Century Learning
Being an artist

Outcome - Being an artist
Self portraits

Hazel Learning Zone Enquiry 1.2
How do authors use setting to create atmosphere?

Being a writer
Being a scientist

Writing to Entertain
Writing to Explain
Exploration text
Writing to inform
Letter in role

Hazel Learning Zone Enquiry 1.3
What makes a fair test?

Being a scientist
Being a computer scientist

Writing to Explain
Exploration text
Writing to inform
Letter in role

Hazel Learning Zone Enquiry 1.4
Could computers take over the world?

Being a computer scientist

Writing to Argue
Debate summary

Term 1 Learning

We are learning to...

Being a Mathematician

Place value: numbers up to 1 million. Comparing, ordering and rounding numbers.

Being a Writer

Writing a letter in a role to inform. Writing methods for crystallisation experiments to instruct.

Being a Mathematician

Creating large scale collaborative piece of art to combine different colour mixing techniques and paint effects explored through out the term.

Author Skills

Writing using ambitious adjectives in first person and organising writing into paragraphs.

Being a Mathematician

Exploring what makes a fair test and using what we learn to investigate solutions and crystallisation.

Being a Mathematician

Being me in my world Understanding British values and thinking about people whose lives are different from our own.

Being a Mathematician

N/A

Being a Mathematician

N/A

Being a Mathematician

Understanding how to stay safe online and how to protect personal information. Using laptops and iPads to write a simple programme.

Being a Mathematician

N/A

Being a Mathematician

N/A

Being a Mathematician

We are learning to use correct and accurate Spanish pronunciation.

Being a Mathematician

We are taking part in Athletics and Multi-Sports with Bristol Sports.

Being a Mathematician

N/A

Being a Mathematician

We are exploring musical motifs through HOTS: Ideas (from Planets suite) and taking this inspiration to create our own.

Hazel Learning Zone



Hazel Learning Zone



Sally Doughty
Class Teacher



Innes McLean
Class Teacher



Ruchika Mahendru
Learning Partner

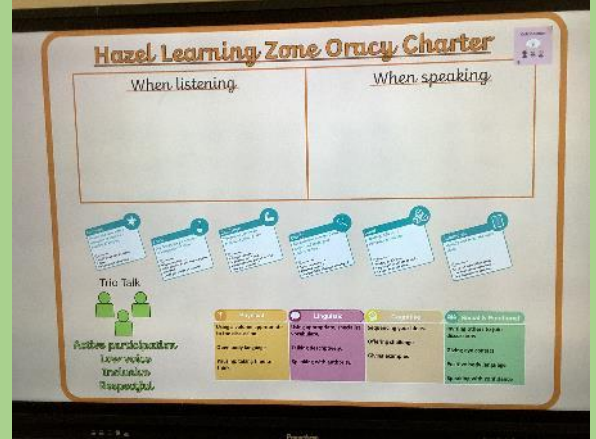


Khadijah Hussaini
Teaching Partner

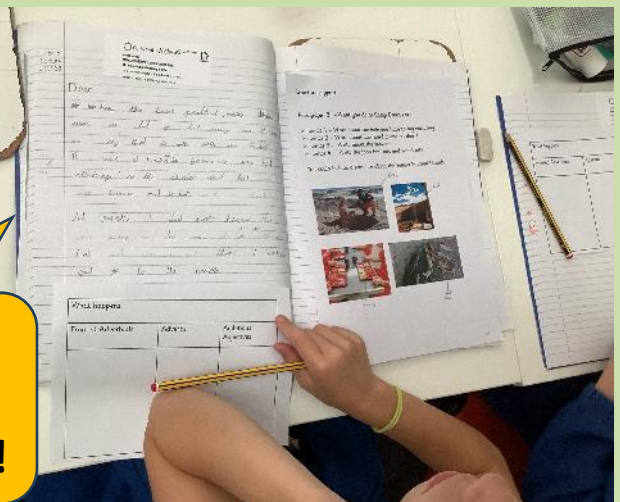


Agnes Galla
Learning Partner

All things speaking and listening have been the focus for year 5. They have spent really valuable time thinking about oracy and we saw this in their learning zone gathering!



They have also produced some excellent writing!



Elm Learning Zone

Year 6 - Term 1 Enquiries

<p>Elm Learning Zone Enquiry 1.1 What do connected homes do?</p> <p>Creating Class Charters and Expectations for Year 6</p>	<p>Elm Learning Zone Enquiry 1.2 How do authors paint pictures with words?</p> <p>Writing to Entertain</p> <p>Learning to Write... Setting descriptions</p>	<p>Elm Learning Zone Enquiry 1.3 How do we stay safe online?</p> <p>Writing to Explain</p> <p>Learning to Write... Explaining to other learners</p>	<p>Elm Learning Zone Enquiry 1.4 What was life like in the Ancient Greek civilisation?</p> <p>Writing to Explain</p> <p>Learning to Write... A survival guide</p>
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Term 1 Learning

<p>Being a Mathematician</p> <p>We will be focusing on place value, comparing and ordering numbers and rounding. We will consolidate and develop confidence with additive reasoning.</p>	<p>Being a Writer</p> <p>We will be learning techniques writing descriptively – painting pictures with words. We will learn techniques for explaining our knowledge to others.</p>	<p>Being an artist</p> <p>We will be exploring how artists evoke an emotional response through their work.</p>	<p>Being a citizen</p> <p>We are thinking about "being me in my world"</p>
	N/A	<p>Being a scientist</p> <p>We will be exploring how to keep ourselves safe online and our online presence.</p>	
	<p>Being a Reader</p> <p>We will focus on developing our fluency and reading accuracy across a range of texts.</p>	<p>Being a historian</p> <p>We will be learning about life during the Ancient Greek civilisation.</p>	N/A
	N/A	<p>Being a geographer</p> <p>We will be developing our Spanish vocabulary for our hobbies</p>	
	<p>Being an athlete</p> <p>We will be learning tag rugby as well as personal skills we use as athletes.</p>	<p>Being a designer</p> <p>We will be studying structure of music – listening and appreciating.</p>	



 Jon Miller Class Teacher/Phase Lead	 Jo Hewitt Class Teacher
 Stacey Brown Learning Partner	 Kathleen Allen Teaching Partner

More great learning dispositions in Elm! We are looking forward to our term 2 adventure next.



Black History Month

This term, we took part in Black History Month. Over the term we invited all year groups and families to vote for the people they wanted to celebrate and learn more about.



Princess Campbell

Princess Campbell considered to be Bristol's first Black ward sister. She cared for hundreds of patients at St Matthias Hospital (Glenside).



Katarina Johnson-Thompson

Team GB is an English athlete. A multi-eventer, she is primarily known as a heptathlete. She is double world champion and won silver at the Paris Olympics.



Nura Aabe

Nura Aabe has been campaigning in Bristol for better recognition and treatment of children with autism within the Somali community. She founded Autism Independence, an organisation aimed at improving the lives of children with autism, helping families and working with local authorities.



Roni Size

Bristolian DJ who was instrumental in the creation of the music genre drum and bass which is closely associated to Bristol.



Ade Adepitan

Nigerian born, British TV presenter and wheelchair basketball player. Has written a number of marvellous children's books.



Benjamin Zephaniah

Birmingham author, poet and activist. Wrote a number of brilliant poems – Talking Turkeys being one of them. Sadly, passed away last year.



David Olusoga

British-Nigerian historian who lives in Bristol and has written many fantastic books on Black history. Has presented numerous BBC history shows.



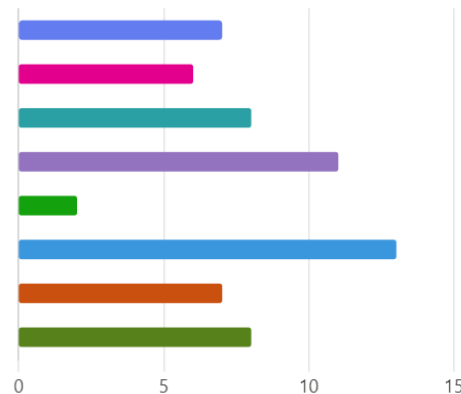
Alex Scott

Ex-England and Arsenal footballer who played for England 140 times and now works as a football presenter and pundit for the BBC. LGBTQ+ activist.

Thank you for taking part in the vote. We added these to our learning zone votes and over the weeks, we explored Princess Campbell, Alex Scott, Ade Adepitan, Nura Aabe during our whole school gatherings and the others were explored in home zones.

1. To include your vote, please select one of the following people.

● Ade Adepitan	7
● Benjamin Zephaniah	6
● Nura Aabe	8
● Katarina Johnson-Thompson	11
● David Olusoga	2
● Princess Campbell	13
● Roni Size	7
● Alex Scott	8



In other news...

The introduction of **Milkshake Monday** seems to be a hit. Learners talk about how it feels positive to be in school everyday and not missing learning.



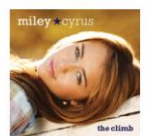
We have been using our new library spaces! We are in the process of compiling a book list to stack the shelves with! We are putting money aside for this as well as fundraising from events such as the fireworks night.



Our Future Leader Representatives met to review the current celebration gathering music and to vote for a new and inspiring song each term. The group choose songs where the lyrics demonstrated themes of celebration, inspiration, resilience, motivation and commitment.

On Thursday this week, our Future Leaders will vote for this year's celebration gathering theme songs.

Take a look at the entry list – which ones would you vote for?



In other news...

A **MASSIVE** thanks go to the **FWFA** for supporting us with all events and school activities! Our committed group of volunteers work hard behind the scenes to support our fundraising and to bring the community together. The Diwali firework event was a huge success and a real celebration of the community coming together to celebrate an important festival for many members of our community.



Another **MASSIVE** thanks goes to **TIM** for arranging the light show in the backdrop – it was beautiful!



Thank you to everyone who came and supported the evening. We do apologise if some of the bangs were too loud – **it was not part of the plan.**



Ready for term 2...

Each term, the schedule for sports will change. This is to ensure that all year groups get the opportunity to take part in a full range of sports and use different spaces. Please see the below sports schedule for term 2.

Weekly sports sessions – please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 5 - Hazel	Reception – Oak Year 4 – Maple	Year 3 – Acer Year 1 – Beech	Year 6 - Elm	Year 2 – Willow

Reminder

Please note that we are a **no smoking site**, this also includes vaping. Thank you for respecting the air space on the school site by not smoking/vaping while on the school site. We would also ask that you refrain from smoking in the spaces just outside the school gates as this is where all families congregate to enter and exit the school. Thank you for your support with this.



Driving and Parking - Reminder

Please help us all to feel and to be safe. Many parents talk to us about their concerns for road safety outside of the school. We too have concerns when we see speeding and unsafe driving and parking. Our community



police officers come regularly at the start and end of the school day to check for road safety and spot check for illegal parking. We ask that you **please, support our school in obeying by the road laws and drive and park in a safe way. If you are approached by our amazing PCSOs, please be respectful – they are trying to keep us all safe.**

Reminder – Parental Code of Conduct

As you will know, we are a school that places huge value on the rights and responsibilities of our learners. This is an aspect of the school we are very proud of and one that all members of the team work hard to uphold. It is our aim that we work together in partnership in respectful, positive and proactive ways.

The below extract comes from our 'Code of Conduct for Families and Visitors' and has been adopted and agreed by the school's Academy Council. It provides a reminder to all families and visitors to our school about the conduct expected of them. It sets out both what they should aim to do and conduct which will not be tolerated. This is so we can continue to flourish, progress and achieve in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

We thank you for taking the time to read it and for your ongoing support and partnership in building and maintaining a positive environment.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, Wallscourt Farm Academy will not tolerate families or visitors exhibiting the following:

- Disruptive or other inappropriate behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with any of the school's operation or activities anywhere on the school premises.
- Approaching another parent or child in order to discuss or chastise them because of an issue between the children, (such an approach to a child may be seen to be an assault on that child and may have legal consequences) - please talk to a member of staff to resolve problems.
- Using loud or offensive language or displaying temper.
- Threatening, in any way, a member of school staff, visitor, fellow parent/carer or pupil.
- Using physical or verbal aggression towards another adult or child, including physical punishment of your own child on school premises.
- Any other behaviour, verbal or otherwise, which could be considered to be inappropriate, offensive, or abusive.
- Sending abusive or threatening e-mails, text/voicemail/phone messages, or other written communications to anyone within the school community.
- Defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments regarding the school or any of the learners/parents/carers/staff at the school on Facebook or other social media (See Appendix below.)
- Damaging or destroying school property.
- Smoking, taking illegal drugs or the consumption of alcohol on school premises (alcohol may only be consumed during authorised events.)
- Taking photographs with phones or other devices on school premises without permission from the school.

Please make sure we have the most up to date contact details including mobile number and emails for our school comms text and email service

Follow us on twitter @wallscourt and the learning zones @YRWFA, @Y1WFA, @WfaYear2, @Y3WFA, @Y4WFA, @WFAYear5, @WFAYear6 @WFAtheArtists These are official school twitter accounts





We fully understand that families may want to top-up the branded Wallscourt Farm uniform with plain jumpers, t-shirts and school uniform trousers etc. These can be purchased from any number of budget and high street shops.

Jumpers need to be Primary Blue, and t-shirts need to be light blue. School uniform trousers and skirts need to be grey or black, and appropriate school shoes in black must be worn.



Jewellery

Children should not wear jewellery to school other than simple stud earrings or small objects of religious significance. Ideally, for health and safety reasons, these should not be worn on the day your child is an athlete.

PE Kit



A blue school jumper, cardigan or fleece can also be worn if it is cold.

Term 2 Sports – On this day, send your child to school in their sports kit

Oak	Beech	Willow	Acer	Maple	Hazel	Elm
Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Thursday

Remember, the PE kit does not include football shirts or other T-shirts with logos and emblems etc.

Important Reminders:

Birthdays

We will always make your child feel special on their birthday. We request that you **do not** send sweets or **chocolates** into school or give them out at the end of the day.

Sunglasses and Sun cream

In warm weather, we encourage children to wear sun cream as they are outside for at least 30 minutes at lunchtime. If you would like your child to apply their own sun cream, please provide a named bottle of cream. An adult will supervise the application, but we are not allowed to put it on your child for them. We request that your child does not wear sunglasses unless arranged with the school due to hay fever or allergies.

Trim Trail and Monkey Bars

Please **do not** let your child use any of the outdoor equipment at the beginning or end of the school day. This equipment is for use during learning time only.

Due to serious allergies, we are a **nut and seed free** school – please do not send these items into school as part of a packed lunch.

Term dates

These can be found on the school website. Please ensure you check these before booking any holidays.

Please only book a holiday during school holidays. **We do not authorise holidays taken during term time.** Unauthorised absence may result in a fixed penalty fine.