



Westfield Nursery School
 Westfield Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1DL. Tel: 01582 608650
 Email office@westfieldnurseryschool.org
 Website www.westfieldnurseryschool.org
 Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH



April 2026

Newsletter No 8 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back to the Summer term at Westfield!

Returning children have settled quickly. A warm welcome to new families who are joining us for the first time. Don't forget if you want to talk to a member of staff, please:

-Talk to them as you drop or collect or make an appointment if you need a longer discussion.

-Telephone the office on 01582 608650 and we will put you through to the class and a member of staff will be able to talk to you as long as there are sufficient staff to be working with the children or email the class email:

bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org

dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org

caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org






butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

For general enquires email the office office@westfieldnurseryschool.org



Staffing

I am very privileged to work with such a well qualified, professional team. Unfortunately Mrs Nowogorska left Nursery at half term. She will be sadly missed but we wish her all the very best for the future.

Bumblebees 	Dragonflies 	Ladybirds 	Caterpillars 	Butterflies 
Mrs Dolby Miss Sewell Miss Marrone Mrs Chira PM	Miss Ball Ms Scoggins Miss Jasper AM Mrs Chira AM	Miss Shaw Mrs Sunderland Mrs Aithsine AM Mrs Hankinson AM Mrs Atif (Mon, Tues, Wed AM)	Miss Heading (After half term) Miss Wells Miss Richardson (Mon, Tues, Wed) Mrs Linsley AM Mrs Atif (Thurs/ Fri)	Mrs Andrews (Wed, Thurs, Fri) Miss Pratt (Mon, Tues, Wed) Miss Sharp Miss Agiri-Nyarko (Mon, Tues, Wed)

Miss Heading is currently undertaking her Initial Teacher Training and this half term she will be completing a placement at another school. We hope she enjoys her placement, but she will be missed.

Miss Dhenin and Mrs Hewitt are on maternity leave.

Mrs Dolby is lead practitioner in Bumblebees (2-year-old class),

Miss Ball, Miss Shaw, Miss Wells and Mrs Andrews are the lead practitioners for each class in main Nursery (3-4-year-old classes).

Mrs Bridges works across all classes with small groups of children on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Mrs Hitchcock is the School Business Manager based in the school office and is always available to answer any queries. She is ably supported by Mrs Martin (AM) and Mrs Toumbas (PM) our Office Assistants.

Miss Shaw and Mrs Collins share the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead with support from the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Miss Ball, Mrs Dolby, Miss Dhenin, Miss Heading and Mrs Andrews.

Mrs Collins is the SENDCo, please speak to the class lead or Mrs Collins should you have any queries or concerns about your child's development and support they may require.


Governors

We have an extremely dedicated governing body who oversee the work of the school. Mrs Cannings is the chair person and oversees the curriculum, teaching, learning and attainment. Ms Mortimer is our link governor for Safeguarding, Mrs Waceba is our link governor for inclusion. Miss Grant is the vice chair and is our Health and Safety governor. Miss Gee is a parent governor and is the link governor for sustainability and for community links. Mr Humfry is a parent governor and is the link governor for attendance and behaviour. Miss Heading is our staff governor. Last term the governors focused on phonics and improvements in the environment. We are very grateful to them for all their dedication and hard work.



Drop off and collection times

Children who are not here for the start of the session can miss vital learning so please do your best to drop children during the allotted times. We do have a late collection policy for children who are not collected on time as this can affect their well-being. Children left at the end of sessions can be distressed and staff do have other responsibilities at this time.

	Bumblebees	Dragonflies and Ladybirds	Caterpillars and Butterflies
AM Drop off time	8.45-8.55am	8.45-8.55am	8.45-8.55am
AM Collection time	11.35-11.45am	11.35-11.45am	Lunch in classroom
PM Drop off time	12.30-12.40pm	12.30-12.40pm	Not applicable
PM Collection time	3.20-3.30pm	3.20-3.30pm	3.20-3.30pm

Vocabulary

Our first priority in a new term is to settle children in, particularly focusing on kind hands, feet and mouths and supporting sharing and turn taking. We help children to explore and gain confidence with the continuous provision within the environment. Each class and outside have areas for Reading, Maths, mark making and creative activities, building, messy and small world play. After that, we will start focusing on vocabulary and knowledge. We let you know the themes the children are focusing on via the white boards at the entrance to the building.



Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), made up of different areas of learning.

Prime areas	Specific areas
C&L = Communication and Language PSED = Personal, Social and Emotional Development PD = Physical Development	Lit = Literacy MD = Mathematics Development UTW = Understanding the World EAD = Expressive Arts and Design

Our core curriculum is

- Communicates with adults and children (C&L)
- Communicates their feelings, wants and needs (PSED)
- Develops a friendship (PSED)
- Looks after their health and self-care needs (PD)
- Moves with confidence in a range of ways (PD)
- Uses simple tools (PD)
- Uses mark making tools (Lit)
- Listens to and tells a story (Lit)
- Understands and uses numbers (MD)
- Knows and uses numerical patterns (MD)
- Shows care for communities, the environment and living things (UTW)
- Performs a dance/song or rhyme and uses imagination (EAD)
- Creates a piece of art/model (EAD)

Our curriculum is attached but also published on our website.



Adult led learning

During our adult led learning this term we will be focusing on phonics and children using sound reproduction skills. Learning will cover rhythm, rhyme, syllables and syllable blending as well as alliteration.

Phonics glossary of terms:

Rhythm- is a pattern of sound which can be repeated to a regular beat.

Tempo- is the speed of the beat.

Rhyme- is where there is the same sound on the end of a word.

Syllable- a single, unbroken sound of a spoken word.

Alliteration- Same beginning sounds.



Home Learning

Each half term we send home a home learning challenge. These are activities for you to enjoy with your child. They support learning and, also help your child get into good homework practices. This half term the home learning challenge is based on part of our personal, social and emotional curriculum all about feelings. Please see the attached sheets. We love to see the photos of children completing their home learning challenge. Send the photo to your child's class:

Bumblebees- bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Dragonflies- dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Ladybirds- ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Caterpillars- caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Butterflies- butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

We also use 'My home Learning' sheets for parents and carers to share with us any exciting learning which has taken place at home. Your child could use the toilet for the first time, they may have done their own coat up for the first time, they may have completed a level at swimming- these are for any news you would like to share. There is a home learning sheet attached, and you can use as many as you want. More can be collected from the entrance hall.

Library

We have a school library. There are a whole range of books, including dual language books, board books, Maths books, alphabet books, rhyming books and books to support personal, social and emotional development, as well as a range of storybooks. Please visit the library as often as you like via the front entrance.

We also have a book castle with a smaller range of books which we put outside on dry days- please feel free to borrow a book from here for ease of access.



Why is Early Reading Important?

There are lots of reasons to read/ enjoy sharing and talking about books with your child. There is a lot of research available to support the fact that it helps brain development, language development, strengthens family relationships and builds a picture of the world outside of our own.

Did you know...

- Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.
- A study by the Institute for Education found that those who read for pleasure have a 14.4% advantage in vocabulary and a 9.9% advantage in math, compared to their peers.
- It's been found that reading enhances our attention spans: the structure of stories helps kids' brains process things in sequence, which holds their attention for longer and enables clear thinking.
- Reading books for pleasure will help improve self-esteem and confidence, enabling us to reach our goals.
- Reading helps aid our sleep.

<https://kidadi.com/education-learning/incredible-facts-about-reading-and-books-you-wont-believe-your-eyes>

- The three top reasons children enjoy being read to are that 'It is a special time with my parents', 'Reading together is/was fun' and 'It is relaxing to be read to before I go to sleep'

<https://www.annabelkarmel.com/advice/reading-to-children-vocab/>

- A study in the USA showed starting in kindergarten (age 5), if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade (11-12 years) and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

<https://www.wcpo.com/brand-spotlight/how-reading-20-minutes-a-day-impacts-your-child>

Early Reading at Home

Click the link to find a useful article about early reading. <https://theconversation.com/learning-to-read-starts-earlier-than-you-might-think-five-tips-from-an-expert-171561>

Five tips to support early reading for children aged under three.

1. Create a chatty environment
2. Have fun with rhythm and music making
3. Share meaningful images (see explanation of logo books below)
4. Draw attention to print in everyday life

Engage with books frequently (our library is open every day!)



Early Reading at Nursery

We have reading areas in each class and outside for children to self access books. In each area children can access books both fiction (story) and non-fiction (information) books, linked to the theme or learning in class. Children also use books in other areas such as at the mark making table.



At large group times adults enjoy reading and sharing a story with children. They may use big books, story sacks or props to support children listening to, enjoying and talking about a range of books.



Each class also has a 'logo' book in the reading area, which includes pages about drinks, foods, films, apps, schools, home items, supermarkets, fast food, the high street and TV programmes. Children can spot meaningful images.



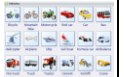
In the reading area there is also a book of child-friendly policies. These cover the work of the nursery such as the curriculum and safeguarding. There are pictures (and simple explanations) to spark conversations.



Children self-register when they enter their classroom. They have to 'read' their name card and put it on display. They can access their name card at any point, for example if they want to use it to support them writing their own name on a picture.



For each theme we use our knowledge and vocabulary sheets (on the curriculum tab of the website) to select some key words. We display these key words using picture prompts to support the children using the words during their learning.



School Readiness (Taken from the 'Starting School' leaflet on the website.)

There are certain skills which will support your child in being ready for their life at school.

Can your child talk in sentences?

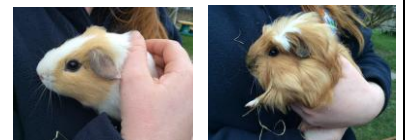
Children are like sponges! They generally soak up language and learning quickly. You need to model how to speak correctly in complete sentences. Although it can be endearing when children use their 'baby talk vocabulary' as they get ready for school encourage speaking in sentences and the use of correct vocabulary. Research shows that children with greater language have better life chances.



It is lovely when children respond to the adults who talk to them. Thanks to those of you who encourage your child saying hello and goodbye.

School Pets

We have two furry members of the community. Bolt and Boris are guinea pigs which live at Nursery. Thanks to the staff who look after them in addition to their other roles. If you would like to donate any hay, wood shavings, vegetables such as broccoli, tomatoes, spring greens, romaine lettuce and peppers, please feel free to do so.



Website

There is lots of information about the Nursery on the website. Don't forget to visit the gallery to see pictures from each month. Our website can be found at www.westfieldnurseryschool.org



Activ8

We undertake weekly visits to Beecroft Community Centre to take part in Activ8 sessions. These are delivered by an outside provider. Children learn and develop a range of gross motor skills, as well as learning new vocabulary and other learning such as colours and counting. Activ8 starts on 05.05.26 once the children have settled. (Morning session only) (Not Bumblebees)



Wacky Wednesday

After children have settled in we start Wacky Wednesday. Children have the opportunity to visit any classroom they wish and learn with friends from across the other classes. (Not Bumblebees)



Whole School Singing

On Fridays the children from all classes come together to sing. They sing a range of seasonal songs.



Toddler Group

We hold a community toddler group every Monday from 1.00-2.30pm term time only. Our thanks to Miss Marrone and the children's centre who help run the group. Entry is via the Bumblebees entrance.



Attendance

Regular attendance at Nursery is important for academic attainment, good progress and supporting school readiness. Please support Nursery by sending your child in every day if they are well.

If your child is not coming to Nursery please

-Let us know in advance where you know your child will not be attending e.g. family event

-Phone on the day of the absence on 01582 608650

-Email office@westfieldnurseryschool.org

-Or let us know using Studybugs. We do monitor attendance. Thank you.

























Illness

Remember that after a bout of sickness and/ or diarrhoea your child must be kept home for 48 hours.

If your child contracts a contagious illness e.g. chicken pox, please let us know so that we can inform other families.

Please only send your child to Nursery if they are well enough. Please do not send them to Nursery if you have administered Calpol. If they need Calpol they are not well enough to be at Nursery. This masks symptoms and illnesses spread.



<p>Health and Safety No mobile phones on site. We are a no nuts site. Dogs are not permitted on site. Please do not leave your dog by the gate as we have some children who find this frightening</p>   	<p>Neighbours We are very aware of our place in the community and as such we like to be a good neighbour to the families and businesses in the area. Please help us by parking responsibly. We appreciate parking is difficult; this is the same for all schools.</p> 	<p>Fruit We ask for donations of tooth friendly snacks such as a piece of fruit. These are chopped and shared.</p> 
<p>Names Please name all items your child wears and brings to Nursery. For example, hats, jumpers, coats and bags. If you do, we can easily return lost property to its rightful owner.</p> 	<p>Beecroft School Gate Please be aware the Beecroft School gate is closed between 8.30-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm to ensure the children walking to school are kept safe. Parents are not allowed to park in the Beecroft car park.</p> 	<p>Security Thank you so much for closing all doors and gates as you pass through them to ensure the children's safety.</p> 
<p>WOW If your child does something new at home, please share this with your child's class leader. This can be anything- using new words, trying a new activity, visiting a new place etc... We love to share all successes.</p> 	<p>Uniform We do have uniform available for the children to wear. Benefits include it stopping those outfit arguments and it being easy to wash. Please ask at the school office for further details about sizes and costs.</p> 	<p>Summer Clothing Please ensure your child has a sun hat and sunglasses if required. Please ensure children are covered by long sleeved/ legged light cotton clothing. Please send in an appropriate jumper/ cardigan or jacket on colder days. (See sun protection below.)</p> 
<p>Change of Personal Details Please remember: It is very important that we hold current emergency phone numbers for you should we need to contact you. If you change your number, let us know.</p> 	<p>Bags 2-year-olds Please send in a named bag with nappies/ pants and a change of clothes. 3-4-year-olds. Please do not send in a bag if your child is toilet trained. (Only children still in nappies require a bag.)</p> 	<p>Medication If your child requires medication whilst at Nursery, please speak to a staff member. We do need you to complete some paperwork in relation to this. Please do not put medication into children's bags as this is not safe.</p> 
<p>Act of Kindness Nursery has recourse to support families who they are aware may need some essential extras. -Basic food e.g. tins/ packets -Toiletries -Clothing e.g. coat/ hat/ gloves -Stationery packs to support children's mark making. Please see the 'Act of Kindness' statement on the website.</p> 		
<p>Sun Protection Please ensure your child has appropriate suncream applied before attending Nursery. You can get suncream which will last all day and is waterproof such as P20 (other brands are available). If this is applied your child will be adequately protected. Please also send in named sun hat and sun glasses. Please do not send in suncream.</p> 		
<p>New Starter Questionnaires If your child has just started with us during the week beginning 11th May you will receive a new starter questionnaire. We would be grateful if these can be completed and return by Friday 22nd May. Thank you. These are important to help us continually review and refine our processes.</p> 		
<p>Consultations Consultation appointments are an opportunity for you to come into Nursery and talk to your child's class teacher. You can hear about what they are learning, who they are learning with (their friends) and what we would like for them to learn next. Consultation dates can be found below. The week before there will be a sheet to sign up for a time slot. These are for the returning children. Our leavers receive an end of Nursery written report.</p> 		
<p>FUDGE Stay and Play Day On Thursday 18th June we will be holding a Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads and Everyone else (FUDGE) stay and play day, close to Father's Day (Sunday 21st June). You are invited to join us to see what your child does at Nursery. Bumblebees AM – 10.45am-11.45am Bumblebees PM 2.30pm-3.30pm Dragonflies AM & Ladybirds AM 8.45am-9.45am Ladybirds PM 12.30pm-1.30pm Caterpillars and Butterflies 30-hour classes 8.45am-9.45am or 12.30pm-1.30pm</p> 		
<p>Nursery Spaces Please note we do have Nursery spaces for September 2026. If you know anyone looking for a space in September, please pass on our details.</p> 		
<p>Invacuation/ Lock Down At the end of last term we conducted an evacuation (fire drill) and an invacuation (lock down) practice (at separate times). Children learnt the loud, continuous bell is where we gather together outside and the intermittent bell is where we gather together inside. Children managed this very well.</p> 		
<p>Key Dates this Term 20.04.26- New 3-4-year-olds start 27.04.26 New 2-year-olds start 04.05.26 School closed- Bank Holiday 05.05.26 Activ8 starts (3-4-year-olds) 11.05.26-15.05.26 Eco week (details to follow) 18.05.26 Bumblebees consultations 19.05.26 Dragonflies consultations (returning children only) 20.05.26 Ladybirds consultations (returning children only) 21.05.26 Caterpillars consultations (returning children only) 22.05.26 Butterflies consultations (returning children only) 25.05.26-29.05.26 School closed- Half term</p> 		

03.06.26 Sponsored Bounce- children only (details to follow)
11.06.26 Ark Farm Visit- children only (details to follow)
18.06.26 FUDGE stay and play (Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads and Everybody else)
24.06.26 Class photographs- children only (details to follow)
08.07.26 Teddy Bears Picnic- children only (details to follow)
17.07.26 Leavers Reports go out
17.07.26 Leavers Celebration (10.45am)
20.07.26 Last day of summer term
21.07.26 School closed- summer holidays

Family Support

Don't forget to check the activities being run locally by the children's centre. The children's centre timetable is attached for this term.



Faith Celebrations in May (<https://equality.leeds.ac.uk/>)

14th May: Christianity: Ascension Day
22nd – 23rd May: Judaism: Shavuot
24th May: Christianity: Pentecost/Whitsun
24th – 29th May: Islam: Hajj
26th – 30th May: Islam: Eid-al-Adha
31st May: Buddhism: Vesak

Best wishes if you are celebrating a special celebration.