



Westfield Nursery School
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 Email office@westfieldnurseryschool.org
 Website www.westfieldnurseryschool.org
 Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH



January 2025

Newsletter No 5 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head Teacher

Happy New Year everyone! Welcome back to the Spring term at Westfield. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for the kind messages in cards and gifts received at the end of last term, these were much appreciated.



You will have noticed my absence- I needed a minor operation but will be returning shortly. Whilst I am absent, please talk with your child's class leader and they will help you in any way they can. I am reliably informed the 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.

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

I am delighted to welcome Miss Marrone, Mrs Atif and Ms Hankinson who are joining the Westfield family. We hope they will be very happy here.

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 has started her maternity leave. I am delighted to let you know she had a baby boy.

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, Teacher, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead with support from the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Miss Ball, Mrs Dolby, Mrs Collins 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 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 the new Ofsted framework and how the work of the school meets the expected criteria.



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

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, (click on the Curriculum tab and then on the Curriculum option).

We work on vocabulary themes too. Please see attached, this is also published on our website, (click on the Curriculum tab and then on the Curriculum option).

Please ask Mrs Collins if you would like a paper copy of either or both documents.

Vocabulary

Our first priority in a new term is to settle children in, after that we start focusing on vocabulary themes and knowledge. We let you know the themes the children are focusing on via the white boards at the entrance to the building.



Adult led learning

In Bumblebees our focus is Nursery Rhymes during our adult-led learning this term.

In 3-4 year olds during our adult-led learning is phonics.



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 Maths based. Please see the attached sheet.

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://kidadl.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.

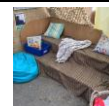
1. Create a chatty environment
2. Have fun with rhythm and music making
3. Share meaningful images (see explanation of logo books below)
4. Draw attention to print in everyday life



Engage with books frequently (our library is now open daily!)

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.



Recommended Read

Try reading 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff: Ladybird First Favourite Tales.' This traditional tale also introduces some Maths such as numbers to three and size. Children also love doing the troll voice!



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 03.02.26 once the children have settled. (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 cometogther to sing. They sing a range of seasonal songs. (Not Bumblebees)



Toddler Group

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



<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. Please do not park in 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>Winter Clothing Please ensure your child has a jumper/ sweatshirt as well as a warm coat and wellies, hat, gloves and scarf. We always use the garden whatever the weather. If your child comes to Nursery in wellies, please bring a pair of indoor shoes.</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 <i>2-year-olds</i> Please send in a named bag with nappies/ pants and a change of clothes. <i>3-4-year-olds.</i> Please do not send in a bag if your child is toilet trained. (Only children still in nappies require a bag.)</p>	
<p>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.</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>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.</p>		
<p>National Story Telling Week This annual event from 2nd – 6th February is a celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world, they allow us to step into someone else's shoes, they help us to relax and they can help develop literacy skills. The theme for National Storytelling Week 2026 is 'Soundtrack your story'. Everyone has their own musical story - whether it's in the songs we love and the music we dance to, through British Sign Language and the rhythms we feel, the soundscapes of everyday life, or the soundtracks we hear in films and games. Music connects us to words. It helps us express who we are and how we see the world. As part of national storytelling week we would like to invite you to our reading event- see below. If you would like to find out more about national storytelling week click the link... https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/national-storytelling-week/</p>		
<p>Parent/ Carer Reading Event We invite you to join us on 4th February at a 'Reading event'. You are invited to join us to read a book to your child and their friends. Books will be provided but if you have a favourite children's book you want to read, please feel free to bring this. You can read the book in your home language. Bumblebees class 11.15-11.45am or 3.00-3.30pm</p>		

Dragonflies AM & Ladybirds AM 8.45am-9.15am
Ladybirds PM 12.30-1.00pm
Caterpillars and Butterflies 30-hour classes 8.45am-9.15am

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day will take place on Tuesday 10th February 2026 with a theme of "Smart tech, safe choices." Staff work with children on simple keeping safe messages and we encourage you parents and carers to think about staying safe and keeping your children safe on line. We will send further information in the next newsletter.

World Book Day (children only)

We mark world book day, on Thursday 5th March by enjoying our favourite books! We ask your child bring in their favourite book named. If they choose they may dress up but there is no expectation to do this.

MADGE Stay and Play Day

On Thursday 12th March we will be holding a Mum's, Aunties, Daughters, Grandmothers and Everyone else (MADGE) stay and play day, close to Mother's Day (Sunday 15th March). You are invited to join us to see what your child does at Nursery.

Bumblebees AM – 11:00am-11.45am Bumblebees PM 2.45pm-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

(Don't worry we will be holding a FUDGE- Fathers, Uncles, Dads, Grandads and Everyone else day on 18.06.26!)

SOS Schools Closure Alerts: Snow / Bad Weather Alert

Please can you ensure that the office have your up-to-date mobile numbers and email addresses.

The information will be available via the Central Bedfordshire School's Open Status (SOS) system. You will need to register to receive updates:

- Type in the following: <https://apps.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/apps/sos/>
- Click on 'register for updates' and fill in the text boxes
- Click on 'submit'



Please do not try to ring a radio station to find out if the school is closed.

We will also send an email and put a message on the welcome page of the website. Please check we are open before travelling. School will not be open if it is not safe.

Beehive

Please see attached for the Children's Centre timetable.



Key Dates this Term

Tuesday 13th January. Toddler group starts

Week Beginning 2nd February- Sign up for Consultations

Wednesday 4th February. Parent/ Carers Reading Event (See above for times)

Monday 9th February - Bumblebees Consultations

Tuesday 10th February - Dragonflies Consultations

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day (Children only)

Wednesday 11th February - Ladybirds Consultations

Thursday 12th February - Caterpillars Consultations

Friday 13th February - Butterflies Consultations

Monday 16th February- Friday 20th February – HALF TERM, NURSERY CLOSED

Thursday 5th March. World Book Day (children only)

Monday 9th- Friday 13th March. British Science Week (Children only) details to follow

Thursday 12th March. MADGE Stay and play day (See above for times)

Friday 20th March. World Poetry Day (children only) details to follow

Monday 23rd March. Last toddler group of the term

Friday 27th March. Last day of Spring term

Monday 30th March-Monday 13th April Nursery Closed- Easter holidays

Tuesday 14th April. First Day of Summer term

