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

July 2026

Newsletter No 11 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head Teacher

As the school year comes to an end, I have been reflecting on all the work we have done this year. We
-implemented a new learning management system
-strengthened our governing body and the key monitoring work they do
-made improvements to the environment and resources
-completed training and agreed our policy for AI
-updated our policy and practice in regard to General Data Protection Regulations
-updated safeguarding training and related policies
-reviewed and updated special educational needs documentation
-reviewed and updated our Nursery curriculum and adult led phonics teaching
-received training on and begun to work on high quality adult- pupil interactions using a sharing, responding, expanding and conversations approach
-implemented a range of well-being strategies

The children have made wonderful progress in their learning. They are engaged, independent learners who show high levels of engagement and perseverance. We have continued this work right up to the end of term. Most recently, I monitored alongside our Local Authority School Improvement Advisor- see below.

I would like to wish those children who are moving on to school every success in their new schools. We have children moving to thirteen different schools this year! We hope you can see from your child's report the progress they have made; the reports were a delight to read.

We look forward to seeing those children who are returning again in September.

We wish everyone a healthy, safe and happy summer. Thank you for working with us this year and your kind generosity with fruit, plant and clothing donations.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for all the thoughtful words shared, it is very moving, many thanks- your kindness is much appreciated.

Monitoring Feedback

On Monday 13th July we had a visit from our School Improvement Advisor. We did joint observations across all the Nursery classes and there were lots of positives.

- ✓ Inclusion- all children whether English as an Additional Language, Special Educational Needs, Early Years Pupil Premium or vulnerable in any other way were learning happily alongside each other. Adaptions are clearly being successful
- ✓ Positive relationships between adults and children
- ✓ Positive relationships between children and children
- ✓ High levels of engagement by pupils
- ✓ Sustained concentration of pupils
- ✓ Embedded routines
- ✓ Books being used in reading and other areas, supported by adults and independently
- ✓ Commentary used well in 2-year-olds
- ✓ Use of focussed vocabulary e.g. for the animals and space themes
- ✓ Children's intent- planning and carrying out what they wanted to do
- ✓ Children's perseverance- children continuing with something even when it didn't go right the first time
- ✓ Children sharing their learning with adults and each other

The identified areas for improvement will be added to next year's development plan.

Our learning

Bumblebees have been learning about shape. The key text was 'Shape' and the key words included circle, triangle and square. The children used shape cutters with the dough and magnetic shapes.

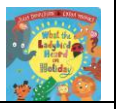
In Dragonflies the children learned about space and numbers. The key text was 'Whatever Next.' The key words were Earth, Sun, Moon, space, stars and planets. The children enjoyed using the dark den, making rockets and number threading.

Ladybirds class learnt about farm and zoo animals. The key texts were 'Old MacDonald' and 'Dear Zoo'. The key words included cow, sheep, pig, horse and goat moving on to lion, tiger, giraffe, elephant and parrot. Children used small world animals and Duplo to make farms as well as creating animal masks.

The children in Caterpillars were learning all about lifecycles. The key text was 'The Seed.' The key vocabualry included roots, stem, seed, flower, moving on to frogspawn, tadpole, froglet and frog. The children grew grass, looked after the plants in the garden and made lifecyles.
In Butterflies the children were learning about under the sea. The key text was 'Rainbow Fish.' The key vocabulary included sea, sand, crab, octopus and fish. The children enjoyed the water tray and sea creatures and they made fish collages.

Recommended Read
If your child is going to school try reading 'Starting School' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Any starting school book will reassure your child as they start a new school.

If your child is returning to us, you may like to read 'What the Ladybird Heard on Holiday' by Julia Donaldson & Lydia Monks.



Library Books
If you have any Nursery library books please return them by the end of term- thank you.

Class Photos
We hope you loved your child's class photo- a wonderful memory of a special start to schooling.

Sponsored Bounce
Money has still been being donated but the current total stands at an amazing £1315.70. Staff have requested this is spent on small world and being imaginative resources. Thank you for your kind generosity.

Governor Update
Our Vice-chair of governors, Elizabeth Grant is leaving us this July. She has been a key member of the governing body and has been instrumental, particularly in supporting Health and Safety, well-being and the Head teacher's performance management. We would like to thank her for her service to the school and wish her every success for the future.

Staffing Update
Mrs Hewitt who was on shared parental leave returned to Nursery this week. It is wonderful to have her back.

Teddy Bears Picnic
The 'Teddy Bears Picnic' on Wednesday 8th July was a great success with children enjoying bringing their favourite cuddly to school and sharing songs, games and stories.

Leavers Celebration Reminder
Some of our children are graduating from Nursery and moving on to other schools. On Friday 17th July we are holding our Leavers Assembly at 10.45am. (You are very welcome to attend if your child is returning in September too!) Children will be singing you some special songs they have learnt and children leaving for school are awarded with their leavers certificate and medal.

Questionnaires
Thank you for returning the parent/ carer and pupil questionnaires. These will be analysed and the results published in the newsletter in September and on the website. There is still time to return yours if you haven't already.

Testimonials
Thank you for the wonderful testimonials shared to date. These have been shared with staff.
Moving my child from the Nursery he had attended since he was seven months old to Westfield Nursery School was a difficult and emotional decision. From the very beginning, all of the staff made both my child and me feel incredibly welcome, offering warmth, reassurance and support we needed throughout the transition. It quickly became clear that he was cared for with genuine kindness, patience and professionalism every single day. Most importantly he was happy, settled and well, and looked forward to going to Nursery which gave me complete peace of mind. I was amazed by how much he learned and developed through the engaging activities and nurturing environment, and it was wonderful to see his confidence and speech continue to grow. I would wholeheartedly recommend Westfield Nursery to any parent looking for a caring, supportive, and inspiring place for their child to learn and thrive. Parent July 2026

Westfield Nursery has been such a happy place for our son that he asks each morning if he can go there. He has learnt and grown so much in his time there. We thank all of the staff for helping him on his journey. Parents July 2026

My child always looks forward to coming to Nursery and enjoys every moment he spends there. He has built a lovely relationship with his teachers, who are caring, supportive and always make him feel welcomed and valued. I believe this is a wonderful Nursery for children as it provides a positive, nurturing, and encouraging environment where they can learn, grow and develop their confidence. The staff are friendly, approachable and truly dedicated to supporting each child's individual needs. Parent July 2026

Westfield has done wonders for my daughters development. She enjoys coming everyday and being special helper. She has made so many great friends. Parent July 2026

The Nursery has an excellent Team that is dedicated to ensuring the little ones learn a great deal. Personally, my daughter started in January an has made significant progress in both communication and emotional development. She knows how to express herself and follows instructions from adults. Parent July 2026

We have had four children go through Nursery at Westfield and they have all loved it! The staff are all lovely and attentive and the Headteacher really cares about the children and their families! Thank you Westfield! Parents July 2026

Since my son has been going to Westfield Nursery School he has developed so well. I am so proud of him, and looking forward to his continued growth in the three-four year old side. Parent July 2026

Thank you to all the wonderful staff for your care, kindness and dedication. Our child has loved every moment at the Nursery and has grown so much in confidence and learning. We truly appreciate everything you do and would highly recommend this Nursery to any family. Parents July 2026

Dunstable in Bloom

On 7th July we had two visitors from Dunstable in Bloom to see our lovely wheelbarrow and planting beds. The theme this year was Winnie-the Pooh and the Nursery garden was recreated into the Hundred Acre Wood. Some of the children helped Miss Shaw explain what we had planted and how we were looking after our plants- they did an amazing job and Miss Shaw was very proud of them. My thanks to Miss Shaw, the other staff and all the children who helped with our entry as well as those parents who donated plants or compost.

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

Can your child sit still and listen?

Can your child sit and listen, not to the television, but on other occasions which do not involve technology? Can they sit and listen to a story? Can they sit and talk over a family mealtime for a short time? Do they ask questions and listen to the response?

Is your child aware of other children?

Can they play alongside others? This could be siblings or other family members, but children also benefit from playing and interacting with children of their own age. Toddler groups, music groups, gymnastics or other groups are perfect at encouraging such interactions.

Does your child understand the word 'no' and other boundaries set for behaviour?

All young children find the word no and other boundaries a challenge and will at times voice their displeasure vociferously but as your child starts school it is very important that they understand boundaries. When you say no, you need to mean no and not change your mind. It can help some children to have a simple reason given. The rules and boundaries, including any rewards and sanctions used in your house need to be **clear and consistent**. Children get confused if what was allowed on one day is not allowed on another and vice versa. Rules and boundaries at school are very clear so children transfer more smoothly when this is also the case at home.

Does your child understand the word 'stop' and that this may be used to prevent danger?

Young children who suddenly happen upon a dangerous situation need to understand 'stop'. This may save their life, for example, on the journey to school near a busy road. It may save them from hurting themselves or others.

Is your child toilet trained?

The majority of children are toilet trained before they start school (unless there is a medical or other need). All young children may on occasion have an accident, but they should be able to say when they need the toilet and attempt to toilet independently.

Can your child recognise their own name?

Most children learn to recognise their own name very quickly. You could start this process at home; for example, writing their name on a picture they have made.

Can your child talk to an adult and explain their needs?

Young children can get very frustrated when they need something but the grown up does not understand what they mean. They need to learn the correct vocabulary for their everyday needs. For example, in explaining they are hungry or thirsty/ hot or cold. It can also be helpful if they have had the experience of asking other grown-ups as well as their parents, such as a child minder or babysitter.

Can your child dress themselves?

Can your child change their own shoes as well as put on and do up their own coat? Children generally learn these skills quickly, but they do need to learn this independence at home before they start school.

Can your child talk in sentences?

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.

Can your child open and enjoy a book?

Children who are used to listening to you read to them and enjoy books do better academically, have better language and communication skills, can concentrate better and get the benefit of enjoyment!

Toilet Training

We still have a lot of children who come to school wearing a nappy. The summer is a great time to toilet train. Please see our toilet training leaflet attached.

Children's Centre

Please see the timetable for the children's centre attached. Although we are closed the children's Cnetres stay open so please visit the children's centre if you need help with anything.

Library

Over the summer the library do a summer reading challenge and lots of activities.

Summer Reading Challenge- Friday 17th July to Saturday 5th September

The Summer Reading Challenge is a free, fun packed way to keep children reading all summer long.

The Challenge: Children are invited to read six or more library books during the school holidays. Children will be awarded a medal and certificate for reading six books.Children must be members of Central Bedfordshire Libraries to join the challenge. You can join online or when you visit to sign up for the challenge. Families can sign up for the challenge at any time during the school holidays. Visit the library help desk to book other events being run.

EasyPeasy Reminder

EasyPeasy is a free app to get playful activity ideas, parenting tips and inspiration to support your child's development. This is free for all parents and caregivers with children aged from birth to five in Central Bedfordshire https://join.easypeasyapp.com/signup/cd6f329f97cf639a71f082e0fb75f70d1f7176252e81d256acc714180f89a03f

Nursery Spaces Reminder

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.

Key Dates this Term

20.07.26 Last day of summer term
21.07.26 School closed- summer holidays
03.09.26 Returning children start Nursery

Faith Celebrations in July & August

July 2026

19th July: Hinduism: Sitalsasthi
23rd July: Judaism: Tish'a B'av
29th July: Buddhism: Asala-Dharma Day
29th July: Hinduism: Guru Purnima

Best wishes if you are celebrating a special celebration.

August 2026

13th August: Buddhism: Obon
15th August: Christianity: Assumption Day
28th August: Hinduism: Raksha Bandhan/Rakhi

(https://equality.leeds.ac.uk/support-and-resources/religion-and-belief/faith-calendar-2025-2026/)