Westfield Nursery School
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Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH

May 2026

Newsletter No 9 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head Teacher

I did a joint monitoring visit to each class with the inclusion governor. There are so many positives- read more below. We are moving into an important time as many of our children get ready for their move to Reception. We continue to support their development, so they are ready for this important transition.

Monitoring Feedback

On Friday 24th April, I conducted a monitoring visit focussing on 'inclusion'. Nursery is highly inclusive, supporting pupils with a range of needs. All children whether they had additional needs, receive Early Years Pupil Premium funding, have English as an additional language, are from a different ethnic group or have a different faith were learning alongside each other and with each other happily.

General: -Adults are aware of pupils in pupil groups via class logs
-There was a calm atmosphere and purposeful learning
-Adults know children well
-There are embedded routines and clear behaviour expectations
-The learning environment is attractive

Adults were seen: -Showing close, caring and respectful relationships
-Engaged in learning activities
-Modelling, demonstrating and explaining
-Modelling language; Showing sharing attention/ curiosity and responding positively
-Valuing children's contributions
-Welcoming other children in to play & encouraging interactions between children
-Allowing children to learn independently
-Supporting problem solving

Children were seen: -Engaged
-Demonstrating positive relationships between each other
-Sharing attention/ curiosity
-Showing sustained, high levels of concentration
-Showing resilience
-Using quality continuous provision offer independently
-Having made progress from previous observations/ in session

It was a really positive afternoon- well done to all the children and adults

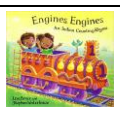
Our learning

At the start of term the classes focussed on settling the children back in.
In Bumblebees the key was 'Goldilocks and the Three Potties.' The children foccussed on pants, knickers, nappy, toilet and potty for the key words. Children decorated toilet rolls and played with the dolls and potties.
In Dragonflies the key text was 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo.' Children used please and thank you as key words. They did lots of mark making with shaving foam and powder paints.
The children in Ladybirds class had 'Ten Little Pirates,' as the key text. The key words included line up, wash hands, good sitting, good listening and kind hands. Children used the new home corner role play and made collages.
Caterpillars Class had 'Worry Monster,' for their key text. Words learnt included happy, sad, worried, feelings and emotions. The children completed number puzzles and explored narratives with small world resources.
Butterflies class had 'Pi-rat,' as a key text. The key vocabulary included emotions, sad, worried and toilet. Children were threading and exploring cornflour.

Each class has moved on to a learning theme.

Bumblebees have lots of new starters so they are focussing on setttling in and the first key words. The key text is 'That's Not My Teddy.' Children have been using hello, goodbye, please and thank you. They have enjoyed painting on a large scale outside and smaller scale indoors.
The children in Dragonflies have been learning about Lifecycles. The key words are egg, caterpillar, pupa and butterfly, frog spawn, tadpole, froglet, frog and lifecycle. Children have been growing cress and exploring lifecycles.
In Ladybirds the children were learning about Dinosaurs. The key text was 'Say Hello to the Dinosaurs' The key words were dinosaur, fossil, skelton, carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. Some children learned the dinsosaur names. The children explored finding dinosaur skeletons in the sand and had a dinosaur footprint number line to help with counting and number recognition.
In Caterpillars the children continued the focus on emotions. They added a new key text 'Worry Monster.' Children were using construction sets and mark making in the sand.
In Butterflies class the theme was Building and Construction. The key text was 'The Three Little Pigs.' The children focussed on bricks, blocks, build, design and construct as their key words. There was a construction role play and building with blocks and construction sets.

Recommended Read



Try reading 'Engines, Engines- An Indian Counting Rhyme,' by Lisa Bruce and Stephen Waterhouse. This beautifully illustrated book will support counting and number recognition, whilst also reinforcing rhyme.
The book can also be seen by clicking the link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePxs9NqPJO8

Drop off and collection times

Please see the table for the drop off and collection times- we do give a window to help reduce the congestion and make things calmer.

We do have a lot of children being dropped off late which is very disruptive for staff and not the best way for your children to join their friends.

On 8th May there were 14 children who were late. On 7th May there were 10 children who were late.

On 6th May there were 18 children who were late. On 5th May there were 14 children who were late

We ask that you do your very best to get your children here on time, so they are not missing out on their learning.

	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

Health and Safety

Please send children in in suitable footwear- trainers are good. Our children run and climb and crocs are not the safest footwear for doing this.

If your child rides a bike or scooter they should be wearing a helmet to keep them safe.

Toys

We politely request children leave home toys at home. There are plenty of learning resources at Nursery. These can get lost and broken and other children can get dysregulated if they cannot play with them.

Ages and Stages of Development

Did you know…

By the age of two children should be using up to **50** or more single words e.g. 'no', 'book', 'biscuit'

By age three children should be using up to **300** words (Taken from 'Universally Speaking- the ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5')

If you are worried about your child visit https://childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk/how-to-refer/

Children should stop using a dummy during the daytime between **3-4 months old** and at night time around 12 months of age. Problems of prolonged use of a dummy include being less able to communicate, speech may become unclear, tooth growth may be affected. (www.goodtoknow.co.uk/ www.supernanny.co.uk)

Children should not be using a bottle **after 18 months of age**. Problems of prolonged bottle use include weight gain and tooth decay. (American Academy of Paediatrics)

Most children will be ready to toilet train between **18 months and 3 years of age**. Use our potty training guide on the website to support potty training.

Usually children will want to bin the buggy between **2 and 3 years of age**. Prolonged use of the buggy can lead to problems of obesity and lack of exercise. There is an important lesson in young children learning to hold hands and cross roads safely. (www.theworkingparent.com) (We do know some of our families walk a very long way to get to Nursery and in this case a buggy may be necessary!)

Children aged **2 to 5 years of age** should be having no more than 1 hour of screen time in 24 hours. (www.nhs.uk)

Children **3-4 years** of age should be physically active for at least 180 minutes a day with at least 60 minutes moderate to vigorous activity. (www.nhs.uk)

Childern **3-4 years of age** should be getting 10-13 hours of good quality sleep. (www.nhs.uk)

Children should move onto solid foods at **six months** of age, progress to a variety of textures. (www.nhs.uk) .

To encourage a good variety in your child's diet

-give new foods from time to time

-make meal time positive

-strive to provide a range of foods

https://feedingbytes.com/

Toilet Training Advice- When to start toilet training

Every child's development is unique. Some children can be toilet trained earlier and faster than others. It is important to support children to learn at their own pace. NHS guidance explains that most children are ready to begin toilet training from around 18 months to 2 years. Starting toilet training after 2 and a half to 3 years can make it harder for some children to learn this new skill. Read more at Help for early years providers : Toilet training

We also have our own leaflet available in the entrance hall.

Child Development

If you are worried about any aspects of your child's development contact your health visitor.

The Health SPA 0-19 Single point of access telephone number is 0300 555 0606 and the email is ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net

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 open and enjoy a book?
Children need to have access to books and enjoy listening to stories as soon as they are born! 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! Books make great presents too. Different stories can be borrowed from the library.

New Starter Questionnaires
If your child started in April, please remember to complete and return the new starter questionnaire by Friday 22nd May, thank you.

Home Learning Reminder
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.

Mental Health Awareness Week
11th -17th May 2026 is mental health awareness week. Don't forget on our website we have lots of suggestions for children and adults on strategies to support positive mental health as well as signposting for support.
https://www.westfieldnurseryschool.org/well-being.html

Pantosaurus
At Nursery we use the NSPCC Pantosaurus resources to support us teach the children about staying safe
What are the PANTS rules?

Privates are private

Always remember your body belongs to you

No means no

Talk about secrets that upset you

Speak up, someone can help

Find out more https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/

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.

Key Dates this Term

11.05.26-15.05.26 Eco week
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
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

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.