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

September 2026

Newsletter No 1 2026-2027

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

Welcome to the new school year.
Staff would just like to take this opportunity to thank parents/ carers for the kind words, cards and gifts at the end of the summer term.
Welcome back to the returning children, it has been lovely to see the children again after the holidays, they settled quickly into their new routines and those who have new classes or staff have coped so well.
Welcome to all our new families, it is lovely to meet you. Please remember to tell us all the important information about your child as we discuss your 'All About Me' sheet.
We want all children to have the very best start to their education which starts now.
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 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

Eco Celebration

I start this academic year with some exciting news! Over the summer holidays we heard we were successful in achieving the Eco Green Flag Award. Mrs Andrews led the staff and children implementing our sustainability plan. Particularly successful was our Eco week. Thanks to the families who also joined in.

Staffing

I am privileged to work with a well-qualified, passionate team. The current staffing is

Bumblebees	Dragonflies	Ladybirds	Caterpillars	Butterflies
Mrs Dolby Miss Sewell Miss Marrone Mrs Hewitt Mrs Agiri-Nyarko AM Mrs Sunderland PM	Miss Ball Ms Scoggins Miss Jasper Mrs Hankinson	Miss Dhenin W, Th, F Miss Richardson M, Tu Mrs Sunderland AM Mrs Aithsine Mrs Linsley	Miss Heading Miss Wells	Miss Pratt M, Tu, W Mrs Bridges W, Th, F Miss Sharp Mrs Agiri-Nyarko PM

Miss Shaw has just started her shared parental leave and we wish her well.
Mrs Collins is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Andrews, Miss Ball, Miss Dhenin, Mrs Dolby, Miss Heading, Miss Pratt and Mrs Stevenson. One of the team is available from 8.00am to 4.00pm daily to discuss any Safeguarding concerns.
Mrs Stevenson is our Family Support Worker. She can support with any aspect of child development or family life- just ask to speak to her.
Mrs Andrews is our senior teacher. She is available on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Mrs Andrews is the SENDCo, please speak to her if you have any concerns about your child's development, such as speech and language or neurodivergent traits. Mrs Andrews also works as our Early Years Pupil Premium Champion across all classes working with small groups of children.
Mrs Chira is currently supplying some cover for us.
Mrs Hitchcock is the school business manager. Mrs Martin and Mrs Toumbas are the office assistants, and they are available to answer any queries.
Mr Heading is our caretaker.

Governors

We have an extremely dedicated governing body who oversee the work of the school. It consists of Mrs Cannings- Chair of Governors, Mrs Begley, Mrs Collins, Miss Gee, Miss Heading, Mr Humfrey, Miss Mortimer and Ms Waceba.

Drop Off and Collection Times

	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

Please adhere to our drop off and collection times. Children get distressed if they are late to the session and this leads to lost learning. Children also get upset if a grown up comes to collect someone and their grown up does not come. If you arrive after or before these times, please report to the school office. We must be told if someone else is collecting your child. We do operate a password system. If someone else is collecting for the first time, they will need identification. Thank you.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage covers Nursery and Reception and covers

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

Westfield Nursery School Curriculum

Our curriculum has been written and developed with stakeholders. We base learning around vocabulary themes. Sequenced plans are followed to support acquisition of **knowledge and skills** so the children can…

1.Communicate with adults and children (C&L)
2. Communicate their feelings, wants and needs (PSED)
3. Develop a friendship (PSED)
4. Look after my health, safety and self-care needs (PD)
5. Move with confidence in a range of ways (PD- gross motor)
6. Use simple tools (PD- fine motor)
7. Listen to and tell a story (Lit)
8. Use mark making tools (Lit)
9. Understand and use numbers (MD)
10. Recognise and use numerical patterns (MD)
11. Show care for communities, the environment and living things (UTW)
12. Create a piece of art/model (EAD)
13. Perform a dance/song or rhyme and use my imagination (EAD)

The curriculum will come as an attachment to this email but is also available via the website. Our curriculum has just been updated for this year.

Vocabulary

Our first priority in a new term is to settle children in, after that we will 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. The knowledge and vocabulary sheets attached and are also available on the website.

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 this term we will be focusing on phonics.

Home Learning

Each half term we set a home learning challenge. Please see the home learning challenge attached.

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. The table below summarises the impact of absences from school. If your child is not attending, please call the office so we can record the reason for the absence in the register.

	Above 97%. Less than 6 days absence a year: Excellent attendance! Pupils with this attendance should achieve the best attainment they can, leading to the best possible start to their education.
	95% Less than 10 days absence in a year: Pupils with this attendance are likely to achieve their targets and will be well prepared for starting their educational journey.
	90%. 19 days absence over the year: Pupils with this attendance are missing a month of school per year and may fall behind in Maths and Literacy; it will be difficult for them to achieve their best.
	85% 29 days absence in a year: These pupils are missing 6 weeks of school a year, it will be very difficult for them to keep up and achieve their best.
	80%. Pupils with this attendance are missing a day for every week of school. It will be almost impossible to keep up with work.

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 use studybugs
We do monitor attendance. Thank you.

Library

We have a wonderful children's library with a range of board books, bi-lingual books, rhyming books, Maths and alphabet books, stories and non-fiction books. PLEASE come and visit the library and borrow some books. We ask that you sign the books out and back in as you return them to the return tray.
We also have an adult library. This is run on a help yourself basis- bring one and take one. We love to encourage adults to read too as this is great to role model a love of reading.

Recommended Reads

Try reading 'Going to School' an Usborne First Experiences book. Titles in the "First Experiences" series introduce young children to situations they might find themselves in for the first time. The illustrations are packed with things for children to look for and talk about.

Fruit
We are grateful to accept donations of fruit or tooth friendly snacks such as bread sticks, which are shared at snack time. Fruits could include apples, apricots, avocado, bananas, blackberries, blueberries, carrots, celery, cucumber, grapes, kiwi, mango, mangetout, melon, orange, peas, peaches, pear, pineapple, plums, raspberries, strawberries and tomato. Thank you.

Family Photographs
Please remember to send in a family photograph. Children like to have a picture of their family to look at and share.

Health and Safety
We do not allow mobile phones on site for Safeguarding reasons.
Phones must be put in pockets or bags. Please greet your child with a smile instead.
Remember we are a no nuts site.
Please ensure dogs are not brought on site or left by the gate as some of our children are scared of them.

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.

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.

Winter Clothing
Please ensure your child has a jumper/ sweatshirt as well a coat and wellies.
As the weather gets colder, please ensure your child has a warm coat, 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.

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.

Security
Thank you so much for closing all doors and gates as you pass through them to ensure the children's safety.

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.

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.

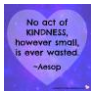
Beecroft School Gate
Please be aware the Beecroft School gate is closed between 8.30-9.00am and 3.00-3.30pm to ensure the children walking to school are kept safe.

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.

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.

Bags
2-year-olds
Please send in a named bag that stays at Nursery with nappies/ pants and a change of clothes. Staff will send this home when it needs replenishing.
3–4-year-olds 15 hours
Please send in a named bag that goes home daily from Nursery with nappies/ pants and a change of clothes.
3–4-year-olds 30 hours
Please send in a named bag that stays at Nursery with nappies/ pants and a change of clothes. Staff will send this home when it needs replenishing.

Act of Kindness
Nursery has recourse to support families who they are aware may need some essential extras. Such as basic food e.g. tins/ packets, toiletries, clothing e.g. coat/ hat/ gloves or stationary packs to support children's mark making. Please see the 'Act of Kindness' statement on the website. If we can help- just ask Mrs Collins or the school office.



Toddler Group
This is open to all families with under-fives and is held on Monday afternoons from 1.00-2.30pm. Toddler Group is term time only. Entry is vis the Bumblebees door.

Westfield Nursery 50th Birthday
This is a very special year for the school as we are marking fifty years of inspired beginnings for the children in our care and fifty years of supporting families and the local community.
We will be completing a programme of events across the year. To kick start the celebrations the mayor is visiting on **Wednesday 23rd September** to plant a tree and place a commemorative plaque. Please save the date Saturday 1st May 10.00-12.00pm for our 'Garden Gala' celebration.

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 06.10.26 once the children have settled. (Not Bumblebees)

MacMillan Coffee Morning

On **Friday 25th September**, we are holding an event to support MacMillan. MacMillan offer support to people with cancer and their carers. **How can you help?** Please donate a cake and come for a drink, cake and chat on the day. It is a great way to meet other parents and carers too. Please stay after dropping off. Our cake event will run from 8.45-9.45am and 12.30-1.30pm. We will be collecting donations.

Harvest

On **Friday 16th October** we will be holding a Harvest Celebration (children only). **How can you help?** From **Monday 2nd October to Thursday 15th October**, you can send in tins/ packets? These will be passed on to the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army use this food to help those most in need, especially families with children in the local area.

Reading Event

We invite you to join us on **Wednesday 21st October** 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 11.30-11.45am or 3.00-3.15pm, 3–4-year-old classes 8.45am-9.15am or 12.30-1.00pm

Family Support Worker

Please look out for the separate poster with the Family Support Worker drops ins- following soon.

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.

Dunstable Childrens Centre

Please see the childrens centre timetable attached to this letter.

Central Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy

Click the link to find out about courses on offer
https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/203/bedfordshire_employment_and_skills_academy

Key Dates this Term

Thursday 3rd September- Returning children start
Monday 8th September- Toddler Group starts (every Monday)
Monday 13th September-New 3–4-year-olds start
Monday 21st September- Bumblebees start
Friday 25th September- MacMillan Coffee Morning/ afternoon parents/ carers only 8.45am + 12.30pm
Tuesday 6th October-Activ8 starts (children only)
Friday 16th October- Harvest celebration (children only)
Friday 21st October- Reading event- parents/ carers invited 8.45-9.15am 3–4-year-olds & 11.30-11.45am or 3.00-3.15pm 2-year-olds
26.10.26-30.10.26 Half term- Nursery closed
Monday 2nd November- Consultations Bumblebees class- details to follow
Tuesday 3rd November- Consultations Butterflies class- details to follow
Wednesday 4th November- Consultations Ladybirds class- details to follow
Thursday 5th November- Consultations Dragonflies class- details to follow
Friday 6th November- Consultations Caterpillars class- details to follow
Wednesday 11th November- Individual photos (children only)- details to follow
Monday 9th November- Nursery Rhyme Day children only)- details to follow
Friday 13th November- Children in Need (children only)- details to follow
Monday 16th November- Friendship Day- (children only) details to follow
Wednesday 18th November- Stay and Play Day (8.45-9.45am- 3–4-year-olds/ 11.15-11.45am and 2.45-3.15pm 2-year-olds- parents/ carers invited- details to follow
Wednesday 18th November- Beep Beep Day (to mark Road safety week) - details to follow
Week beginning Monday 30th November- Christmas '5 & 0' Raffle- details to follow
Week beginning 7th December- Post Box available for Christmas Cards- details to follow
Wednesday 9th December- Christmas Party Day & Christmas jumper/ outfit day (children only) - details to follow
Tuesday 15th December- Christmas Nativity Event 10.00am 3–4-year-olds parents/ carers invited- details to follow
Tuesday 15th December- Christmas Singing Event 11.15am or 3.00pm 2-year-olds parents/ carers invited- details to follow
Thursday 17th December- Last Day of Autumn Term
18.12.26-05.01.27- Nursery closed

2026-2027 School Holiday Dates

26.10.26-30.10.26 Half Term School closed
18.12.26-05.01.27 Christmas Holiday School closed
15.02.27-19.02.27 Half Term School closed
26.03.27-13.04.27 Easter Holiday School closed
03.05.27 Bank Holiday School closed
31.05.27-04.06.27 Half Term School closed
21.07.27 Last day of Summer Term
22.07.27 School closed