



WELCOME BACK!

NATURE HUB TIPI

This week we had a very exciting delivery of our new Tipi, which has been placed in the heart of the Outdoor Learning Hub.

We want to send our appreciation and gratitude to The Friends Team, who managed to secure the funding from Gatwick Airport Community Trust, making this possible.

This has not only enhanced the play and learning environment for our children, but also provides an inviting, peaceful and sheltered space for reading, creativity and storytelling. The children are really looking forward to their next outdoor lesson!



PLANT HUNT

Year 1 went on a plant hunt around the school grounds and discovered wild garlic, daisies, blossom on the trees and lots more!



Attendance Matters

At Wray Common Primary School we expect children to attend school every day, as long as they are fit and healthy enough to do so. Everyday attendance at school and good punctuality are vital for pupils to get the most out of their education. We seek to support children and their parents and carers as best we can to make this a success.

Reporting absences

All absences must be reported on a daily basis by 9.20am. If a child is absent for 5 days or more, we ask that parents provide **medical evidence** for the absence.

If a child is absent from school with no explanation, it will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

If a child is absent without explanation from their parents or carers, for the equivalent of 5 days or more (which do not need to be consecutive) within a 10 week period, parents and carers will be liable to receive a penalty notice.

Requesting a leave of absence

Term dates are published well in advance, allowing parents to plan family holidays outside of term time.

As such, please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013, which became law on 1st September 2013, state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances would only ever be considered on the rarest occasion in which a child's absence from school is wholly unavoidable.

Should parents and carers still choose to take their children out of school without the approval of the school, for 10 sessions (the equivalent of 5 days) or more, which do not need to be consecutive, they will be liable to receive a penalty notice upon their return to school.

Each parent is liable for a penalty notice for each child who is absent from school. If a child has not had a penalty notice in the last 3 years, the amount payable if paid within 21 days, is £80. Thereafter, the amount increases to £160, if paid between 21 and 28 days.

If a child has had a penalty notice in the last 3 years, the amount payable is £160 per parent, per child, if paid within 28 days.

If a penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court.

If a child has had 2 penalty notices in the last 3 years, a 3rd penalty notice would not be issued - The Local Authority would consider prosecution under s444 Education Act 1996.

Thank you for your ongoing support - children's attendance at Wray Common continues to be excellent.

Did you know?

If your child misses 1 day of school every two weeks, this will add up to 20 days each year.

Over children's 13 years at Primary and Secondary School, this would be the same as them missing 1.5 years of school.

Reasons for absence when children are unwell

Children should attend school unless they:

- are not well enough
- have been physically sick and/or had diarrhoea within the previous 48 hours

When children become unwell during the school day

If a child becomes unwell during the school day, they will be supported by school staff. If it is felt that a child is too unwell to continue with their learning, they will wait in the medical area outside the school office while parents or another nominated person, are contacted.

How is attendance monitored?

Every half term, attendance and punctuality are monitored. Schools have a **statutory duty** to report on children's attendance when it has fallen below 95%. This will include writing to parents to make them aware of their child's attendance level and, where appropriate, seeking to work with them to support improved attendance for their child.

Punctuality

Registration is completed promptly at 8.50am. If your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late.

Persistent lateness disrupts children's education and can lead to poor attendance.

Did you know?

Being just 10 minutes late each day is the same as missing 50 minutes a week. That is almost 1.5 weeks in a year. Over a child's 13 years at Primary and Secondary School, this would be the same as missing almost half a year of schooling.

LIVING THINGS AND THEIR HABITATS

As part of Year 4's Impact Day for their new topic, *Living Things and Their Habitats*, the children explored how different animals thrive in a wide range of environments. Working collaboratively in groups, they used a variety of materials to create detailed habitat dioramas, thinking carefully about which plants and animals would be found in each biome.





MATERIALS, MIXTURES AND MAYHEM...

This week, Year 5 kicked off their topic by learning what a mixture was. They made 5 different types of mixtures, and recognised that they can't always tell it is a mixture just from its appearance. They then invented their own potion, and created it using watercolour paints. Then came the mayhem... They listened to a story all about a fairy tale character jumping out of a book and causing havoc in the library. They then had some fun turning themselves into a fairy tale character.



SWIM TO FRANCE

In their swimming lessons this week, the Year 4 and Year 6 children took part in the Wray Common 'Swim to France' 2025/2026. Each child swam as many lengths as they could in their lesson time and the total distance swum was added up to see how far they swam.

Year 6 swam 1,622 lengths and Year 4 swam 1,301 lengths. This equates to 15.3 miles for Year 6 and 12.2 miles for Year 4.

At the end of the year, when all children have completed their swimming lessons, and had a chance to 'swim to France' Miss Alice will tally up the total distance swum to see which class and which house has swum the furthest.



EID

Children who celebrate Eid as part of their religion are warmly invited to come into school on Monday 23rd March wearing their traditional dress if they wish (in lieu of Eid being celebrated on Friday 20th March).



Music this term at Wray Common

Year 5 built good ensemble playing skills in their covers of The Good, The Bad and the Ugly, and the Juba Dance. They should feel proud of developing their ability to follow staff notation.

Also with Year 5, we had a great experience at Young Voices. Photos and video clips have been enjoyed in the school newsletters and music lessons. In Year 2, we've had fun reading rhythms and using rhythm names, with fun competitive games in the music lesson. I was really impressed that this year group was able to sing in a round 'Bells in the Steeple'. I am also proud of seeing the development of their pitch-matching and performance confidence. They have demonstrated this leading a song in Singing Assembly.

In Choir club, we are mainly learning songs for the Primary School Music Festival performance at Dorking Halls.

Our Fun with Music Club is doing well. Shout out to Avnee for her enthusiasm for playing the glockenspiel. She has recently played a solo in our Singing Assembly.

Beats Lab Club is going well. We've been learning a song to accompany the Choir. It's great we have new members this term, which gives us the opportunity to refresh some of the basic reading rhythm skills as well as learn basic beat-boxing.

I will be awarding certain pupils this week, who have gained the highest Star Musician points since September 2025, with a small token to acknowledge their great efforts.

Singing Assembly Song of the Term:

Hey Mr Miller



Mrs Miller



Year 1

Exploring Pitch 1: High and Low We explored high and low sounds through listening games and movement. We used dot notation to visualise the shape of melodies and improved our pitch-matching.

Creating Music 1: Sound Effects and Storytelling We used instruments and vocal sounds to create sound effects for stories. We developed our imagination and composition skills by adding music to pictures and scenes.

Year 2

Singing and Playing Skills 2: Follow the Leader We practised playing instruments and singing together by following a leader. We developed our sense of pulse and rhythm to perform as a united ensemble.

Playing Rhythm and Pitch: Glockenspiel We developed our instrumental skills by playing melodies on the glockenspiel. We read simple notation to play rhythm and pitch accurately in a group



Year 5

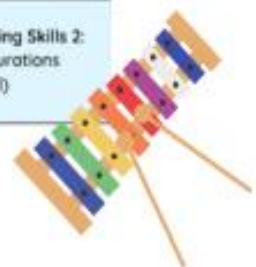
Exploring Classical Music 2: Ensemble performance We explored classical music by performing different parts as an ensemble. We read staff notation to play melodies and accompaniments from famous orchestral works.

Becoming musicians 3: Chords and triads We investigated how harmony works by playing chords and triads. We performed bass lines and improvised with three-note chords to create richer musical textures.

Coming up next half term!



	Weeks 20-24	Weeks 25-29
Year 3	Ensemble Skills 1: Call & Response (Glockenspiel OR Recorder)	Composition Skills 1: Pitch, Rhythm and Structure
Year 4	Reading Notation 2: 2, 3 and 4 Time	Exploring Staff Notation 2: Follow the Score (Glockenspiel)
Year 6	Reading Notation 4: Rhythm Ensemble	Developing Sight Reading Skills 2: Note Names and Durations (Glockenspiel)



ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, GO!...SPORTS DAY 21st MAY

The whole school will come together to enjoy our Annual Sports Day on Thursday 21st May (back up date is Thursday 28th May - weather dependent) and as usual we hope to welcome as many families as possible to come along, cheer on the children, and enjoy this fun-filled event.

Key Stage 1 (Reception, Years 1 and 2)	9:45am - 11:30am
Family Lunch	12pm - 1pm
Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)	1:30pm - 3:15pm

A reminder that children will need their PE shorts and trainers together with a t-shirt representing the colour of their house: Rubies - red, Sapphires - blue, Diamonds - yellow/white and Emeralds - green.

We can't wait to see you there and share a wonderful day of sport and school spirit!



UPCOMING EVENTS

New swimming block starts next week for Years 3 and 5.

Tues - Parent Consultations



Thurs - Parent Consultations

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

Please ensure all children wear appropriate footwear for their PE lessons. We've noticed several children arriving without trainers or wearing hiking boots, which aren't suitable for PE activities. We also kindly ask that pencil cases are checked and topped up regularly, as some children are currently without essential items such as pens, pencils and whiteboard pens, which they need for daily learning. If you have any questions about footwear or equipment, please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you in advance.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS - NEXT WEEK

Please can we remind you that Parent Consultation meetings are happening after school on Tuesday and Thursday. If you have not yet booked your appointment, please book via ARBOR or call the Office as soon as possible.

ALL appointments will take place in the large hall and everyone should enter via the red gate nearest the school building, at the KS1 end of the car park. You will enter the small hall, where books will be available to look at. You will meet your child's teacher in the large hall at your appointment time. After your meeting, you should depart via the main office.

Please can we encourage you to arrive earlier than your appointment so that you can look at your child's books before meeting with the teacher. Every meeting will run at 10 minute intervals and we ask you to make every effort to arrive ready for your appointment time. If you arrive late, your appointment time will be cut short and you will lose some of your 10 minute appointment time. A bell will sound at the end of each 10 minute slot. All appointments are at set times and there will be no adjustments. If your child is in KS2, we encourage them to attend the appointment with you.

NB: If your child attends a club on the same day as parent consultations, please can we ask you to pick them up from the club as normal or arrange for someone else to collect them on your behalf, notifying the Office in advance of the pick-up arrangements. Your child cannot be brought to you or make their own way to meet you at the parents consultations.

HONOUR BOOK

RH	Maya	For always helping to keep the classroom tidy across the day and helping others where needed.
RP	Gigi	For always showing such creativity during Discover and Learn. It is lovely to see you demonstrate so much focus when making your creations!
1LP	Florence	For always being a kind and helpful member of Hedgehog class.
1P	Ellie	For being such a supportive classmate- always noticing and helping others in need.
2T	Callum	For his astounding progress in his times tables recall - a whopping 76% increase!
2F	Georgie	For aspiring to be the best she can be by taking her time to write neatly and on the line.
3EM	Lilly	For persevering with her work on fractions.
3F	Daisy	For being a great learning partner by collaborating well and being supportive.
4B	Rebuen	For demonstrating excellent collaboration skills when working as part of a group to create a habitat diorama.
4S	Faye	For collaborating well to make a micro habitat on impact day.
5A	Billy	For being an excellent collaborator this week. He has supported his learning partner, given clear explanations and made sure everyone felt included when working in a small group.
5J	Florence	For showing courage to perform in the open the book assembly in front of the school.
6C	Louie	For thinking and contributing during our English lessons this week.
6F	Phoebe	For displaying the Wray Common Values all day everyday and being a great role-model to her peers and younger children.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

...ONLINE...

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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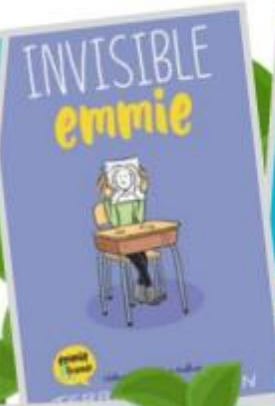
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