

Wray Common Primary School Newsletter



Inspiring Lifelong Learning



THIS WEEK...

WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book Day this week, children brought in their favourite books which they shared with other class mates, as well as spending the day in school dressed in their pyjamas, onesies, and dressing gowns. The morning began with parents and carers joining their children in class for a reading session, followed by a special World Book Day lunch. The day concluded with story time, where a different teacher read to each class.





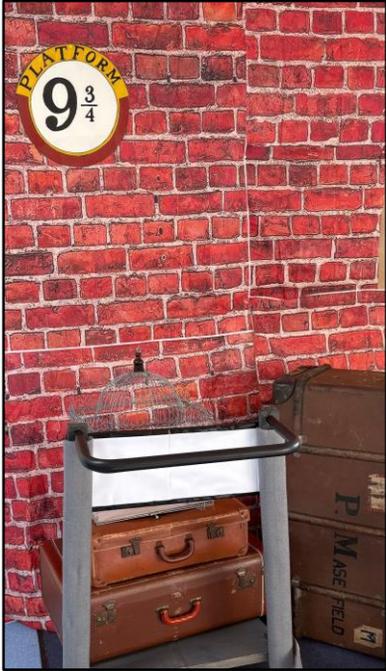
SCIENCE

Year 5 have been making the most of the sunshine and were back outside for their science lesson this week. Their task was to see if they could clean muddy water using the process of filtering. Using a range of materials like rice, pebbles, cotton wool, sand, paper towel and filter paper, the children made their own filters by layering the different materials. We were amazed at how clear the water was after filtering. However, although it looked clear enough to drink we know that bacteria might still be unseen so it wasn't clean enough to drink! We also learned all about sieving and went to The Nature Hub to see if we could separate a mixture of soil, leaves, pebbles, grass and sticks using colanders and sieves. We learned that we need to start with the colander with the bigger holes and then use the sieve.



FRIENDS

Last Friday, Wray Common was transformed into The Wray Common School of Witchcraft & Wizardry by our fabulous Wray Common Friends and volunteers! The evening consisted of an Owl Display from Hawk on the Wild Side, St John Ambulance creating their own St Mungo's Hospital teaching the little wizards and wizards life saving skills, Zaphire Ariel Arts provided everyone with the chance to fly and On the Hoof bar and kitchen serving delicious food! Thank you to everyone who attended and a huge THANK YOU to the Friends of Wray Common and the volunteers who created such a magical evening! We are pleased to advise that the Wizard event raised £730.18. This money will go towards us being able to provide celebration medals for all year groups for the whole school year.



SWIM TO FRANCE

In their swimming lessons this week, the Year 5 and Year 3 children took part in the Wray Common 'Swim to France 2024'. Each child swam as many lengths as they could in their lesson time and the total distance swum was added together.

Year 5

Diamonds swam 6.41km or 3.98 miles
Emeralds swam 4.14km or 2.57 miles
Rubies swam 2.72km or 1.69 miles
Sapphires swam 5.51km or 3.42 miles

Year 3

Diamonds swam 3.34km or 2.07 miles
Emeralds swam 3.78km or 2.34 miles
Rubies swam 4.59km or 2.85 miles
Sapphires swam 4.37km or 2.71 miles

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 to see which house has swum the furthest.

Which house will we be able to swim the 21 miles (34km), which is the distance of swimming the English Channel from the UK to France this year?



CHARITY FUNDRAISING SPRING 2 - WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY - FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 2025

This half term, we are excited to be raising money for PSDS - a charity dedicated to supporting individuals with Down Syndrome & their families. PSDS are a Surrey based charity providing exceptional support and specialist services for children and young people who have Down Syndrome. They believe that by raising awareness about Down Syndrome, they also raise expectations about what children and young people who have Down Syndrome can achieve; No Label, No Limits. Click here for more information about PSDS: [Welcome to PSDS | PSDS](#)



On Friday 21st March, Wray Common is invited to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day! We would like all children to come into school with **colourful and mismatched socks - the brighter and crazier the better!** World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated globally on 21st March each year (21/03), reflecting the third copy of the 21st chromosome. Odd socks are worn because chromosomes are shaped like socks if you look at the chromosomes under a microscope. Wearing mismatched socks on this date to celebrates that every single person with Down Syndrome is unique and wonderful.

It is a charity close to the hearts of Mr Burgess and his family as his daughter, who started school in September, has accessed an amazing range of support from PSDS since she was a few months old. Last year, PSDS moved into their own building in Reigate where they continue to provide outstanding and vital support for people with Down Syndrome and their families - thanks to fundraising and generous donations.

Please bring in 3 coins of your choosing on Friday 21st March to make a donation to PSDS. If you would like to, please design your own pair of odd socks and bring this in to share with your class. We have saved a template on our website for you to download or copy - please click [here](#).

We can't wait to see you Rock Your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day!



ROCK YOUR SOCKS
IT'S WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Last week of swimming for Y3 and Y5
- Thurs - District Cross Country (invited children)
- Fri - Football v Reigate Parish School (girls, at home).



If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can help you source information about support through the right agencies, and make referrals ourselves to local support groups. Here are some of the things we have supported families with recently:

- School uniform, school bags, P.E. trainers and school shoes
- Pre-loved clothes for children
- Foodbank referrals
- Housing applications and letters of support
- Seasonal gifts for children

If you have any questions or would like to talk about how we can help, please contact Miss Kober on 01737 761254 or email familysupport@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk

BROOKLANDS SCHOOL - VACANCIES

Brooklands School are looking for Midday Supervisors and Teaching Assistants to join their team. If you are interested in finding out further information, please visit [Staff Vacancies | Brooklands School](#).

WRAY COMMON SPORTS CLOTHING

We are missing quite a few items of Wray Common kit, in particular football shirts. If you have any at home, please bring these into the school office. Thank you.

TERM DATES 2025/26

Wray Common's final INSET day has been confirmed in February 2026. A copy of the new term dates can be found at the back of the newsletter or by visiting [our website](#).

HEAD LICE

There have been reports of head lice across the school. Please check your child's hair and treat by using either the 'wet combing' method or a suitable lotion. The lifecycle of the head louse is two weeks, so carry out the procedure every 3 days for a fortnight.

Please visit [Head lice and nits - NHS](#) for further guidance and information.

No child at any time is made aware of who does and does not have lice or eggs. Parents/carers of children found to be affected will not be expected to collect their children from school immediately, but may do so if they wish to once a member of staff has contacted them.

HONOUR BOOK

1EL	Lucas	For always aspiring to be the best he can be and persevering this week particularly in writing.
1B	Nicholas	For challenging himself in all his work, including our science learning about plants and trees.
2T	Chester	For showing kindness and respect in the classroom and during playtime.
2P	Oscar	For showing courage when contributing to discussions on the carpet.
3S	Harry	For showing resilience and independence in all aspects of school.
3F	Harvey	For his excellent contributions to class discussions and trying his best in his learning.
4BR	Oliver	For excellent perseverance in writing out his 6 times tables as far up as he can.
4BE	Charlie	For excellent contributions to class discussions this week.
5E	Isla	For her feedback on how her group's filter was designed and her explanation of the process of filtering to clean water.
5J	Joanna	For aspiring to be the best she can be in every lesson this week.
6C	Tommy	For a great attitude to learning during reading lessons this week.
6F	Eva	For great contributions in reading in class and with Mrs Peach.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College®

We are hiring!

Caretaker / Premises Manager

Perm, full time, 30-36 hrs

Closes: 13 March 2025



Deputy Headteacher

Perm, full time or part time

Comencing 1 Sept 25

Closes: 21 March 2025



After School Club Playworker

Perm, part time

Closes: 13 March 2025



KS2 Class Teacher x 2

Perm, full time

Commencing 1 Sept 25

Closes: 10 March 2025



Part time Class Teacher

Perm, 0.6 FTE

Commencing 1 Sept 25

Closes: 24 March 2025



View vacancies at:

greensandacademytrust.co.uk

Internal candidate application form can be found on
Edupay (via Doc store).





School Term and Holiday dates 2025/2026

	SEPTEMBER 2025 Autumn Term 2025	OCTOBER 2025	NOVEMBER 2025	DECEMBER 2025
Monday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Friday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Saturday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Sunday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
	JANUARY 2026 Spring Term 2026	FEBRUARY 2026	MARCH 2026	APRIL 2026 Summer Term 2026
Monday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Saturday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Sunday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
	MAY 2026	JUNE 2026	JULY 2026	AUGUST 2026
Monday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Tuesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Wednesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Thursday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Friday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Saturday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sunday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

BANK & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2025/2026

Christmas Day	- Thursday 25 th December	Easter Monday	- Monday 6 th April
Boxing Day	- Friday 26 th December	May Day Bank Holiday	- Monday 4 th May
New Year's Day	- Thursday 1 st January	Spring Bank Holiday	- Monday 25 th May
Good Friday	- Friday 3 rd April	Summer Bank Holiday	- Monday 31 st August

 Start of Term	 End of Term	 School Holidays
 Greensand Collaboration Day	 Insets	 Public Holidays

INSET DAYS 2025/2026

Monday 1 st September 2025	Monday 3 rd November 2025	Monday 5 th January 2026
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Monday 1 st June 2026	Monday 20 th July 2026



DISCO

WRAY
COMMON
EASTER

£3 PER CHILD - INCLUDES DISCO,
£3 DRINK & BAG OF CRISPS
PAY ON THE DOOR - CASH OR CARD

THURSDAY MARCH 20

KS1 4:45-5:30 & KS2 5:45-6:30

PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO WAIT IN THE SMALL HALL WHERE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



SOMEONE SPECIAL GIFT SALE

Monday 24th-Wednesday 26th March

As we approach the months that Mother's and Father's day are celebrated, we will be organising gift sales to provide children with an opportunity to purchase a gift for a grown up they love. Children can buy a gift for mum, dad, granny, grandad, aunty, uncle or any of the special people in their lives!

£4 per gift

Please bring cash in a sealed envelope with the value inside written on the front.

The gift shop will be open during school hours

