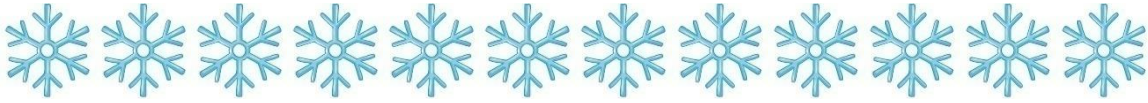




February 2024

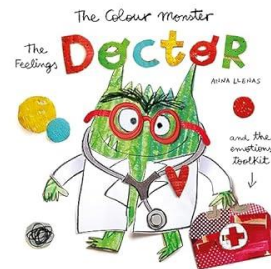


WORLD BOOK DAY

This year's World Book Day theme is 'Read Your Way'. Children are invited to come into school wearing whatever makes them feel comfortable. You could wear your pyjamas, a costume or even your uniform if that is what you feel comfortable in. It really is up to you!

You could also bring in your favourite book to share with your class.

The book that we will be reading across school is *The Feelings Doctor*. This is a story about an emotions doctor who helps diagnose big, challenging feelings. After he recognises and gives a name to what we feel, this kind and gentle monster leads readers down a path of mindfulness, self-healing, and mental well-being.



The children will take part in lots of fun activities relating to emotions and well-being throughout the day, and will have lots of opportunities to read books of their choice. Key Stage 2 children will be visiting children lower down the school to read to them and share books together. We hope to have a lovely day where everyone can show and share what makes them feel good and how we can support others to feel good too!

READING CHALLENGE

We are very happy to have some children nearing the 200 reads target. The PTFA have very kindly donated lots of new books to ensure we are fully stocked for what will hopefully be a busy summer term for our vending machine!!

Reading Rewards

Our school expectation is that children will read at home at least three times a week. This will need to be written in their diary by an adult at home. As an incentive we have reading rewards that children can earn for a given number of readings sessions at home.

The awards are as follows:

Bronze Reader Certificate: 25 Reads

Silver Reader Certificate: 50 Reads

Gold Reader Certificate: 75 Reads

Platinum Reader Certificate: 100 Reads

Diamond Reader: 150 Reads



Star Reader Certificate & Prize: 200 Reads



Outstanding Reader Certificate and Bookmark: 250 reads

PARENTS EVENING

You should have received an email and text message offering appointments at two parents evenings, on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th March. Please contact the school office if you have not received anything.

WATER BOTTLES

We have quite a few children bringing the Air-Up water bottles into school. Please be aware that water bottles are put in communal boxes in the classrooms, which are taken outside to the playground, or into the hall for PE lessons. Water bottles can (and do) go missing - left outside, or accidentally picked up by another child. We would advise against sending these expensive bottles into school, however if the children do bring them into school, please be aware there is a risk of damage or loss.

MR TAYLOR - LONDON MARATHON

Mr Taylor will be running the London Marathon in April to raise money for the Tommy Salisbury Fund at Fight For Sight. This is a charity that raises funds to help find a cure to the condition called Choroideremia, an inherited eye condition that causes progressive loss of vision. It is an important cause to the Westlands family as Mrs Wilkes' son has been diagnosed with the condition.

We will be having a non-uniform day on 22nd March (last day of term) to help raise funds. If anybody wants to donate further, you can do so at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jon-taylor-1692003131760>.

BAG2SCHOOLS

Before half-term, the children should have brought home empty bags to be filled with any old clothes, shoes, bags and soft toys (you can also use bin bags) - Bag2Schools will be collecting from Westlands Primary School on Tuesday 12th March. A member of the PTFA will be collecting bags at the bottom of the drive Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th March 8.25am – 8.45am

TERM DATES FOR 2024-25

Term dates for the next academic year are attached to this newsletter. Please do not book holidays in term time - these cannot be authorised, regardless of the circumstances.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your child is eligible for **income-based** free school meals, then we can also offer help for after-school clubs, school trips and music lessons. Pupils eligible for free school meals also receive free snacks from morning tuck shop in KS2. **Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children can also apply for income-based free school meals, even though children in those years get free school meals anyway.**

It is easy to apply online at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

DATES FOR 2023-24

March

- 4** PTFA Meeting, 6pm
5-6 Parents Evenings
7 World Book Day (come to school in whatever makes you comfortable)
PTFA Bring & Buy Book Sale
11-15 Year 5 at Standon Bowers all week
12 Bags2School Collection for the PTFA
19 Governors meeting (Finance Committee)
22 PTFA Easter Breakfast
Non-Uniform Day (donations for Mr Taylor's London Marathon fundraising)
School closes for Easter holiday

April

- 1** Planned conversion date to join Staffordshire University Academy Trust.
No change to school name or uniform.
8 Children and staff back in school

May

- 13-16** Year 6 SATS exams take place – **please ensure your child is in school this week**
17 PTFA Afternoon tea for International Family Day
21 Full Governors meeting
23 PTFA Disco
27-31 Half Term

June

- 3** INSET day (staff only)
3-14 Year 4 Multiplication Check will take place
10-14 Phonics Screening Check for Year 1
20 Year 3 at Victoria Hall for Entrust WCET (Ukuleles) concert
27 Reception and Y6 Class photos, Y6 individual Leavers photos

July

- 2** Governors meeting (Teaching & Learning Committee)
9-10 Drama Club performance of Dream On (evenings)
19 School closes for Summer holiday
22 INSET day (staff only)

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAY DATES 2024/2025

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK ANY HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Autumn Term 2024

INSET Day	Monday 2nd September 2024
INSET Day	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
School opens for pupils	Wednesday 4 th September 2024
Half Term	Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November 2024
School closes for pupils	Thursday 19 th December 2024
INSET Day	Friday 20 th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

School opens for pupils and staff	Monday 6 th January 2025
Half Term	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February 2025
School closes for pupils and staff	Friday 11 th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

School opens for pupils and staff	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day	Monday 5 th May 2025
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May 2025
INSET Day	Monday 2 nd June 2025
School closes for pupils	Friday 19 th July 2025
INSET Day	Monday 21 st July 2025