

The Patten Pages

The William Patten Newsletter for Parents and Children

Issue 263

Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Easter break. I hope you had a lovely time with your families and were able to enjoy some sunshine!

We had an incredibly busy week before the holidays – every day was jam packed! Reception enjoyed their trip to the Postal Museum, where the children had a fantastic time riding on the Mail Rail train, as well as exploring the many interactive exhibits. They were able to sort letters, post them, placing parcels into bags and drive the mail van! They also enjoyed meeting the Jolly Postman from the much loved children's book by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. It was their first big trip out, and their behaviour was exemplary throughout.

Year 3 took part in interactive World War II workshops. The children very much enjoyed handling artefacts from the time, including ration books and uniforms, and had great fun dressing up in character, which really helped bring their learning to life.

Year 2 had a wonderful time during their Forest Faces workshops, kindly provided by Shai and Andrew, where the children foraged for natural materials before creating their own masks and forest creatures. They particularly loved exploring the outdoor classroom and, of course, using the tools, which was great fun!

We also had both girls' and boys' football matches taking place and as usual the children represented WP incredibly well.

Our Eco Team went litter picking in the local area as part of the Great School Clean for the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. They showed great enthusiasm and teamwork, and did a super job, collecting 10 bags of rubbish. However, it was disappointing to find so much rubbish that could have been recycled!

Year 2 also hosted their "Come Dine With Us" event, which was the biggest one we have had so far this year, with over 70 family members joining us for a delicious lunch. It was wonderful to see so many of you there sharing this special experience with the children. It has certainly been a busy time for Year 2 families, as they also performed their two class assemblies, both of which were superb. 2C held the first WP interactive assembly, parents were even taught how to do the sketching techniques the children have been enjoying in their art topic.

Year 4 visited St Mary's Church to learn more about the story of Easter. They were warmly welcomed by Reverend Charis Enga, who spoke with the children, showed them around, and even allowed them to try on some very special clothing.

This week has been just as busy! Year 5 visited the fire station, Nursery enjoyed their trip to the Hey Ho workshop at King Henry's Walk Garden, and Year 4 have begun their six-week Music Making sessions. We also marked Vaisakhi in assembly, helping children to learn about and celebrate different cultures and traditions.

We are also very much looking forward to the PTFA film night next week, showcasing the current favourite, K-pop Demon Hunters. It promises to be a great family event and provides much-needed financial support for the school. Tickets are available via the PTFA.

A very big thank you to all the parents who supported the many school trips over the last few weeks - your time and help are always greatly appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Karen

The family of Louie and Callum are fundraising for their youngest son Reuben, who was recently diagnosed with Krabbe Disease, a rare and devastating form of Leukodystrophy. It is a progressive, degenerative condition that affects the nervous system, gradually taking away a child's abilities and, heartbreakingly, comes with a limited life expectancy.

The family are raising funds to give Reuben the best quality of life during the time he has.

They would love to build a safe, sensory-friendly soft play area at home - a space where he can play, relax, and feel secure as his needs change and to also ensure Reuben can access any additional support, equipment, therapies and experiences that will bring him comfort and happiness. The link to donate is <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-our-reubear-to-live-life-to-the-fullest-he-can>



Helen (3H's Teacher) will be running the Hackney Half on Sunday May 17th! She is fundraising for MamaSuze, the organisation co-founded by Annabel Rook.

MamaSuze is an arts based organisation run by an all female team, created to build community and inspire women and children, refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. If you would like to donate to the fundraiser please click here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/helenhackneyhalf> and if

you would find out more about MamaSuze and the wonderful work they do please click here:

www.mamasuze.org. All donations will be greatly appreciated by Helen and MamaSuze. Thank you!

Was this the biggest **Come Dine With Us** so far?! I think the answer is yes! Over 70 family members came to the **Year 2 CDWU lunch**. It was lovely to see you all, including grandparents and a baby or two! It is such a special event and one that the children look forward to. Thank you for joining us. A very big thank you to Ali and the team for all of their hard work. Getting all of the extra meals prepared and ready and ensuring the rest of the school gets fed and on time is a mammoth task.







We are proud to have been awarded the **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom's Quality Mark at Gold level**. The school's extensive evidence base was judged by an assessor, who summarised her feedback as follows: 'The school has clearly embedded LOTC across the curriculum; it is an integral part of learning and valued by all staff members, and by the wider community.' Thank you to everyone who is involved in making this area such a strength of the school's practice, including all the parents and carers who volunteer their help during class school trips.



Reading and Stories in EYFS

At WP, we love sharing stories and helping children develop a real enjoyment of reading from the very start. We read to the children every day and use high-quality books to spark their imagination and curiosity. We recognise the importance of nurturing a love of reading and storytelling in EYFS—now more than ever, as data suggests that only around one-third of 8–18-year-olds read for pleasure, and fewer than 20% read daily in their free time. At WP, we are committed to promoting “Reading for Pleasure: Small Habit, Big Impact.”

The children also enjoy special visits from Year 4 and 5 reading buddies, and we’re excited to be bringing back parent reading sessions this term—something the children always love!

Alongside this, we support children to learn to read through our phonics programme (RWI), starting in Nursery and continuing into Reception. Step by step, they grow in confidence as they learn sounds, read words, and begin to read simple stories on their own developing fluency and understanding.

Children take home library books each week and can explore our cosy book corner every day—helping to build a lifelong love of reading.

How you can help at home:

- Read with your child every day, even if it’s just for a few minutes
- Talk about the story and ask simple questions (e.g. “What happened next?”)
- Encourage your child to spot sounds or words they recognise
- Re-read favourite books—this really helps build confidence
- Make reading cosy and enjoyable (bedtime stories are perfect!)

Here are a few photos to show the enjoyment that reading brings to WP EYFS children!





This week, **Nursery** went on their first trip. We went to **Kings Henry's Walk Garden** to be plant detectives. We enjoyed exploring plants by feeling them, looking at them, smelling them and tasting them. We learnt about the different parts of a plant and we investigated plants using magnifying glasses. The children commented "I liked finding the numbers to find the 6 plants," "I enjoyed having my lunch at King Henry's walk garden." "I liked tasting the different plants," and "I liked sitting upstairs on the bus." Well done Nursery, we are super proud of you.



RND Bake Off 2026

School Council had a great time judging the latest WP Bake Off competition. Thank you to everyone who baked and decorated the fabulous cakes which were sold to raise money for Red Nose Day 2026. Congratulations to all our winners.

Winners:

EYFS Winners: Edward Nursery / Cooper Rec S

KS1 Winner: Felix 1A

KS2 Winners: Arden 6S / Alice 3H

Highly Commended:

EYFS - Miriam, Sigrid, Leire, Wilf

KS1 - Marley, Daria, Pippa, Henry, Benjamin, Nora, Paul, Louis

LKS2 - Hunter, Maya, Eva, Teddy, Casper, Aela, Alice

UKS2 - Grace, Lorcan, Nina, Lochie, Leni

A huge thank you to the parent led EDI committee for selling Eid sweet cones and biscuits after school today. £188 raised! Thank you so much! A wonderful way to celebrate Eid with the WP community and of course following on from the fabulous Community Iftar Gathering at the start of the month. The sweet cones looked so attractive and the biscuits were beautifully decorated. Thank you to Ami, Sofia and Yagmur for all their hard work. You are amazing! All the money raised from the sale goes directly to the school to benefit the children. Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.



Year 4 enjoyed visiting [@stmarysn16](#) as part of their RE topic learning about the story of Easter. The children enjoyed trying on some very special clothes, seeing the view from the pulpit, sitting in the pews and looking at different artefacts. A very big thank you to Revd Charis Enga for her time talking to the children and showing them around the church. As always, a very big thank you to the parents who were able to accompany the classes on the trip. Your time and support is very much appreciated.



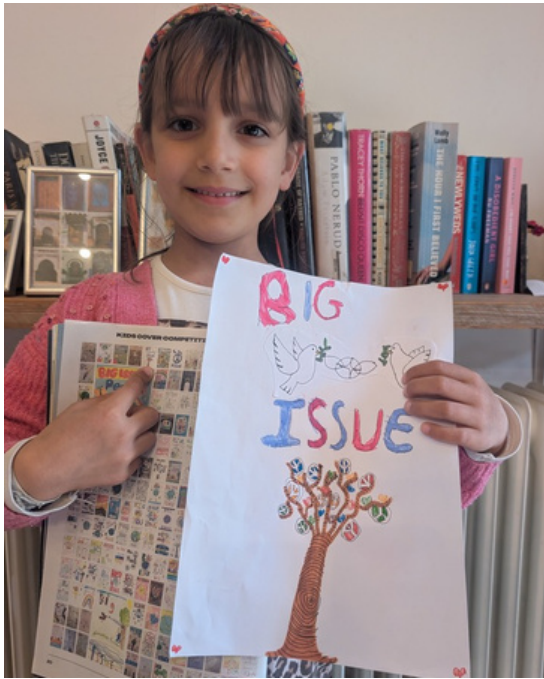
Year 5 had a fantastic day on their recent trip to the **Tower of London** as part of their history learning on the monarchy. The children explored fascinating exhibits, including suits of armour and artefacts belonging to Henry VIII and other monarchs. They also took part in an engaging walking workshop about Henry VIII's wives, which brought this period of history to life and even had time to see the Crown Jewels!



A huge thank you to Shai and Andrew who ran their **Forest Faces workshop** for both Year 2 classes just before Easter. The children had an absolutely brilliant time! It was such a fantastic way for the children to combine creativity, practical skills, hands-on learning, and time outdoors. The groups foraged for their materials in the playground, thoroughly enjoyed using all of the tools and then let their imagination run riot designing their own mask or creature. Such creative designs and an absolutely wonderful afternoon. Thank you so much too all of the parents who were able to assist during the sessions. Your time and support is very much appreciated.



Mahi in Year 2 entered the **Big Issue Spring Kids Cover Competition**. The theme was 'Peace'. Her beautiful design has been featured in a special edition of the Big Issue magazine which will be seen by thousands of readers! Well done Mahi.



Reception had an amazing day travelling across London on their first long trip out of school to the **Postal Museum**. The children were, as always, exemplary throughout. At the museum the children enjoyed the story of The Jolly Postman, travelled on the Mail Rail and enjoyed lots of interactive exhibits. You were all fabulous ambassadors of WP. Thank you. A very big thank you to all the parent helpers who came with us and made the day such a success.



The **Eco Team** took part in a litter pick in the local area as part of the [@keepbritaintidy](https://www.facebook.com/keepbritaintidy) campaign. Equipped with litter pickers and protective gloves, they worked their way around nearby streets, collecting over ten small bags of litter. Some of the items collected were recyclable, including cardboard packaging, drink cans and glass, highlighting the importance of responsible waste disposal. The Eco Team demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility towards their local environment and community. The school is very proud of their efforts and the positive example they have set.

[#GBSchoolClean](https://www.facebook.com/GBSchoolClean)



This week in **Nursery**, we made a **vegan thumb biscuits** with strawberry jam. We carefully followed the recipe and stirred, rubbed, and mixed the flour, icing sugar, dairy free butter, egg yolk, lemon zest and vanilla extract to make a biscuit dough. We then rolled them into small balls and used our thumbs to make a small hole for the strawberry jam. They were an extra snack and were enjoyed by all. Navleen commented that they were "sweet and tasty." Hera said they were "too nice" and Frances said they were "yummy and sweet and very nice." If you would like to make them at home here is the recipe. You can explore different fillings from peanut butter and blueberries to lemon curd. We wonder what you might try?

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/thumbprint-cookies>



Year 4 are taking part in their own **music making project** with Mary from Intergenerational Music Making. The children started their sessions off on Wednesday with drawing to music to help inspire them with their collaborative song writing!



Yesterday **Year 3** had an in-school workshop with Time Travel Education to support their **WWII History topic** and round off their learning. Both classes had three sessions to learn about London during the Second World War including: historical context, preparations made to safeguard the population, the Blitz, rationing and air raid wardens. The sessions were engaging, interesting and the children were able to handle historical artefacts used during WWII such as maps, helmets, uniforms and first aid equipment. What excellent historians there are in Year 3!



World Autism Acceptance Month

This April, William Patten and many other schools, families and communities are celebrating World Autism Acceptance Month.

[World Autism Acceptance Month](#) is all about creating opportunities for everyone to come together and raise awareness, acceptance, and create a society where autistic people are supported and understood. The National Autistic Society has developed the theme of "[It's How You Show Up](#)", raising awareness of the small changes that we can make to show up and support our students, friends, family members and colleagues. Through the above links is information, videos, and more guidance on what we can do to raise awareness and acceptance of autism.

Supporting Autism Acceptance: A Guide for Parents

This April, join us in fostering a more inclusive and accepting society for autistic people. Here are some ways you and your family can get involved.

1

Learn About Autism

Visit autism.org.uk to learn more about autism and how you can support autistic individuals.

Access E-Learning and Resources

Deepen your understanding with our e-learning modules, including:

- Understanding autism
- Women and girls on the autism spectrum
- Supporting young autistic people's mental health
- A guide to the mental health experiences and needs of autistic teenagers.

2

Explore our *Know Yourself* resources designed for teenagers at www.autism.org.uk/Knowyourself. These resources empower young autistic people to better understand themselves and their needs.

3

Talk About Autism

Discuss autism at home with your family and friends. Reflect on how you and your child can help make society more accepting and accessible for autistic people.

Show Up for Autistic People

Every autistic person is unique. Take the time to learn from autistic individuals about what you can do to be a better friend. Here are some ways to show up:

- Give time: Allow autistic friends more time to process information.
- Be clear: Use straightforward and unambiguous language.
- Be inclusive: Think about ways to make activities or events more

comfortable, such as:

- offering a quiet area at class parties
- considering sensory needs when planning group activities.

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic workshop this week with visiting artists Jonathan and Christina. Inspired by the colours of spring, the children designed and created their own vibrant kites. Wonderful work, Year 5!



Headteacher Tea Party Season in full swing now! Year 1 have demonstrated exceptional Biscuit Jenga skills..... I think that they might have been practising! A very big well done to everyone who's achieved the magic five - it's been lovely to see you at the parties!



On Wednesday 22nd April, we will be celebrating **Earth Day** across the school with a range of activities to help children learn about how we can care for our planet.

As part of this, we are inviting children to come to school dressed as an endangered animal. This will support their understanding of why some animals are becoming endangered, such as habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.

During the day, classes will also take part in a hands-on STEM challenge in our outdoor classroom. Children will work together to solve a problem linked to protecting animals and their habitats, encouraging teamwork, creativity, and environmental awareness. We are looking forward to a fun and meaningful day of learning, and we appreciate your support in helping children take part.

Great eye health advice for parents from Ajay, our local optician:

Looking After Your Child's Eye Health

Good eye habits can make a real difference to children's vision and long-term eye health. Here are a few simple tips:

Spend time outdoors

Research suggests that at least 90 minutes a day in natural daylight may help slow the onset and progression of short-sightedness.

Limit screen time for younger children

Higher levels of screen use on phones and tablets have been linked to the development of myopia, as has prolonged close-up work.

Spotting the signs of myopia in children

Look out for these common signs:

- Holding objects very close to the face
- Sitting too close to screens
- Difficulty noticing things in the distance
- Squinting or closing one eye to see more clearly
- Frequent eye rubbing or excessive blinking
- Watery eyes

Regular eye examinations are recommended for all children, especially if any of these signs are present. Eye tests for children under 16 are funded by the NHS.



Attendance chart for w/e 27th March

Year group	Attendance
Year2	98.3%
Year3	98.2%
Year6	97.8%
Year5	96.3%
Year1	96.0%
Reception	94.8%
Year4	93.1%
Nursery	92.9%
	Average 96.2%

Attendance chart for w/e 17th April

Year group	Attendance
Year5	98.0%
Year2	97.1%
Year6	97.0%
Year3	96.4%
Year1	96.4%
Year4	96.2%
Reception	95.0%
Nursery	86.3%
	Average 96.2%

Congratulations to the latest children to receive an EYFS Super Achievers award or a HT award certificate. Well done everyone!

Friday 27th March

Nurs	Annabelle
RM	Miriam
RS	Oscar
1A	Zayn, Wynn, Toprak, Azad, Matteo
1M	Alaia, Leo, Sterling, Emil, Tibet
2C	Maleek, Elias, Isla, Hirokaï, Agnes
2YN	Kimya, Lua, Ren, Navraj, Ruojie
3B	Malachi, Sophia, Noah, Yusuf, Teddy
3H	Hana, Taedon, Zakia, Buray, Arlo
4A	Hector, Sebastian, Deniz, Nahom, Tommaso
4B	Aylin, Sophia, Ronnie, Thiago, Maya
5CG	Aroz, Jae, Eddy, Max, Khush
5CP	Bobby, Audrey, Poppy, Kimora, Suki
6H	Selah, Matiu, Lea, Tobi, Ronan
6S	Patrick, Amaiyah, Arden, Gene, Phoebe

Friday 17th April

Nurs	Amelia
RM	Bee
RS	Eva
1A	Adam, Daniel, Theo, Jagraj, Rex
1M	Cody, Jack, Gracie, Daria, Noah
2C	Maleek, Nora, Weston, Jessa
2YN	Adam, Corinne, Ben, Ivy, Finn
3B	Zoe, Finlay, Ramazan, Victoria, Arthur
3H	Anita, Joey, Nova, Gurleen, Mabel Blue
4A	Ezgi, Ali, Leul, Antonia, Joseph
4B	Coco, Hunter, Casper, Noah, Hulya
5CG	Aroz, Isabelle, Ayan, Sebastian, Ciro-Mael
5CP	Zaina, Nisa, Clara, Kimora, Elise
6H	Ada, Tommy, Arabella, Areal, Galla
6S	Eli, Ava, Fatima, Klara, Phoebe



Many happy returns to the children who celebrated their special day since the last Patten Pages: Navleen, Oscar, Kaouther, Ekin, Lina, Louie, Nelson, Violeta, Teddy, Ela, Phoebe, Dalia, Henry, Zaynab, Soan, Hulya, Zaina, Aya, Nyren, Dolly, Daria, Arlo, Sebastian, Annabelle, Mayus, Hirokaï, Bart, Eugene and Ollie. Happy birthday everyone!