



Newsletter

Duckling Class. Class Teacher: Mrs Barcroft

Welcome to Westfield and to Duckling Class! We are delighted that you have chosen to become a part of our school community by joining our Nursery. Our aim is to cater for the needs of all pupils and to ensure that they have an engaging, welcoming and positive learning experience, prior to starting school.

This term, our learning will be based around people who help us. We will be reading five key texts ('Favourite Five'), centred around us as individuals and how we live, as well as learning about our families and friends. We will then plan a range of interactive learning activities, based around these texts.

Spare Clothes

Please ensure that your child brings a spare set of uniform into school each day. In addition, please make sure that individual items are labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

(P.E. kits are not required in nursery).

'Wellie Wednesdays' - outdoor learning

On Wednesdays, we will be venturing outside and exploring our beautiful surroundings in Forest School, that we are very fortunate to have here at Westfield.

Each Wednesday, please ensure that your child comes into school with appropriate clothing for this (e.g. trousers, long sleeved top and a coat that you don't mind getting a bit grubby!). Layering of clothes, in addition to hats and gloves are required for the colder months.

Children should wear their usual school shoes on arrival to school, but please remember to bring a pair of wellies (clearly named) so that we can all make the most of our outdoor learning together!

Snack money

Each day, children have a mid-morning snack, for which we ask for a 20p donation, daily, please. Thank you.

(Home/School Communication) Class Dojo

I have sent out invitations to join 'Class Dojo' to all parents. Many thanks to all who have accepted and joined. The app is free to download onto your phones and other devices such as iPads/tablets. 'Class Dojo' is used throughout the school and proves to be a highly efficient and informative communication method between our pupils and their families and school. This is an excellent home / school communication tool that is used throughout the school. This enables us to share photos and videos to celebrate our learning as a group and to share whole school messages from Mrs Thompson. It is also useful to teaching staff and parents/carers for sending quick messages and reminders to one another about each individual child. Please be assured that I will endeavour to reply to your messages and queries as soon as possible.

Tapestry

Invitations will be imminently sent out to join this online learning journal. It is a platform where we will add photos and notes on your child's individual achievements, progress and next steps. We welcome parents uploading photos and messages to update us on your child's learning and adventures outside of the school environment. We'd love to see what you've been up to!

Reading and language

In Duckling Class, we feel it is really important that there is a wide range of books available to the children. Looking at and discussing the pictures is a way in which the children are able to verbalise their interpretations of the story, which also builds on their language and communication skills. Therefore, we encourage parents to allow children the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the pictures. By reading to children, we are modelling the reading process to them, which will support their early reading skills, in preparation for reception. We will be following the Letters & Sounds phonics programme, focusing upon Phase 1, which involves listening in a wider environment and discriminating between sounds. You can read more about this, by accessing the following link: [Phase 1 introduction – Letters and Sounds \(letters-and-sounds.com\)](https://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

Celebration Assemblies

Every Friday we hold a whole school celebration assembly, where individual pupils' efforts are recognised and rewarded. Although nursery children will not be attending assemblies with the rest of the school, in Duckling Class, we will still select a 'Pupil of the Week' whereby they will receive a certificate, along with reasons why they, specifically, have been selected. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share and celebrate members of Duckling Class' achievement and progress with the school community.