

Diary Dates

Week commencing 6 December

Reception groups visits to town centre

Wednesday 8 December

Choir visit to Staveley Court

Friday 10 December

Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Dinner Day

Year 5 visit to Cougar Park

Monday 13 December

KS2 Carol concert performance 1 (11.15am)

Nativity Performance 1 (2pm)

Tuesday 14 December

Nativity Performance 2 (9.15am)

KS2 Carol concert performance 2 (2pm)

Wednesday 15 December

Nativity Performance 3 (9.15am)

KS2 Carol concert performance 3 (2pm)

Thursday 16 December

Whole School Christingle Service at St John's Church

Friday 17 December

School closes for Christmas holidays

Tuesday 4 January

School re-opens after Christmas holidays



Christmas Performances

We are delighted that the Trust have given schools the green light for Christmas performances this year. Thank you for your patience whilst details were finalised and a robust risk assessment was completed.

The dates and times of the Early Years and Key Stage 1 nativity and also the Key Stage 2 carol singalong are shown on the left.

Audience tickets are limited to two per family for one performance only. However, if you have children in **both** Early Years/KS1 and KS2, you may book 2 tickets for both performances. Please note that babies and toddlers are included in ticket numbers; we cannot accommodate more people than are allocated tickets.

Please contact the school office on 01535 604240 between 8.30am and 3pm between Tuesday 7th and Friday 10th December to book tickets—specifying the date and time of your preferred performance. Tickets will then be sent home with your child.

Face coverings are to be worn by all adults (unless exempt) whilst in the school building and lateral flow testing is encouraged.

In these times I'm sure it goes without saying that, should government guidance change, we would revert to a recorded performance.

Christingle Service

On Thursday 16 December, all pupils will walk to St John's Church to take part in our annual Christingle Service. Christingles will be made in school the previous day.



Headteacher's Message



I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who attended parents evening on 17 November. We were so pleased to have been able to welcome you into your child's classroom and talk about how well your children are progressing, alongside any next steps. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive and I would like to share some of your fantastic comments below:

- My child is loving Year 2. He is growing in confidence and always comes home with a tale to tell us. He adores his teachers. Thank you for all your support.*
- Really happy with everything my child is doing at school. I feel he has lots of help and support.*
- I'm so impressed with my child's progress. She loves coming to school and always wants to do extra work at home. Her reading has come on tons!*
- My child's teachers are amazing with both my daughter and family. My child has made me unbelievably proud during her time at WVPS.*
- My child is always happy and positive at school, this reflects a happy school environment.*
- My child has thrived in Year 2 so far and has excelled in Spanish and absolutely loves to be challenged with Maths sums.*
- We're impressed with our child's improvement in reading and writing over the last couple of months.*
- I'm so happy – he does so much – the teachers are amazing, you are doing a fantastic job!*
- We've noticed a real difference in our child's reading – she comes to school happy and we're really pleased.*
- My child's reading continues to impress me and also his crafting and building ideas.*
- Super proud to hear all the lovely comments but I am wowed at how his enthusiasm in English has shot right up. It was the only subject he wasn't as keen on and now he is loving it!*
- I think my child is doing really well – I'm pleased with how well she's progressed. Brilliant all round.*
- Impressed with my child's reading and learning. He is really kind and helpful. He's loving Year 5.*
- I'm very proud of how well my child has settled and of her massive improvements with her reading. It's so lovely to see her being nurtured, it's exactly what I was hoping for.*
- I am very impressed with how my child is getting on at school and also the interest he has about the Great Fire of London.*
- Blown away at how well my child is doing in class – a dark horse! I'm so proud my child has had a positive year and (in his words, I'm doing alright!). Very proud parents indeed. Thank you Mrs Whittam!*
- I'm so pleased my child has had a positive year and it's all due to the hard work of his wonderful teachers and teaching assistants. Well done to all of you and thank you for all the support you give to me also.*



Attendance for the last four weeks is as follows:

w/c 8 November 2021		w/c 15 November 2021		w/c 22 November 2021	
Reception	95%	Reception	91.9%	Reception	86.8%
Year 1	97.9%	Year 1	92.3%	Year 1	94.3%
Year 2	95.2%	Year 2	92.6%	Year 2	93.6%
Year 3	93.6%	Year 3	94.9%	Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	94.7%	Year 4	97%	Year 4	88.9%
Year 5	97.2%	Year 5	94.7%	Year 5	90.6%
Year 6	96.7%	Year 6	95.3%	Year 6	94.7%

w/c 29 November 2021	
Reception	69.1%
Year 1	80.6%
Year 2	88.9%
Year 3	82.7%
Year 4	88.9%
Year 5	85.3%
Year 6	78%

When should my child return to school? NHS

Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		

Staffing Update

Huge congratulations to Miss Metcalf, who recently gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Erin!

We also extend a very warm welcome to three new members of staff:

Miss Malik is a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and will be supporting pupils across the school

Mrs Choudhry is our new teaching assistant. She is based in the Butterfly Room and will provide support for pupils who access our Resourced Provision.



Lunchtime Monitors

Well done to all the children in Year 5 and Year 6 who applied for a role as lunchtime monitor. The team are already proving to be committed, reliable and extremely helpful, providing invaluable support to younger pupils during lunchtimes.

The successful applicants were: Oscar, Malackie, Tommy, Jaxson, Lillie and Oliver G in Year 6 and Ella, Corey, Emily, Evie, Riley-Jack and Rosemarie in Year 5. Here are some of the Year 6 team about to start their shift!



School-Led Tuition

As part of the National Tutoring Programme, school have received a ring-fenced grant to provide intensive and individualised academic support to pupils in one-to-one or small group arrangements. The sessions are led by existing school staff; including teachers, higher level teaching assistants and the senior leadership team, all of whom are familiar to our pupils. Biscuits and juice or hot chocolate are provided to help keep energy levels up!

Tutoring is known to have a hugely positive impact on pupils' academic progress and sessions are closely tailored to children's specific needs.

A number of pupils in Year 6 and Year 2 have been offered after-school tuition. The feedback we are receiving so far is extremely positive and we are already beginning to see the impact in the classroom. Sessions will run until Christmas in the first instance and will be reviewed in the New Year.

Winnie the Therapy Dog

Here at Worth Valley Primary, we have always been clear that the emotional health of our pupils and staff is a priority. The majority of pupils have met Winnie over the last couple of weeks and I think it's fair to say she's already a much-loved member of the team!

Therapy dogs have been active in schools for some time and the benefits of having therapy dogs in school include:

- **Physical benefits.** Interaction with therapy dogs has been shown to reduce blood pressure, provide physical stimulation and assist with pain management.
- **Social benefits.** A visiting therapy dog promotes greater self-esteem and focused interaction with other students and teachers.
- **Cognitive benefits.** It has been empirically proven that therapy dogs stimulate memory and problem-solving skills.
- **Emotional and mental health benefits.** A therapy dog can lift moods in the classroom, often provoking laughter. The therapy dog is also there to offer friendship and a shoulder to lean on for pupils.

