



West Thurrock Academy

Newsletter No 4 - 28th September 2023

Holiday Dates -

October Half Term - Monday 23rd October 2023 - Friday 3rd November 2023

Christmas Holidays - Monday 18th December 2023 - Friday 5th January 2024

February Half Term - Monday 12th February 2024 - Friday 16th February 2024

Easter Holidays - Friday 29th March 2024 - Friday 12th April 2024

May Half-Term - Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024

INSET Day - Friday 21st June 2024 and Monday 24th June 2024

Last Day of Summer Term - Friday 19th July 2024 - 2pm Finish

Dates for your Diary -

Wednesday 4th October 2023 - Year 5 Trip - Vincent Van Gogh Exhibit

Thursday 5th October 2023 - Teddy Bear's Picnic (Nursery)

Friday 6th October 2023 - World Smile Day

Tuesday 10th October 2023 - Flu immunisations (Reception - Yr 6)

Tuesday 17th October 2023 - Mobile Planetarium Experience (Year 5)

Friday 20th October 2023 - Black History Month Museum Exhibition

Monday 6th November 2023 - Friday 10th November 2023 - Poppy Sale

Wednesday 8th November 2023 - School Photos - Individuals

Friday 10th November 2023 - Whole School Remembrance Service

Monday 13th November 2023 - Odd Socks Day

Friday 17th November 2023 - Children in Need

Thursday 30th November 2023 - Panto

Friday 1st December 2023 - Ice Skating Experience

This week's attendance levels -

Bobcat - 93%

Ocelot - 97.7% (KS1 Weekly Winner)

Lynx - 97.2%

Marozi - 95.3%

Jaguar - 91.3%

Leopard - 96.7%

Puma - 96.5%

Panther - 96.8%

Cougar - 96.3%

Tigon - 98.7% (KS2 Weekly Winner)

Lion - 93.3%

Liger - 90.7%

LUNCH MENU – WEEK BEGINNING 2nd OCTOBER 2023

Monday	Tuna Pasta Bake	Tomato & Vegetable Pasta Bake	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Fruit Cocktail
Tuesday	Chicken Curry with Rice, Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Quorn Vegetable Curry with Rice, Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Lemon Drizzle Cake
Wednesday	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Cauliflower	Roast Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes, Carrots & Fresh Greens	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Ice Cream Roll
Thursday Census Day Lunch	Pepperoni Pizza with Crispers Potatoes	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Crispers Potatoes	BBQ Chicken Pizza with Crispers Potatoes or Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Waffles, Cream and Chocolate Sauce
Friday	Beef Burgers with Chips, Mixed Veg & Baked Beans	Veggie Burger, Chips, Mixed Veg & Baked Beans	Jacket Potato with a choice of filling	Frozen Yoghurt

News ...

Census Day - This coming Thursday is Census Day. This is one of the occasions during the academic year when the number of pupils having a school lunch is recorded and reported. The number reported determines the school's funding for the following year. We would ask that all parents encourage their children to choose to have a school dinner, rather than bringing in a packed lunch from home. To incentivise the children we have decided to provide them with a special menu for this lunch - this pizza-themed menu can be found on the front page of the newsletter. As a further incentive, every child in each class who orders a lunch next Thursday will be entered into a raffle to win an Amazon Fire Tablet. If the school is able to add just a few more children to the Key Stage 1 numbers next Thursday, the school could gain thousands of pounds in additional funding for 2024 - 2025, which I could use to improve the school in a range of ways. I would like to thank parents in advance for their support with this matter.

World Smile Day - On Friday 6th October 2023, the school will be celebrating World Smile Day. It is easy to listen all the negative things that take place locally and nationally and let them get you down; however, we are determined to make next Friday a day of joy and smiles! The children are invited to attend school wearing something that makes them smile. The teachers will be planning some activities with the hope that they make the children smile too. To start the day off in the right way, we will be playing upbeat music as the children enter the school via the main school gate. We look forward to seeing lots of smiles next week!

Curriculum Meetings - During the past two weeks, teachers from all year groups have held Curriculum Meetings. The meetings have allowed the teachers to provide all the information linked to their year group's curriculum, homework and expectations. I have also attended these meetings to discuss a range of matters linked to the school including our new behaviour approach, rewards, Seesaw and communication. Today, I have sent all parents a PDF copy of the slides from the meetings. These will also be placed on the school website. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was able to attend the meetings; the staff and I hope you found them informative. If anyone would like to discuss the curriculum or any other aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

European Day of Languages - On Tuesday, we celebrated European Day of Languages in school. The children were invited to attend school in non-school uniform linked to their given country. During the day, the children had the chance to learn about a European country. It was fantastic to see a wide variety of activities being undertaken across the school from food tasting to singing in a different language. Each year group has created a short video about the day which will be shared with other classes in the coming weeks.

Homework - Additional homework packs have been handed out today. We hope the children enjoy using the books whilst at home. If you have yet to order homework, it is not too late. The Google Form will close on Wednesday next week. If you would like to order up to three additional work books to use at home, please use the link below by next Wednesday:

[Additional Homework Request Form 23-24 \(google.com\)](#)

Seesaw- As outlined in previous messages and letters, we are intending for all classes to use the Seesaw app with the children this year. Seesaw is a secure online learning journal where children can document and reflect on what they are learning in class. In addition to the children being able to share their work with parents, the app also allows for the class teacher and parent to communicate via the message section of the app. It is our hope that this feature will enable further improved communication between school and home. To enable the school to begin creating an account for your child, we require your consent. To provide your consent, please complete the form using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_3IOxv5GMsdpLQBURPlvI7qRXWYHTQwlarn15khG_7tSGA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

It is our hope that we will be able to begin sharing your child's education journey (using Seesaw) after the October half term; however, this will depend on how quickly we receive consent.