



WESTON NEWS

2024-25 ISSUE 1: 30 AUGUST 2024

Website: weston.cheshire.sch.uk

Facebook: [westonvillageprimary](https://www.facebook.com/westonvillageprimary)

Twitter: [@WestonVillagePS](https://twitter.com/WestonVillagePS)

Dates for your diary (new dates in red):

Monday 2 September - Teddy Bear's Picnic for new starters

Tuesday 3 September - First day of school for all children

Thursday 12 September - Individual and siblings school photographs

W/b 16 September – Meet the Teacher (info to follow)

Tuesday 1 October - Harvest activities (EY and KS1)

Friday 4 October - Harvest assembly

Thursday 10 October - Scholastic Book Fair here for 1 week

Monday 14 and Wednesday 16 October - Parent and Carer consultation evenings

Tuesday 15 October - Flu vaccination nasal spray (whole school)

Thursday 24 October - Eagles class assembly (arrive 9.50am for a 10am start)

Friday 25 October - INSET Day (school closed for all children)

Monday 4 November - School reopens

Friday 15 November - Children In Need

Tuesday 19 November - Year 4 Bikeability

Thursday 21 November - Owls class assembly (arrive 9.50am for a 10am start)

Monday 2 December - Eagles class to Crucial Crewe (am); KS2 to New Vic Theatre (pm)

Monday 9 December - Sparrows class nativity (pm and evening)

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 December - Year 5 Bikeability

Wednesday 11 December - EY and KS1 theatre trip (pm)

Thursday 12 December - Magpies class assembly (arrive 9.50am for a 10am start); Robins and Puffins performance (pm and evening)

Tuesday 17 December - Christmas crafts (EY and KS1)

Wednesday 18 December - Choir to perform at Shavington Christmas concert (evening)

Friday 20 December - Weston's Got Talent; Break up for Christmas

A message from Mr Cutts

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and had the chance to relax and spend quality time with your loved ones. As we approach the new academic year, I want to extend a warm welcome to all our returning families and a special welcome to those joining us for the first time. We are excited to kick off another fantastic year at Weston Village Primary School, and I have some important updates and reminders to share with you.

School Spider and The Hive

Parents are connected to School Spider by signing into the app using the email address that we have on file. This is because School Spider is connected to our Management Information System (MIS) and automatically synchs every day. However, I have been advised that our MIS is having issues that can't be resolved until they apply an update at the start of next week. This only affects some parents of new starters. Parents of new starters with siblings already at the school should find that they are connected, but those without older siblings won't be until the issue is resolved.



Hive sessions will shortly be available to book for next week via the School Spider app. Parents of new starters without access to School Spider who require Hive before or after school sessions next week, should send an email to thehive@weston.cheshire.sch.uk Once the issue is resolved, all parents should be able to book Hive sessions beyond next week via the School Spider app. Although this is a matter out of our control, I apologise for any inconvenience it may have caused.

Change to the Start of the School Day

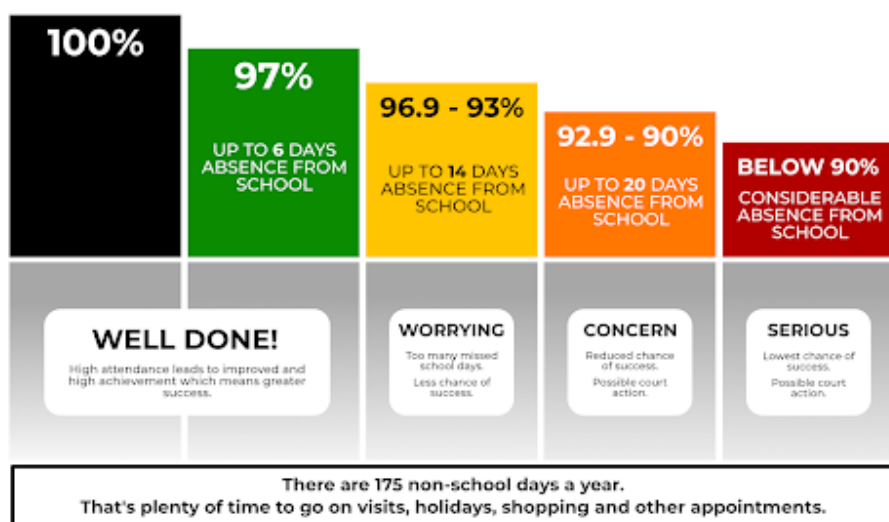
Starting from **3 September 2024**, the new timings for all children will be from **8.45am to 3.15pm**. School will continue to open its doors from **8.30am**, but all children are expected to be in their classrooms by **8.45am** to avoid a late mark. This aligns with the new DfE stipulation regarding the required number of school hours per week. For those parents who need an earlier drop-off, The Hive will continue to be available from **7.30am**.



Attendance

The importance of regular attendance cannot be overstated. We aim for every child's attendance to be at least **97%**. Good attendance is crucial for academic success and personal development. We will be closely monitoring attendance and punctuality, and will work with you to address any concerns. Remember, every day counts!

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Term Time Holiday Fines

Please be aware that term-time holidays can significantly disrupt your child's education. As per the updated DfE guidelines, headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Fines may be issued for unauthorised absences, and we urge you to plan holidays during school breaks.

According to the new guidance, parents may be fined **£80** if paid within 21 days, increasing to **£160** if paid within 28 days. If a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160. Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Failure to pay the fine may result in prosecution, and you could be fined up to **£2,500** in court.

Uniform Policy

We expect all pupils to adhere to our school uniform policy. Key points to remember:

- Pupils are permitted to wear watches and small stud earrings, which must be removed for PE lessons.
- No unnatural hair colours or extreme hairstyles, including designs or lines shaved into hair.
- No nail polish.
- Ensure all uniform items are clearly named to help reunite lost property with its owner.



After-School Sports Clubs

As advised before the summer, there will be a change regarding our after-school sports clubs. Parents will now need to pay per half term as the school can no longer cover the cost. The clubs are reasonably priced to ensure accessibility for all children. [The sessions are priced at £5 per week and this half term's can be booked here.](#) Information following a cricket club (initially for Y4, 5 and 6) and staff-led extra-curricular clubs will follow.

Cashless School

Weston is now a cashless school. All payments will be made online using **ParentPay** and **School Spider**. ParentPay will handle most school payments, including lunches, trips, and activities, while School Spider will be used for payments related to The Hive. This move provides convenience, enhanced security, and greater transparency in tracking payments.

Try Something New

Monday

Yr 1/2

09.09.24 - 21.10.24

3:15 - 4:15

£35 (7 weeks)

Team Try Something New

Tuesday

Yr 3/4

03.09.24 - 22.10.24

3:15 - 4:15

£40 (8 weeks)

Tag Rugby

Wednesday

Yr 5/6

04.09.24 - 23.10.24

3:15 - 4:15

£40 (8 weeks)

Click **HERE** to book HT1

✉ info@sportscoachinggroup.co.uk

☎ 01270 449770

🌐 sportscoachinggroup.co.uk

Class Dojo

We will continue to use Class Dojo for communication between parents and teachers. It's a great platform to stay updated on your child's progress and school activities. Staff will post an update ahead of the new term including highlighting PE days.

Although staff regularly check messages and are quick to respond, if you message a member of staff, we will endeavour to reply within 2 working days. Please don't expect a response outside of school hours. If you have something urgent to communicate, please telephone the school. Absences must still be reported to the school office by phone or School Spider.



School Meals Price Increase

The cost of school dinners has increased to **£2.60 per day**. We encourage you to check your eligibility for free school meals by visiting the Cheshire East website. This could provide significant support for your family.

No Dogs on School Grounds

For the safety and comfort of all our pupils, please remember that dogs are not allowed on school grounds. This standard policy helps ensure a safe environment for everyone.



Nut-Free School

For the safety of children with severe allergies, Weston is a nut-free school. Parents must be vigilant about packing lunches. Common offenders include Kinder Bueno and other chocolate/hazelnut-based items. We regularly check lunches and remove items deemed to be a risk.

Medication

Please ensure all medications are handed to the office with the appropriate documentation. It is your responsibility to ensure that inhalers and epipens are up-to-date.

Volunteering Opportunities

We welcome parent involvement! If you are interested in volunteering at school or joining the Friends of Weston, please contact the school office for more information.

Staffing Changes

We are delighted to welcome Miss Roux, our new teaching assistant, who brings a wealth of experience and will be an excellent fit for our nurturing and skilled TA team. We also say goodbye to Mrs. Mitchell, who leaves Weston after more than 15 years. She will be missed, and we are actively recruiting a replacement.



Reception 2025 / Year 7 2025

The application window will soon open for both primary and secondary places for September 2025. I have already shown several prospective Reception 2025 parents around the school and look forward to sharing our school with others throughout the autumn term. Some admissions advice: if you have a child already at a school, you still need to complete an application within the window; don't just put one choice – carefully consider which schools you would be happy for your child to go to in the event that they aren't offered their first choice. The deadlines are October 31 2024 for Year 7 applications and 15 January 2025 for Reception applications. There is no advantage in applying early but you must apply within this window. Please ask if you have any queries. If you don't live in Cheshire East, you will need to apply through your local authority, even if it's for a Cheshire East school.



Secrets of Success

We continue to underpin our school ethos with the Secrets of Success. Through this approach, we really single out the characteristics of successful people and actively promote and reward those qualities. The Secrets of Success are 8 qualities which we believe are essential to ensuring success at school and beyond. These are:

Try new things



Work hard



Concentrate



Push yourself



Imagine



Improve



Understand others



Don't give up



What is success?

Success isn't just about money.
It is about happiness, choices and
feeling good about yourself.
Successful people feel good about:

- how hard they have tried
- who they are
- what they spend their time doing
- the choices they have made in their lives.

Mobile Phones

The children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. There may be occasional exceptions to this such as if a child has come to school from one parent's house and is going home to another parent's house. If this is absolutely necessary, please agree it with the class teacher in advance and they will keep the phone, which should be fully switched off, in a locked cupboard during the day.

Bringing Items into School

For health and safety and behaviour reasons, please note that there is a blanket ban on children bringing any items into school other than those necessary for their learning or additional support, or requested by their teacher, unless pre-agreed with their teacher via Class Dojo. This includes jewellery, as prohibited by our policy, with the exception of watches or small stud earrings. This applies to all children in all circumstances, including medals and trophies for sharing in Celebration assembly. To be clear, the children are encouraged to do this, but only once you have let their teacher know.

We will also reserve the right, as set out in our behaviour policy, to search children's bags if we suspect that they may have prohibited items.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We are looking forward to another year filled with learning, growth, and success for all our children. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thomas Cutts