



Children's Mental Health Week: This week was Children's Mental Health Week and was all about encouraging children, young people and adults to celebrate their uniqueness. It's all about 'Being Ourselves'! When we have a positive view of ourselves it can help us to cope with life's challenges, and recognising the different qualities of others can allow us to connect with those around us—which is vital for our own and others' wellbeing.



<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Here are some simple ways your child can understand the importance of 'Being Ourselves'.

1. Point out your child's positive qualities and help them to notice what makes them unique.
2. Have a chat about their strengths, qualities and interests within your family.
3. Celebrate your efforts/ achievements with your children and help them to recognise their own.

At West Park we are able to provide a range of support to parents and children (such as Family Learning, 1:1 counselling support for your child, emotional literacy support through our ELSA team, signposting to support networks such as bereavement counselling, Cruise, St Teresa's, Harbour, school nurse and health practitioners, Early Help support offering therapeutic support). For further information, advice and support please see/contact a member of our pastoral team, Mrs Dummett/Mrs Graham/Mrs Nelson.

Book Fair: The book fair will be in school starting Monday 26th February until Friday 2nd March 2018, 8:30am - 8:45am and 3:30pm - 4:00pm. Book vouchers will be handed out before the book fair begins. These can be used to deduct £1 off the purchase price of a book.



Tony Wilson Storyteller will be reading stories to our children in West Park Academy library on Wednesday 28th February 2018.

World Book Day is Thursday 1st March 2018, children and staff are invited to dress as their favourite book character. Each class will be spending time in our revamped library where they can enjoy reading books. There will be a competition to **create a name** for West Park Academy library, (details to follow).

Forthcoming Events:		
Fri 9th Feb	3:30 PM	School Closes - Half term
Mon 19th Feb	All Day	School Closed - Training Day
Tues 20th Feb	8:45 AM	School re-opens
Mon 26th Feb - Fri 2nd Mar	8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Book Fair - School Hall
Mon 26th Feb Thurs 1st Mar	3:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Book Fair - School Hall
Thurs 1st Mar	All Day	World Book Day - Dress in favourite book character
Mon 12th Mar	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Nursery (AM&PM) & Reception Classes Educational Visit - Hall Hill Farm
Mon 12th Mar	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Yr 6 Educational Visit - Safety Carousel
Thurs 15th Mar	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Yr 1 Educational Visit—Hall Hill Farm (details to follow)
Mon 26th Mar	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Yr 5 Greek Workshop in School (details to follow)
Tues 27th Mar	All Day	Tempest Group Photographs
Wed 28th Mar	All Day	Charity Run Day—Info to follow
Wed 28th Mar	3:30 PM	Easter Fair—information to follow
Thurs 29th Mar	3:30 PM	School closes for Easter Holidays
Mon 16th Apr	8:45 AM	School re-opens

Charity Run: West Park Academy are planning an action packed day on **Wednesday 28th March 2018!** All children will be participating in a whole school Charity Run (details to follow) where we hope to raise funds towards an MRI scanner for the children's ward at Darlington Memorial Hospital.



Along side this will be our Easter Celebration where the children will have the chance to enter our Easter Egg sport themed competition. At the end of the school day at 3:30pm, parents, family and friends are invited onto the school playground where our Easter Fair will take place. There will be various stalls from each year group to enjoy. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us. Hope to see you all there!!



Election for Parent Trustee: Further to our recent parent trustee election we are pleased to announce that Heather Hebden has been duly elected to our Board of Trustees. Thank you to all the nominees for their interest in the Trust, and to everyone for voting.



Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club runs each morning starting at 8:15am, £1.25 per session, now payable via ParentPay. Your child can enjoy toast, cereals, fruit and a drink. No need to book just come along to the main entrance.



Flutterbies New Community Toddler Group: We have a toddler group in our Community Room every Friday 9:30am—11:00am. Crafts, play, stories, songs and refreshments - £1.50 per family. All welcome to come along.

School Meals: If you would like to make a change to your child's current meal pattern: ie changing from Packed Lunch to School Meal or vice versa then please inform the school office, giving two weeks notice.

Nut Allergy: Just to make you aware that we do have children with nut allergies in school. Please be mindful when sending food into school, this includes products such as Chocolate nut spread etc..

Healthy Eating: At West Park Academy we encourage healthy eating and want lunchtime to provide a nourishing break within school, therefore can we remind parents that sweets and chocolate bars are not allowed in children's packed lunch.



After School Clubs: Due to safeguarding please inform the school office if your child no longer wishes to attend an after school club. This will also allow the place to be given to another child if needed. If your child's PE kit has been taken home after a club please ensure it is back in school the following day.

PE Kits: Please ensure your child has their indoor and outdoor PE Kit in school each Monday for the whole week. PE days can change, therefore your child should always have a PE kit in school.



Safer Internet Day 2018 was celebrated globally on Tuesday 6th February 2018 with the slogan 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: a better internet starts with you.'



The day offered the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and explored the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. It called upon young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, Policymakers and wider, to join together in helping to create a better internet. Visit the safer internet website <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk> to play your part! You can find more information about Keeping Safe online by visiting our website under safeguarding and keeping safe online.

Dogs: Please ensure all dogs are tied up at a clear distance from the school entrance - not all children are confident or happy around dogs. There is a helpful video to watch 'Be Dog Smart' https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DdXCAEX_Nf0



Lost Property: We are trying to reduce the amount of lost clothing in school, please help us by **clearly labelling** all clothing. Children are responsible for their coats etc. When an item of clothing has been found it will go into one of the lost property boxes (large red boxes) which are situated outside the school's main entrance. All unclaimed items will be disposed of at the end of the **first week** upon classes return, following a school holiday. Name Labels can be purchased from Elizabeth's Embroidery.



Reminder: Registers close at **9:00am**. Arrivals after this time will without reason affect attendance.

Contact Details: If you have moved address, had a change of telephone number or need to update emergency contact details we ask that you inform the school office immediately. This is to enable the school to contact you in an emergency should one occur.



You can also look on the school website: www.westparkacademy.org.uk and click on 'School Life' for events throughout the school year as well as individual class newsletters, and after school club calendar. Our website is regularly updated, why not have a look. We are also on 'Facebook and Twitter.'