



WESTON NEWS

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Dates for your diary

September

- Tue 1 – INSET
- Tue 1 – Reception Teddy Bear's Picnic
- Wed 2 – School reopens for all pupils
- Thu 10 – Individual and sibling photographs
- Mon 14–Fri 18 – Meet the Teacher sessions, 3.30–4pm
- Wed 16 – National Fitness Day
- Fri 25 – European Day of Languages

October

- Thu 1 – Black History Month launch
- Fri 2 – Harvest assembly
- Thu 8–Wed 14 – Scholastic Book Fair
- Fri 9 – World Mental Health Day
- Tue 13 – Parent consultation evening
- Thu 15 – Parent consultation evening
- Fri 16 – Show Racism the Red Card & Wear Red Day
- Thu 22 – Eagles (Year 6) class assembly, 10am
- Thu 22 – FOWS Halloween disco (*provisional*)
- Fri 23 – School closes for half term

A message from Mr Cutts

I will begin with a small confession of my own: it has been far too long since the last full newsletter. In my defence, June and July at Weston are less “gentle run-in to the summer” and more “school calendar fired from a cannon”. So this edition is a bumper round-up of the last few weeks, with music, sport, trips, transition, leavers’ events, OPAL play, performances and quite a few moments that would be difficult to explain to someone who does not work in a primary school.

What has stood out most has been the confidence and character of the children. We have seen them sing on stage, compete brilliantly, march like Romans, perform to families, welcome visitors, cope with change and throw themselves into play with the sort of creativity that turns a cable reel into almost anything except, apparently, a cable reel. Some of these moments have been big and obvious; others have been quieter, but just as important.

Thank you, as always, for your support. You have cheered from the side-lines, joined in races, helped with costumes, donated to school, turned up for events, read messages, encouraged tired children and somehow kept going through that special end-of-year period when every bag contains a water bottle, a permission slip, a costume, a snack, a random stick and

possibly one school shoe. It all makes a difference and we are very grateful.

Sports Day: Blue-tiful scenes on the field!

Sports Day was a brilliant afternoon of sunshine, smiles and some very enthusiastic running, jumping and cheering. After years of Yellow and Red dominance, Blue Team staged a dramatic comeback to take the trophy, finally breaking the Yellow and Red team stranglehold. Congratulations to Blue Team — a victory that will no doubt be talked about for at least the next twelve months!



There is still hope for Green Team, who continue their now 13-year hunt for silverware. Could next year finally be their year? Stranger things have happened... although perhaps not many.

The children were fantastic throughout the day, giving everything a go and supporting each other brilliantly. The parents' races were also a real highlight, with some impressive speed, determination and very competitive facial expressions on display. Thank you to everyone who joined in so willingly and made it such good fun.

A special mention must also go to the staff inflatable race, which may live long in Weston history. There was a wonderful range of costumes, a great deal of wobbling, and some questionable racing technique. The lion roared to victory, while the sloth, perhaps staying very much in character, brought up the rear.

A huge thank you to Friends of Weston for supporting the event, to all the parents and carers who came along, cheered, raced and donated, and to everyone who helped make the afternoon such a success. It was a proper Weston Sports Day: lively, joyful, slightly chaotic and full of community spirit.



Year 6: Celebrating the end of a primary journey

Our Year 6 pupils have had a busy and memorable final few weeks at Weston. Alongside their secondary transition visits and workshops, they enjoyed their leavers' party, performed for families at their celebration evening, and shared their performance with the whole school. These events gave us the chance to look back on their time at primary school and recognise the children they have become.



Their leavers' performance was full of laughs, memories and a surprising number of confessions. As the children recounted moments from their time at Weston, it became clear that quite a lot has been going on over the years. I am only slightly surprised that, when they stood up one at a time towards the end to say what they wanted to be when they were older, nobody declared an ambition to become a master criminal.

A special mention must also go to the adverts the children recorded as part of the performance. I was particularly thrilled to see the Pepto-Bismol advert make an appearance. "If you have nausea, heartburn, indigestion, upset stomach, diarrhoea..." is, without question, one of my top three advert songs to sing around the house. It clearly deserved its place in a primary school leavers' performance!

There were plenty of funny moments, a few emotional ones and lots of pride. Year 6 have contributed so much to school life and we hope they leave Weston knowing that they belong here, that they are valued, and that they are ready for the next step. We will miss them, but we are excited to see what they go on to do next.

Music, performance and creative confidence

June brought a wonderful burst of music across school. Year 2 and Year 6 took part in music workshops, Year 5 enjoyed a music transition workshop with Shavington Academy, and World Music Day gave every class the chance to perform a song. They did so brilliantly, with plenty of confidence, enthusiasm and the sort of impressive volume that suggests our children are not short of stage presence.

Our choir also performed at Crewe Lyceum alongside other schools, which was a very special experience. Weston certainly played its part, with plenty of solo moments to be proud of. Standing up and singing in a venue like that takes courage and the children did themselves and the school proud. Sadly, the planned Summer Sing at Springfield School was cancelled because of the extreme heat, which was a shame, but probably wise unless we wanted the choir to perform a medley of songs about slowly melting!



Trips, visits and learning beyond the classroom

We have had some fantastic visits this half term. Sparrows visited Reaseheath Mini Zoo, which is always the sort of trip that sends children back to school with a lot to say and, usually, at least one new favourite animal. Magpies visited the World Museum in Liverpool, and Blackbirds travelled to the Roman Deva Centre in Chester, where they marched around the city chanting "sin, dex, sin". How's your

Latin? Mine is apparently good enough to know when a group of children are taking Roman marching very seriously.

Trips like these bring learning to life in a way that is hard to recreate in the classroom. Whether children are spotting animals, exploring museum exhibits or marching through Chester as part of a Roman unit, they come back with stories, questions and little moments that tend to stick. There has also been plenty of outdoor learning across school, including sessions for Sparrows, Puffins, Owls and Robins, adding even more opportunities for curiosity, confidence and fresh air.

Sporting success and team spirit

Alongside Sports Day, our pupils also took part in Town Sports across two very competitive evenings of field and track events. Town Sports brings together primary schools from across Crewe and Nantwich, so it is never exactly a gentle warm-up on the village green. The standard is high and Weston did brilliantly, with children placing 1st, 2nd or 3rd in lots of events across both nights.

A special mention must go to our Year 5 team, who came first overall thanks to a string of victories on the track. They were clearly well-prepared, but what pleased us most was the way all of the children approached the event - gracious in victory, gracious in defeat, supportive of their team-mates and extremely well behaved. In short, they ran fast, jumped well and remembered their manners - a pretty strong Weston hat-trick!



OPAL Stay and Play: parents joining the fun

Our OPAL parent Stay and Play sessions have been a real pleasure this term, with parents and carers from all classes coming in to see playtimes and lunchtimes in action. It has been lovely to watch families see first-hand just how transformative OPAL has been. The creativity, negotiation, problem-solving, imagination and occasional serious engineering project are now a normal part of the children's outdoor play.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and entered into the spirit of it. OPAL has changed the feel of playtimes and lunchtimes at Weston and not in a small way. There is more purpose, more choice, more collaboration and, yes, occasionally more mud. We are looking forward

to the next phase as we continue our OPAL journey and keep developing play that helps children feel happy, confident, independent and very much part of Weston.

Assemblies, workshops and special visitors

There have been plenty of other Weston moments worth mentioning too. Sparrows shared their learning in a class assembly, which is always a lovely mix of proud faces, careful remembering and the occasional child who suddenly discovers the ceiling is fascinating. Year 5 took part in a Fire Escape to Safety session and children across the lower school have enjoyed Mystery Reader visits from family members and other visitors. There is something brilliant about watching children try to work out who is coming through the door next.

Year 6 also worked with Shavington Academy through SPARK and oracy workshops, while Year 5 enjoyed Shavington transition workshops in music and history. These sessions help the children build confidence and get a taste of what comes next, without anyone needing to look too grown up too quickly. Thank you to our local secondary schools for supporting the children so well as they take these next steps.



Transition, new starters and looking ahead

Transition has been a major theme of the last few weeks. Our Year 6 pupils have visited or worked with local secondary schools including Shavington, Brine Leas, Alsager, Sandbach Boys and Sandbach Girls. We also held our whole-school transition day, giving children time with their new class teams and helping them begin to look ahead to September. As ever, there was that familiar mixture of excitement, curiosity and children suddenly looking about three years older the moment they sat in a different classroom.

For Magpies, we have also been putting careful plans in place for September. Miss Porteous will be joining us to teach the class while we continue to work through the longer-term arrangements. She has already been into school to meet the children, receive a handover from Mrs Buckley and spend time with members of the staff team. She brings strong Key Stage 2 experience and a calm, caring approach, with an ethos that fits well with Weston: good relationships, high expectations and helping children to thrive. In other words, exactly the sort of things we value, rather than someone arriving with a whistle, a clipboard and a plan to rename the tables by military rank.

We have also welcomed our new Reception families through parents' evening and Stay and Play events. Starting school is a big step, and these early opportunities help children and families begin to feel part of Weston. Looking further ahead, families with children due to start Reception in September 2027 can now book a tour of the school using the pop-up link that appears when visiting the school website. We are really looking forward to welcoming our newest pupils properly in September, and to meeting the next group of families beginning to think about life at Weston too.

And finally...

As we reach the end of term, I want to say a simple thank you to our whole school community. Schools do not run on timetables, spreadsheets and labelled trays alone, useful though those things are. They run on

people giving their time, patience, energy and good humour, often when everyone is very ready for a sit down and a biscuit.

Thank you to our staff, governors, families, volunteers and Friends of Weston for everything you have done to support the children this year. Thank you too to the children, who make this school the lively, funny, kind and occasionally baffling place that it is. We will share any final updates separately, but for now I hope everyone enjoys a well-earned summer break when it arrives.

Tom Cutts