



Welburn Hall Weekly

Friday 28 March 2025



Hello and welcome to our weekly Newsletter.....

School dinner arrears

We are £128.00 in arrears for school meals. Can parents please clear any dept. School lunches must be paid in advance. Automatic top-up, for as little as £5, can be set up on Parent Pay.

Thank you for your understanding

Spring Term Food Tech Contributions

Payments can now be made towards Spring Term Food Tech.


So, if you are able to contribute, please do so via [ParentPay](#). Thank you



Parent Pay activation letters have now been sent home in book bags.

If you haven't already done so, can we please request that you log in and activate your account. Even if your child has free school meals we still need parents to have their own Parent Pay account.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Lunch Wk 3	Main option 1	Vegetarian option 2	Options 3 or 4	Pudding
Mon	Beef burger 	Lentil & veg burger VG 	Chicken pie Or Ham sandwich	Summer berry & lemon muffin V 
Tues	BBQ pulled pork noodles 	Quorn dippers V 	Pasta carbonara Or Tuna sandwich	Double mousse pot V 
Weds	Roast chicken & Yorkshire pudding 	Roast veg loaf & Yorkshire pudding V 	Option 3 Tuna jacket potato	Chocolate surprise cake V 
Thurs	Creamy mac & cheese V 	Veg korma & rice VG 	Lemon & herb chicken flat bread Or Tuna sandwich	Summer crumble pot V 
Fri	Fish fingers 	Pizza pinwheel V 	Fish star Or Cheese sandwich V	Biscuit swirl VG 

We are a nut aware school

V - Vegetarian VG - Vegan. Jan 2025



RESPECT



PERSEVERANCE



EXCELLENCE

Heads-up!



Dear Parents and Carers,

One more week to go this term. We are looking forward to seeing all the FEAST children on the 7th and 14th of April!

I wanted to remind parents that we are aiming to achieve the Healthy Schools Silver Award under the 'Food in Schools' theme. As ever, can I encourage all parents/carers to ensure that the packed lunches are as healthy as possible? Some examples of healthy options are:

- Raw or cooked veg and fruits
- Lean meats/vegetable alternatives
- Low fat, low sugar dairy (or vegan alternatives)
- Plain water to drink
- Wholemeal bread

Fresh food is preferable to processed or packaged items.

Unhealthy options, that we would prefer to be kept to a minimum are things like sausage rolls, crisps, chocolate, sugary drinks.

We understand how difficult it is sometimes to get the children to eat anything, let alone anything healthier, but we can all work together to raise awareness!

Marianne

Wednesday 2 April is World Autism Awareness Day

and Welburn Hall will be celebrating with a collapsed curriculum day.

This means there are lots of 'colourful' activities planned throughout the day.



Colourful Day

Welburn Hall learners are invited to wear lots of colour on this day – this can be colourful clothes, make-up, face paint, hair colour etc.

Picture This

We also want parents to please send in a picture of their child/young person doing something that they love or particularly excel at.



Learners will be asked to frame their picture and add a quote about themselves to it.

Please send the pic in to your child's class teacher by Tuesday 1 April at the very latest.

Thank you for your help with this.

Colour Tapestry

Our whole school project is to create a giant, colour tapestry. Each learner will have their own square to decorate and they will be sewn together (which might take a week or two to finish).

If you don't want your child to have face paint at school, then please let your class teacher know.

For more information about how you could celebrate World Autism Awareness Day, please visit the National Autism Society website [World Autism Acceptance Month 2025](https://www.nas.org.uk/)



RESPECT



PERSEVERANCE

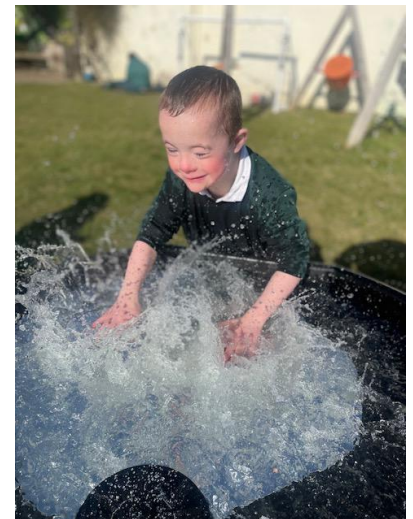


EXCELLENCE



Mr Western's class made use of the beautiful weather and explored our West Lawn.

The class took part in a scavenger hunt seeking out different parts of nature and found some lovely signs of spring.



As you may have guessed, this happiness inducing water play was last week, in the fabulous spring weather.

Can we have the sun back please?



Our recent Science Day was a huge hit!

Learners had the incredible opportunity to get up close with a fascinating range of animals, including snakes, tarantulas, chinchillas and more! The hands-on experience sparked curiosity and excitement, as brave volunteers even got to hold some of these amazing creatures.

Learners also took part in our 'camouflage moth' competition and all had a chance to vote for a species the school will adopt through the WWF. Prizes for the competition and the results of the vote will be announced in Friday's assembly.

The day was filled with wonder, learning, and plenty of "wow" moments, as everyone discovered new facts about the animal kingdom.

A huge thank you to our special guests and staff for making it such a memorable experience.

We can't wait for the next one!



RESPECT



PERSEVERANCE



EXCELLENCE



Mr Kaufman's class having fun in their out and about session at the local park.





North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NYSCP) aims to ensure all children in North Yorkshire are safe, happy, healthy and achieving.



If you are worried about a child – this is the duty number: 0300 131 2 131 Or see their website here:

<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/about-us/worried-about-a-child/>

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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