



Ward End Primary School Newsletter

May 2026

This week Year 6 are taking SATs tests. They have all worked very hard in the run up, supported by their teachers and TA's. We wish them all the best of luck- and I know they will be proud of their achievements. Following SAT's tests in Reading, Maths, Spelling and Grammar, the pupils then have until the end of June for teacher assessments on their Writing, and Science progress. We will let you know the results for the cohort at the end of term (July.)

During this term year 4 pupils take a multiplication test. Pupils have to answer quickly, 25 times tables questions- first answer only- so it's rapid recall with no room for error! All year4 pupils in the UK take the same test. This is to prepare for maths in Upper Key Stage 2.

Our Year One pupils will be tested on Phonics- although to them it will feel like a normal lesson. The phonics check in June aims to ensure all children can blend sounds, and have learned digraphs and tri -graphs to be able to build any words. You can find more information in the Phonics section of the website (Little Wandle)

The on site swimming pool continues to be a success. Years 1- 4 have already had weekly lessons, Year 5 and 6 start in June. The Year 2 &3 pupils who swam last year got off to a great start, they were straight in without hesitation and enjoying their lessons with Jacky- swim coach, from the outset. It's lovely to see the pupils learning and having a fun time!

Attendance remains a priority at Ward End. Attendance letters are circulated this week for pupils whose attendance is below 95% Please encourage children to be in school everyday- Good Attendance Matters! The attendance rewards this term (for Spring 2) featured Teddy Bears picnics and Sports Days. Well done!

There are certificates for the Most Improved attendance too! When parents look on BromCom you will see your child's attendance from September to date. This can be slightly different to the half termly figure on which the attendance awards are based. Pupils need to be in school 95%+ each half term to be part of the award ceremony. This is to establish Good Attendance as the norm for everyone, and an important life skill. *School Value: Resilience.*

This academic year we continue our focus on Oracy throughout the curriculum. Please ask your children to try out the different types of talk at home. This could be videoed and loaded to class dojo to share in school. Children *should still read every night* for at least 20 minutes, record it in Reading record book and bring both books to school every day. Thank you.

Parking

Our whole school community are very concerned about the parking issues outside school.

Children, parents, neighbours and Governors have all raised concerns about dangerous parking and dangerous driving.

Please do not park in front of shops, blocking entrances and exits.

Please do not mount the pavement with your car as families are walking to school with children

Please do not park on zigzags or stop in the road to let children out of a car. Also keep the school car park gates clear at the end of the day. They are our emergency exit.

We need to keep everyone safe.

Please leave early- park away from school and walk in.

This is for EVERYONE'S safety.

Our UNICEF Ambassadors are working on a Walk to School incentive scheme, details below.

Walk To School initiative 2026

From January 2026 the children at Ward End school will have an amazing opportunity to log daily journeys to school on the Walk to School Tracker. The WOW Travel Tracker also confirms which pupils have walked enough to earn a badge each month. Here are some useful links for parents to access and support the WOW Travel Tracker (part of the Living Streets "Walk to School" challenge) WOW Travel Tracker— Features, benefits, how it works, including parent involvement:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/wow-travel-tracker/> **WOW – the Walk to School challenge — Explains how children self-report journeys, earn monthly badges, and decrease car usage:**

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/>¹ **WOW Launch — Supporting Materials — Includes videos, FAQs, guides, and resources to explain WOW to parents and run the programme:**

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/wowlaunch>²

Ward End welcomes visitors from Brussel's schools

last week 12 Headteachers from Brussels visited Ward End Primary with a partnership arrangement with BCC.

Staff and pupils showed the visitors around our lovely school, both in lessons and seeing the site, allotment, pool and forest area in use by pupils. The visiting Headteachers were very impressed, particularly by our pupils learning behaviour, and use of Oracy within lessons. I was really proud showing our visitors around- it was a joy to show case Ward End's teaching and learning.

School Value: Respect

School Uniform

Jumpers, book bags and cardigans are available to purchase from the school office using Parent Pay, please email enquiries@wardend.org.uk³ to order.

We have a selection of sizes so if you are unsure- please ask at the office to have a look at the ones we have in stock.

PE Kit - please ensure your child comes into school with the correct PE kit. Black shorts or leggings, white T shirt, black pumps or trainers (no logos)

If a PE kit is missing, one will be provided from school which then needs to be washed and returned to school.

Headscarves must be fastened and fitted please for Health and Safety. Pupils will be provided with a fitted head scarf going forward if a fitted one is not worn.

¹<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/>

²<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/wowlaunch>

³<mailto:enquiries@wardend.org.uk>

Black school shoes- not trainers please, not boots. No Ugg style boots or shoes please - they are a safety hazard in school. Sandals in summer to be black with covered toes please.

What's happening in school?

Check out the range of great activities we have planned.

4th June x tables test year 4

5th June Transition workshop Y6.1 Compass Mental Health

8th June Stratford visit 6.1 & 6.3

9th June Stratford visit 6.2 & 6.4 Islamic Exhibition 4.1 & 4.3

10th June Islamic Exhibition 4.2 & 4.4 Squirrels & Hedgehogs Ash End Farm

11th June Girls of Brum PE trip Rabbits & Hedgehogs Ash End Farm

12th June Transition workshop Y6.2 Compass Mental Health

15th June Weston Super-mare 2.1 & 2.2

16th June Y5/6 instrumentalists Symphony Hall visit

18th June Think Tank 1.2 & 1.4

19th June Transition workshop Y6.3 Compass Mental Health 4.3 Class assembly for parents

22nd June Weston Super-mare 2.3 & 2.4 Owls Robins visit Birmingham Nature centre

23rd June Sparrows visit Birmingham Nature Centre

25th June Think tank 1.1 & 1.3 New Reception Induction meetings

26th June Violin concert 9am Transition workshop Y6.4 Compass Mental Health

SUMMER FAIR 1.45pm- 3.15pm

29th June Cannock Chase 5.1 & 5.4

30th June Cannock Chase 5.2 & 5.3

1st July Secondary School Transition day. Moving up day in school.

3rd July 9am Guitar performance

6th July End of year trip Y6

REPORTS SENT TO PARENTS

8th July End of year trip Y6

AFTER SCHOOL PARENTS DROP IN meet new teacher.

17th July SCHOOL CLOSED 3pm

Our School Day - a reminder

The school day is still the same as last year. Here is a reminder:

8.30 am - School Gates open to welcome pupils

8.40 am - Registration in class

8.45 am - School Gates are closed, teaching begins - anyone arriving after this time will be allocated a LATE mark

Friday school day - Morning times are the same but school will finish at 3.00 pm

NURSERY TIMES:

Monday to Thursday

Nur AM - 8.30 am - 11.30 am

Nur PM - 12.20 pm - 3.20 pm

Fridays

Nur AM - 8.30 am - 11.30 am

Nur PM - 12.20 am - 3.20 pm - Nursery pupils can be collected from 3.00 pm onwards

We encourage you to make ALL routine appointments (medical/dental etc) out of school hours. This causes less disruption to your child's school day.

PLEASE REMEMBER SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.00 PM ON FRIDAY - EVERY FRIDAY! There are no after-school facilities for children who are collected late - please be punctual at the end of the day.

As a parent if you are running late at the end of the day please make alternative arrangements for collection of your children ie a family member, neighbour etc.

Gates close at 3.45pm - keeps our site safe and secure- to keep everyone safe, please ask pupils to leave promptly without stopping to play on climbing equipment at home time - thank you.

School Photograph Day



School Photograph Day is on Monday 18 May 2026 - these are class photos and also Year 6 Graduation photos. Come to school wearing your biggest smile! Busy day ahead!

Dates for School year 2025-2026

Half term Monday 25th May- Friday 29th May 2026

Closes Friday 17th July 2026 3pm

We open on Thursday 3rd September 2026

Leave in Term Time

The LA does not permit leave to be taken during term time and for this academic year the rules have changed. Letters have been sent out to parents regarding this. If you are thinking of taking time off the school needs to be informed. **Please collect a Pupil Leave of Absence Request form from the Office, complete and return it for the attention of the Pastoral Managers who will then have a chat with you. Please bear in mind the LA will issue a penalty notice for any time taken off during term time and your child also misses out on vital education. Please refer to letters on our website for the change in penalty notices and rules.**

Please DO NOT take your children out of school during term-time without following the above protocol.

Useful Information



Coffee Morning is held every Wednesday from 9-10 am - come and join us for a cuppa, biscuit and a natter about all things that matter!

The Pastoral Team Drop-in Service is provided after the Coffee Morning every Wednesday from 10-12 noon - please speak with the Pastoral Team for a time-slot.

You and Me Workshops are underway for Rabbits - these are bonding workshops and well attended by parents. We are offering these workshops to all Reception classes - just wait your turn please!

Lots of useful Safeguarding Information for parents here: *London Grid Parent Safe website.*

Home⁴

<https://www.rlss.org.uk/safety-on-holiday>

Guidance on how to keep you and your loved ones safe during the holiday season.

Councillor Harris Khaliq - The newly-elected Councillor for Ward End will be our guest at the next Coffee Morning on

Wednesday 20 May 2026 from 9.00 am - 10.00 am. Please pop in to meet him, share a cuppa with him and to make him aware of issues around the locality. See you then!

Our Annual Summer Fair is scheduled for **Friday 26 June 2026 in the afternoon.** Flyer to be sent out via Dojo very soon. We have stalls for hire if you are interested - please contact the Pastoral Team for further details and a booking form.



⁴<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/#h.7pzzapffhj9g>

It is almost time to hit the beach! We are planning a trip to sunny **Barry Island on Saturday 04 July 2026** - information will be sent via Dojo very soon - please look out for this and book at your earliest opportunity.



Parenting Course at the Dolphin Centre



5 Pillars of Parenting

 **Starting Thursday 21st May**

 **10:00am – 12:00 noon**

 **Dolphin Centre,
Washwood Heath Road,
B8 2HB**

**Scan the QR Code
to Register**



FREE Parenting Programme Covering Pregnancy to 3 years

This is an 8-week programme for expectant mothers and parents of children under three years, providing a safe yet interactive space for parents to learn practical skills about their child's development and connect with other parents.

- Explore ways to create a loving bond with your baby
- Gain insight into your child's early growth and development
- Learn techniques to nurture attachment and support early brain development
- Understanding emotional and psychological aspects of becoming a parent



For more info:

 **0121 773 8643**

 **info@approachableparenting.org.uk**

Mental Health course by local residents

Brain Smart® Educational Programme



This mental health education program has been co developed with the local community in East Birmingham and it is delivered to community groups by local residents, who have been trained as Mental Health Ambassadors.

Through our training, you will learn about tools you can use to take control of your brain and increase your wellbeing, because sometimes our brains mislead us into feeling that we are somehow broken.

What you will learn:

- How to be Brain Smart®
- Simple strategies to improve wellbeing and emotional resilience
- How to support yourself and others in your community

Our promise:

- We will provide a safe space for you to connect with other people from your community
- We will provide the opportunity to receive training and become a community Mental Health Ambassador
- Open to all adults 18+



NEXT TRAINING SESSION: FRIDAY 22ND MAY 9:30 – 12:30

DOLPHIN WOMEN'S CENTRE, WARD END PARK, WASHWOOD HEATH ROAD,
BIRMINGHAM, B8 2HB

PLEASE CALL ON 0121 326 8343 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Contact Details

Have you changed your mobile number or email address? Please update your details via the School Office. It is imperative that we have correct contact details on our systems for safeguarding issues.

Communication from school is also via email and now Dojo. If you have not signed up for Dojo - please do so by scanning the QR code which is located on the inside of your child's reading record. Any issues? Please contact the Front Office for support.

Mrs R Chahal - Headteacher

Ward End Primary School

T: (0121) 4645424

E: enquiry@wardend.org.uk