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WESTFIELD WEEKLY NEWS

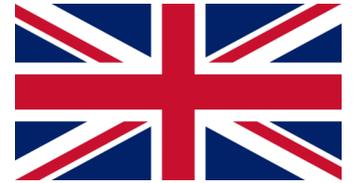
Spring Term: Issue 7

17th February 2023

Half term reflections

Coming back to school on 3rd January was a real shock to the system, and I am sure everyone is ready for a well-deserved week off school.

Living in the UK, it is very easy to focus on the 'January-ness' of the new year, with its dark mornings and evenings, post-Christmas blues, and cold, damp weather. There is no doubt that there have been easier times in our country, with many people striking for better pay and working conditions, due to increasing fuel and food costs. However, I would like to round off this half term with a positive reminder of how it can feel to be British.



Seven years ago I was contacted by someone who lived overseas, and was seeking opportunities to work in the UK to be with her partner. Whilst a qualified teacher elsewhere, it was necessary for her to prove her skills, and commence re-training to convert her qualification to the requirements of a UK equivalent. This person is now our Squirrel class teacher, Sarah. She desired to remain in the UK, and commenced the long and complicated process of applying for British citizenship. Sarah was interviewed by Will, one of our sixth form students, to find out more about why becoming a British citizen was so important to her. Their discussion is summarised overleaf.



Sometimes we forget to be thankful for what we have, and that we are fortunate in so many ways to live where we do, despite some inconvenience.



Welcome to UK citizenship Sarah; we are proud to have you!

(PTO for Will's interview)

Dr Goodwin's Clinics

Our school paediatrician, Dr Goodwin, will be holding clinics at Westfield School on the following Fridays throughout this year:

**10th & 24th March
and 12th May.**

Please check your letter for appointment time, as recently a few parents have completely forgotten, so the appointment has been wasted. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact the Child Development Centre as far in advance as possible.

Class Attendance

The weeks high attenders are
Squirrel Class with 98.4%
Well done!!



Being a UK Citizen

On Wednesday, I interviewed Sarah, the teacher from Squirrel Class, about how she became a British citizen, how she became a teacher, and where she was from before she moved to the UK.

How long have you lived in the UK?

"I have lived in the UK for about 7 years."

Where did you live before?

"I was born in South Africa, I lived in South Africa, but I've also lived in Kenya and Tanzania."

What was it like in South Africa?

"It was really lovely, there were some positives and some challenges. It's got beautiful beaches, mountains, wildlife. Some things were a bit challenging, like lots of power cuts. A lot of the time, things don't run as smoothly as in the UK."

Why do you want become a citizen of the UK?

"England is an amazing place, first of all, I've always wanted to become a teacher, and to be able to teach in the UK is a real honour. I would love the travel opportunities as well to see all the different places around the UK. It has great diversity of culture, and also the countries around the UK, so yes for work, travel and getting to know the British culture."

Was it easy to do?

"It wasn't very easy, it's taken about 7 years to become a British citizen. I started with an ancestral Visa because my grandmother was born in the UK, so that took 5 years for me to live here and work. Then I applied for leave to remain for one year, and then I applied for British citizenship, so it's taken about 7 years. I also had to do a lot of tests and interviews to get to this point."

How do you feel now it is official?

"I feel very proud and excited, just very happy, great to be British, being a proud British citizen."

Sarah showed me her certificate on naturalization to become a British citizen, and she also showed me a wooden apple as a representation of Herefordshire. She got these at the British Naturalization Ceremony at the Hereford Town Hall.



What are your next steps?

"My next steps are to apply for a British passport, that can help me with my travels across the UK and abroad. I think it takes up to 10 weeks, so it's a little longer to wait for that, but now that I have the citizenship, that's the main thing. My final step is to get the British passport."

Written by Will (6th Form student)



TALK COMMUNITY

halo

Families across Herefordshire can enjoy a fantastic value-swimming offer this February half term, with family swims for a fiver! Have fun, get fit, splash water, spend time with family.

The swim sessions are available at Hereford Leisure Pool, Ross Swimming Pool, Ledbury Swimming Pool and Leominster Leisure Centre from Monday 20 to Sunday 26 February.

Up to two adults and four children will be entitled to their visit for just £5. Families can go to as many sessions as they want (subject to availability). The sessions aren't suitable for lone swimmers and all children must be joined in the water with an adult 16+.

Families don't need to book, but sessions are subject to availability. To secure a space, pop into your local Halo swimming pool or call 01432 842075.

For information and Halo terms and conditions, visit the [Talk Community Directory website](#).

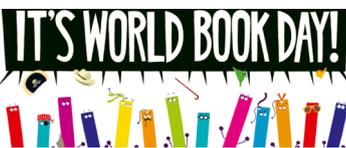


The University of Cambridge is inviting parents and carers to take part in a short online survey as part of the research looking at appetite types in primary school children.

The online survey asks about a child's typical eating behaviour and requests for food during a number of different situations, e.g. during and between meals.

The collected data will be anonymous and held securely. The findings of the survey will help health professionals to identify and support children with unusually high or low appetites and to create new guidance on healthy patterns of eating and weight gain.

For more information and to take part in the survey, please visit the [AppeTypes page](#) on the University of Cambridge website.



Thursday 2nd March.

No need to panic!!

The theme for this year's World Book Day is "you are a reader". We appreciate this can be a stressful time (finding/making/buying costumes, etc.) and would like to make it as easy as possible to celebrate. Therefore, pupils are invited to "wear what they'd like" to school for the day. The emphasis is on comfy clothes to sit and enjoy books and reading. For some, this may mean their own clothes, their uniform, or even dressing up - the choice is yours.

Pupils are also able to bring a book into school to share, if they would like to. We will be sending home a book token with every pupil on the day

Herefordshire Council concessionary bus passes

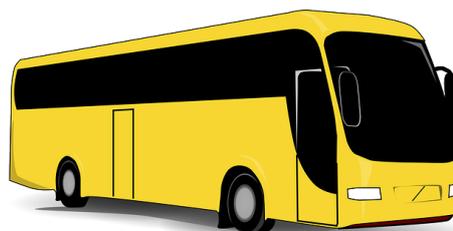
Herefordshire Council offers some residents free travel on local bus services. Free bus travel with these passes is available between 9.30am and 11pm on Monday to Friday, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. You can travel:

- Across Herefordshire and the rest of England
- Between Herefordshire and places in Wales, provided that each bus journey starts or finishes in Herefordshire
- Between Presteigne and Knighton in Powys

Disabled person's bus passes are only available to Herefordshire residents of bus fare paying age (five years old +) who either have a permanent disability or a disability that is expected to last at least 12 months. Before starting your application, you can check that you qualify for any one of the eligibility categories of disability issued by the Department for Transport.

Any Herefordshire resident who qualifies for a disabled person's bus pass on the grounds of disability, and because of that disability is unable to travel on a bus without the assistance of another person, can also apply for a companion pass.

Applying online is the quickest way of applying. Log onto the Herefordshire Council website, click on the 'Travel and Transport' box, then 'Public Transport' Bus passes.



Spring Term 2023

Our termly focus values are

Determination & Perseverance



Sign of the week



cloud

Diary Dates: Spring Term

Half Term: Monday 20th—Friday 24th February 2023



Thursday 2nd March- World Book day

Monday 6th March—Y9 DTP vaccines

Monday 20th March — School Photographs

Wednesday 29th March—M&M Productions Alice In Wonderland

Easter Holidays: Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April 2023