

West Blatch News

Head's Corner



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a brand new school year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. It's been wonderful to see the children return with such enthusiasm, ready to learn and take on new challenges.

As we begin the year, I want to take a moment to highlight just how vital good attendance is. Every day in school counts. Not just for academic progress, but for building friendships, developing routines and being part of our vibrant school community. We understand that illness can't be helped, but we ask for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day they are well enough to attend. Let's work together to make this our best year yet for attendance!

One of the most powerful things you can do to support your child's learning, is to read with them regularly. Whether it's a bedtime story, a weekend library visit or simply chatting about a book they're enjoying at school - these moments make a huge difference. Reading builds vocabulary, imagination and confidence and it's a wonderful way to bond with your child.

We're also kicking off the year with an exciting **school competition!** We have **four prizes of two tickets each to the Rugby League Ashes match between England and Australia at Wembley on Saturday 25th October.**

This is a fantastic opportunity to witness top-level sport and create unforgettable memories.

To enter, simply follow our school's Instagram account: @west.blatch.

Full details of how to take part are posted there - don't miss out!

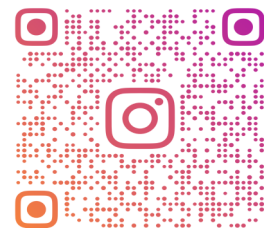
At West Blatchington, we pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inclusive school. If you ever have a question, concern or idea, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to listen, support and work together to give every child the best possible experience.

We'll be sharing lots of updates, photos and celebrations of learning on Instagram throughout the year, so please do give us a follow if you haven't already.

Thank you for your continued support. Here's to a brilliant year ahead!

Warm regards,

Mr Brentnall
Head teacher



WEST.BLATCH

Car Park Access & Arrival Times

We would like to remind all parents and carers that **access to the school car park is strictly limited to vehicles displaying a valid permit.** If you do not hold a permit, please refrain from using the car park.

Additionally, **the car park gates will open at 15:00.** We kindly request that you **do not arrive before this time**, as early arrivals have led to increased traffic congestion on the road outside the school. This has prompted several complaints from local residents and poses a safety risk to our school community.

We appreciate your co-operation in helping us maintain a safe and orderly environment for all.

Reception Class!

We are delighted to share that Wrens Class have had a very positive start to the new school year. The children have enjoyed exploring their new environment by creating self-portrait paintings, building water pathways, developing early writing skills, playing in our home role-play area, looking for dinosaurs from our lookout, and much more!

We have learnt lots about ourselves and each other through circle times and games. Well done Wrens you are all superstars!



Attendance Matters!

Thank you all for making the start of the term a calm and happy one for our children. Attendance is always a priority at West Blatchington and this year we really want to build on ensuring every child is able to **come to school on time, every day**.

As you know, when children are in school regularly and on time, they feel part of the team – they feel safe, happy and ready to learn!

Start and End of the Day

Why being on time matters:

- Children who arrive on time feel calm and ready to join in
- Being late can make your child feel rushed and unsettled, and they might miss important learning or social time

Why prompt pick up is important:

- At the end of the day, children are tired and ready to see a familiar face.
- Being picked up late can make them feel worried or unsure

If you are running late, just give the office a call so we can make sure your child is safe until you arrive.

Unfortunately, if we don't hear from you, or there are repeated patterns of lateness, we may need to charge for lateness if your child is collected after 3.25pm

School Absence Fines – a quick guide!

We know that life gets busy, and there may be occasions when your child misses school. But it is important to understand how school absence is monitored and when fines (penalty notices) might be issued.

What's the usual rule?

Normally, a fine can be issued if a child has 10 or more unauthorised absences (that's 5 full school days) within a 10 week period.

Can a fine be given before reaching 10 absences?

Yes – in some cases, a fine can be issued even if the 10 session threshold hasn't been met. This might happen if:

- A child is repeatedly taken out for short holidays that add up over time
- There are regular absences for things like birthdays or family events
- The school believes the absences are being deliberately planned to avoid reaching the threshold.

We are always available to talk through any attendance questions or queries you may have.



What's coming up at West Blatchington...

Wed 15th Oct: School photos

Tuesday 21st Oct: Flu vaccinations

Wed 22nd Oct: Harvest Festival Assemblies

Mon 27th - Fri 31st Oct: Autumn half term

Fri 31st Oct: Year 6 deadline to apply for secondary school

Mon 3rd Nov: INSET Day

Wed 19th & Thurs 20th Nov: Parents Evenings

Tues 2nd Dec: One Voice Choir Performing at the Dome

Fri 19th Dec Last day of the Autumn term

Mon 5th Jan: INSET Day

Tues 6th Jan: First day of Spring term

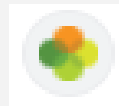
Thurs 15th Jan: Deadline to apply for a Reception school place

Wed 28th - Fri 30th Jan: Year 6 Bowles Trip

OTHER INSET DAYS:

Mon 1st June 2026

Wed 22nd July 2026



Arbor

Please check your child's details and all your contact details on the Arbor app to ensure that we have the most up to date information for you.

It's really important that you provide the relevant consents for your children, in order for them to take part in school activities. You can find these at the top of your child's page, above the calendar.

School Car Park

The school car park is for staff and parents with permits only. Please do not use the car park at any time unless you have a permit.

If you had a permit for the last school year, this has now expired. Please go to the school office if you need to renew this.

Thank you



Aiming high, Nurturing all
Ofsted Rated Good - 2019





WIN TICKETS TO THE RUGBY LEAGUE ASHES!



ENGLAND vs AUSTRALIA



Saturday 25th October

Wembley Stadium

4 PRIZES TO BE WON!

Each prize includes 2 tickets – one for a parent and one for their child.

HOW TO ENTER:

- Follow us on Instagram [@west.blatch](https://www.instagram.com/west.blatch)
- Like the competition post
- Tag another parent in the comments

Bonus Entry: Share the post to your story and tag us!

Winners announced:
Wednesday 1st October

Please note: Transport to Wembley is not included.





FOOTBALL CLUB



Book today
premier-education.com



FOOTBALL CLUBS AT YOUR SCHOOL!

Venue: WEST BLATCHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dates: 10TH SEPT - 10TH DEC (13 WEEKS)

Times: 3.10-4.10PM

Price: £6 PER SESSION PAID TERMLY ONLINE

Ages: YEARS 1 - 4

Additional info: <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/1412-932900/>



Adored by millions of fans and loved by children across the country, football is our most popular extracurricular club activity.

Every single one of our school club sessions are delivered by highly-trained activity professionals, who look to share their passion and energy for sports and activity.

Book now for an extracurricular club they will never forget.

CLUBS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS
TO 20% OFF...AND GET
20% OFF TOO!**

*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.

“

The coaches are fantastic. We have been to other football clubs but we feel this one is the best!

Faye - Parent



Premier
Education



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

Buy your tickets now to
help our fundraising

- Tickets cost just £1
- All profits go to our Pioneer Passport
- Local cash prize every week
- Chance to win the £25,000 jackpot!

To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: The Pioneer Academy

GambleAware





Raise FREE donations for

**Friends of West Blatchington
Primary School**

every time you **shop online**

Find us on **easyfundraising.org.uk**

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fowestblatchington/>

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£ Over £30 million raised

👤 1.6 million users

❤️ 130,000 causes



**JOIN
OUR
TEAM**

**BECOME A CLASS REP FOR
FRIENDS OF WEST BLATCHINGTON (FOWB)**

- *Help spread the word about upcoming fundraising events***
- *Raise money for the school***
- *Get involved***

**To become a class rep or to find out more details,
please email us:**

fowb@wblatch.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Parentkind
Member Association