



2nd June 2026

Some of this newsletter was written just before Ayleen's tragic death but I have made some changes to reflect that. Thank you again for everyone who sent a message of support in or spoke to members of the staff. It was very much appreciated by all during a difficult time.

The family are still grieving but we have had some initial discussions about how we can celebrate and mark Ayleen's life. Many of you have asked if there is somewhere that you can donate to. As a short-term measure, Ayleen was taken to Great Ormond Street and the family are keen for anyone who would like to make a donation in her memory to donate to the children's hospital in the hope that if just one child's life gets saved as a result, then this will bring some comfort. We will have a non-uniform day next Thursday, 11th June where people can donate to the charity. Ayleen's favourite colours were pink and purple so we would like to encourage the pupils to wear those colours please. Alternatively, you can donate online here <https://www.gosh.org/>

Longer term, we will have 'Ayleen's Day' on her birthday in February, we will create a memorial garden and the family will explore the possibility of setting up a charitable trust in Ayleen's name .

Culture Day

It seems like a long time ago now but the culture day that was organized was a really lovely day. All the children looked great and proudly showed off their outfits and it was interesting to discuss where they originated from. The pupils took part in range of activities during the day and then many sampled the varied delights of the PTA organised food court after school. I don't think the hall has ever smelt better! Every child in the school painted a small stone with a flag of their choice and we are going to use them to create a display to celebrate how diverse our school community is.



Upcoming dates

Summer term is always the busiest with lots of events and trips. Year 5 have already had really enjoyable days at London Zoo and the Victorian School Museum this term. Year 3 visited the Roman museum in St Albans, Reception have visited Organic Lea plant nursery and Class 12 visited the Young V&A. Due to what happened before half term and the weather forecast for the rest of the week some trips have had to be rescheduled. We are still working on rescheduling the Year 2 trips to the Hunting Lodge.



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Key dates coming up are:

Mon 8th June – Yr6 First Aid Training
Thurs 11th June to Tues 16th June – Book Fair
Fri 12th June – Whole class photos
Tues 16th June – Year 6 Travel safety workshop
Fri 19th June – Year 4 trip to Southend (rescheduled)
Mon 22nd June to Weds 24th June – Year 6 Suntrap Camp
Weds 24th June – Classes 13 and 14 to Young V&A (rescheduled)
Thurs 25th June – Year 2 to Lea Valley park
Fri 26th June – Year 6 to Walthamstow Soho Theatre for Junior Playwrights celebration
Sun 28th June – Summer Fayre
Mon 29th June – KS2 Sports day
Tues 30th June – KS1 Sports day
Weds 1st July – Nursery Sports day
Thurs 2nd July – Reception Sports day
Thurs 9th July – Parents' Evening
Weds 15th July – Year 6 performance (9.15am and 7pm)
Thurs 16th July – Pupils' last day of school

Thank you for those that have supported the school trips either by volunteering to come with us or through financial donations to their costs. The school doesn't receive any specific funding for trips and we are completely transparent about how much the activities and transport will cost when we send the letters. The school always absorbs some of the costs but the trips are only able to happen if enough parents make a contribution. Last year some parents stated that they would be happy to pay the full amount for their child if it meant trips would definitely go ahead so we have started offering the option to pay either the full price or the subsidised rate. The rising cost of coach hire has also meant that we have had to think about visits to places that we can either walk to or get to by public transport.

Despite the costs, a couple of years ago we decided that there are some key experiences that we want all our pupils to experience before they move to secondary school. These include to visit an art gallery, visit a theatre, go to the sea side, go on a residential, visit a museum, go to a Zoo and visit central London. Most of these are already in place. We need to explore how a good visit into central London would work and once the Soho Theatre Walthamstow starts putting on a pantomime (it was postponed last year) then we look for at least one year group to make that a theatre visit.

Staying after school

The school has a long-standing tradition of leaving the school grounds open to parents and pupils to stay as it is a nice, safe environment and it helps foster a strong sense of school community. As the weather is getting nicer and more people are staying, the usual polite reminders:

- Supervision of the children after school is the parents or carer's responsibility and not the school's.
- Children will be reminded that we expect the same level of good behavior after school as we do during the school hours and any children not adhering to this may not be able to stay and play.
- Please make sure children are not playing near any sports clubs that may be taking place.
- Leather footballs to only be used on the field and not on the playground and if possible, size 4 or 5 balls.



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- On days where the weather is nice, we will leave the KS2 pupil entrance open so pupils can have access to the toilets. We will lock the internal doors so there is no access to main school. These toilets are for children only and must not be used by the adults. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide adult toilet facilities after school.
- No water pistols/water balloons etc. to be used on the school grounds
- Finally, if we could ask parents to leave the school grounds by 5pm please. This is so that the after-school club can use the outside space.

Pupil Questionnaire

The key stage 2 pupils did their annual pupil questionnaire this week and the results are very positive which is reassuring. The results are in % and 227 pupils filled in the questionnaire

		YES	OFTEN	RARELY	NO
1	Do you like being at this school?	97			3
2	Do you feel safe at this school?	97			3
3	Do you find out new things in lessons?	44	50	6	
4	Are your lessons interesting and fun?	36	56	8	
5	Do you get help when you are stuck?	68	28	4	
6	Do teachers give you work that is challenging?	26	54	19	1
7	Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	79	18	2	
8	Do other children behave well in class?	25	59	15	1
9	Do other children behave well around other areas of the school?	28	58	12	2
10	Is there an adult you could speak to at school if you have any worries?	98			2
11	Are teachers fair to you?	66	28	4	2
12	Do teachers listen to your ideas?	67	26	6	
13	Are you trusted to do things on your own?	66	31	3	
14	Are you taught and encouraged to look after your physical health (for example exercise and healthy eating)?	84	15	1	
15	Are you taught and encouraged to respect people from different backgrounds and treat everyone equally?	88	10	2	

What I like most about my school

Most common answers were friends, PE, Art, our play areas, how kind and friendly people are, the teachers

What I think my school could improve

Most common answer in 'Nothing'
Most common realistic response was 'more playground equipment' which the school council will action



The Times Top 1000 schools list/Parent Questionnaire

The Times published its top 1000 schools' rankings a few weeks ago and Yardley were 22nd in the country (out of 22000+ schools). Our partner school, Roger Ascham Primary, were 118th. It's testament to all the hard work put in by pupils and staff. It's behind a paywall so I don't know what the criteria was.

Rank		School
21	▲	Westbourne Primary School
22	▲	St Dominic Savio RC Primary School
22	▲	Yardley Primary School
24	▲	St Michael and St Martin RC Primary School

Parent Questionnaire

We are always looking to improve and part of that is our annual parent questionnaire. This year we are not going to have a multiple-choice section and are simply going to ask these 3 questions:

- What does the school do well?
- What areas could it improve on?
- Any other comments or suggestions

A caveat on the last one, we would all like more teachers, more staff, more resources, more clubs etc but school finances are increasingly under pressure so please don't ask us to build a swimming pool, hire ten extra teaching assistants or install 4G football pitch like the pupils do in their questionnaires.

October Half Term

There will be one other question on the questionnaire. Several local schools have moved, or are moving to, a 2-week October half term. This brings pressure on the schools that aren't and so we are exploring the interest from staff and parents in whether Yardley adopts a similar structure.

The arguments for having two weeks include, creating a 2 week break in the autumn term would mean there was a longer break to stop the spread of bugs and illnesses that all schools get a lot of at that point of the year (therefore improving attendance), the autumn term is always very long for pupils and staff, more flexibility for parents to go on holiday, it will aid retention and recruitment of staff and it will avoid parents



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taking a holiday in the week that their siblings at other schools have off meaning our pupils are missing a week of school.

However, it will also increase pressure on parents who will have to find another week of childcare and it may also disrupt the new reception classes who would have just settled into their school routines.

The pupils would lose no teaching time whatsoever. If we were to go ahead, we would create the time through adding a couple of days on to the end of the summer term and using 3 of the staff INSET days. The pupils will still receive the statutory 190 teaching days. Teachers will make up the INSET days by doing extended staff meetings after school.

The link to the questionnaire is here.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIGub5Z-CoRsjLa3n43DCkLfgkngaJlieMpWAVICETjkhr-A/viewform?usp=header>

It is completely anonymous though we do ask that you put in your child(ren)'s year groups. You can add your name in the comments section if there is anything specific you want to mention.

In other news

Miss Spraget got married during the Easter holidays...to me...which was nice of her. So, from now on she is Mrs Spraget.

Mr Evans
Headteacher