

West Heath Primary News

1st October 2021



- Key Stage School Councillors have been elected!
- Our first round of Prefects have been chosen!
- Sports Competitions are back!
- We have a Mathletics Champion!
- We have reached a milestone on Easy Fundraising!

Read on to find out more...



Well done to the classes who earned the most values slips last week:

Key Stage 1
Class 6

Key Stage 2
Class 11

Our focus Value of the week
next week is ...



Please discuss the meaning of this value at home.

'The best of me!'



DATES
FOR YOUR
DIARY

Friday 22nd October

Fundraising Non-Uniform Days
School closes for Half Term

31st October 2021

Year 7 2022 Applications Deadline

Monday 1st November

School reopens for Autumn 2 term



Be a Star . . . Shine Bright!

School Councillors

Congratulations to our School Councillors who have recently been elected. They will act as representatives of their classmates in discussing school issues with the staff and SLT.

It was a challenging process for them; writing their speeches and presenting them to their classes.



You will see them around school in their **GREEN** sweatshirts

Alexa **Isaac**
Maya **Summer** **Anna** **Minahil**
Isabella **Darcie**

Sporting Competitions

They're Back!

Sporting competitions are back and we have...

Girls' Football Tournament
12th October

Boys' Football Tournament
19th October



Prefects

Congratulations to our first Year 6 Prefects. Their letters of application impressed their teachers and SLT. They are great role models for our school values and are taking their responsibilities very seriously 😊

You'll see them around school in their **BLACK** sweatshirts

Riley **Harry** **Jacob**
Jack **Chloe**
GABI **Lillie** **Isabella**
Naila **Aiden**

Mathletics Superstar Alert!

Topping the UK's top 100 student league on Mathletics and coming 3rd in the World for the children competing on the site!



Well Done Charlie. We are so proud of you!

Autumn Term After School Clubs

A letter will be sent out on PING containing details of clubs available this coming term.

The sign-up PING will then be sent on Monday evening at 7pm. Clubs will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



@westheathprim



Fundraising

Easy Fundraising

Thank you to our 37 supporters who have now raised over £200 by using the app.



[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
search for us – West Heath Primary PTA

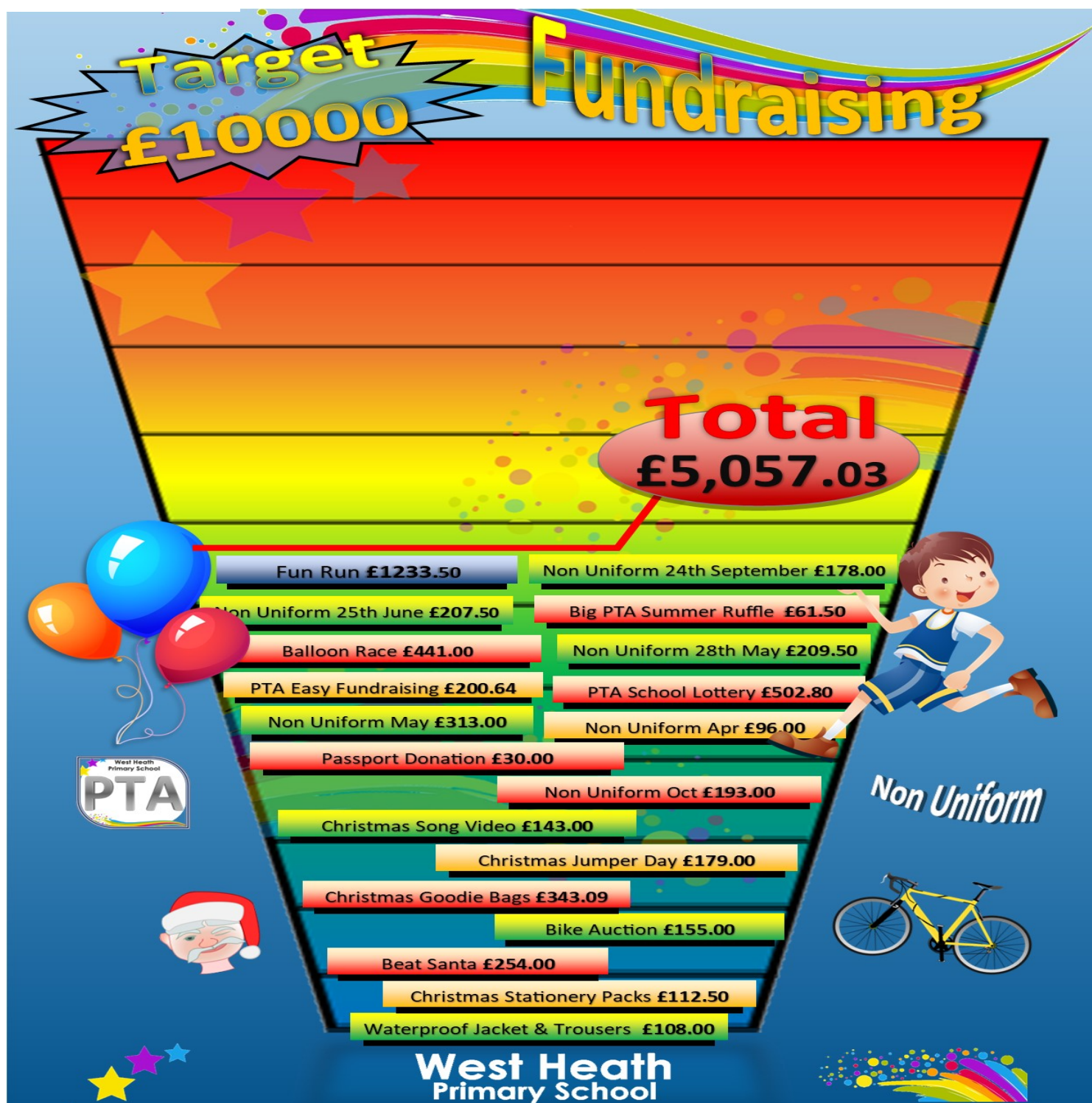
School Lottery.

Congratulations to recent winners!

Bonus prize too ... WIN A Harry Potter DOUBLE Prize Bundle!

- Harry Potter & The Cursed Child
- Family Theatre Voucher
- Harry Potter Warner Bros Studio Tour - Family ticket

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/west-heath-primary-school>



Free Online Safety Guide

What parents need to know about Pokémon GO

How often do you see someone not paying attention to where they're walking because they're engrossed in their phone? Those distractions might just last for a matter of seconds – but Pokémon GO is a game which actually relies on players focusing on their screen for long periods while they're out and about – with all the glaring physical hazards that entails.

Pokémon GO was rightly heralded as a game-changing release thanks to its pioneering use of augmented reality on mobile phones (in fact it was the first ever title to utilise that feature on Android devices).

As today's #WakeUpWednesday guide explains, however, an increased likelihood of injury isn't the only safety concern around the game.

Read on to access your free guide ...



Pokémon GO was released in July 2016, and had amassed more than 100 million downloads by the end of that month. The following year, an academic study by an American university reported that people playing Pokémon GO in areas near traffic had been a named factor in 31 injuries and two fatalities in the US alone.

That's not to say that the game itself is dangerous – just that eager young Pokémon trainers may regularly need reminding about the importance of staying aware of their surroundings. That's just one of the safety tips in our #WakeUpWednesday guide to Pokémon GO, which also touches on the visibility of young players' locations and possibility of contact from strangers.

What Parents Need to Know about POKÉMON GO

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Pokémon GO has been among the world's most popular mobile games since its spectacular release in 2016. It's recently enjoyed a resurgence, thanks partly to people combining entertainment and exercise during lockdown. In Pokémon GO – like the Pokémon TV show, trading card series and other video games – players capture, train and battle with their Pokémon creatures: physically exploring locations while using augmented reality via their phone's screen. The game generally provides a positive experience, but there are still some safety concerns to consider.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Pokémon GO requires players to visit in-game landmarks like Pokéstops and Gyms. These are often situated at public real-world locations such as churches or post-offices. Sometimes, however, they can inadvertently end up being placed in dangerous areas which are unsuitable for children, even when accompanied by an adult: near a construction site or a main road, for example.

STRANGERS & MEETING OFFLINE

Players often cooperate with friends in the game, and there are many online discussion hangouts. As well as sharing tips and info, these groups may arrange to meet offline to catch Pokémon or attend raids (communal events where players flock to the same real-world place for a mass battle). This can put children at risk of being messaged and invited to meet by strangers under the pretence of talking about the game.

DATA COLLECTION

When a player logs into their Pokémon GO account, the game collects personal data about the user and their device. Locations, emails, names, ages and even camera images can all be accessed. What then happens to this information is open to debate. Niantic, the game's developers, maintain that they do not sell user information to third parties – but the fact that they have it at all is a concern, nonetheless.

VISIBLE PROFILES & LOCATION

Pokémon GO players can add each other as 'friends' in the game by sharing their trainer codes. Two trainers who do this can then view each other's information, such as their username. If a username gives any clues to the player's real name or personal details, a stranger may then be able to look them up online. The game also lets users upload images to social media, which could publicly disclose a child's exact location.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game uses a currency called Pokécoins, which can be bought for real money (in bundles between £0.79 and £99.99) and exchanged for in-game items such as Pokéballs and berries. It's extremely easy for a child to purchase Pokécoins (even accidentally) if there's a payment method connected to their mobile phone – and possibly rack up a sizeable bill without realising it!

Advice for Parents & Carers

PLAY ALONGSIDE YOUR CHILD

Finding and catching Pokémon with young ones could turn into a great mutual hobby. At 25 years old, it's one of the few games franchises that spans two generations. Enjoying the game together will give you plenty of new things to talk about with your child – and if you played Pokémon in your own childhood, you might impress them with your knowledge of the digital critters!

ENCOURAGE AWARENESS

Remind your child of the physical dangers they could face while catching Pokémon and emphasise staying aware of their surroundings. The game will often alert children (through their phone) when they are close to an interesting Pokémon item – usually sending them excitedly rushing off to find it – so they should never play Pokémon GO near busy roads or in places they don't know well.

DISGUISE THE EXERCISE

One of Pokémon GO's benefits is that it encourages young (and not-so-young!) ones to get exercise outdoors. Some parts of the game can be completed from home, but it's best experienced while walking around your local area. Certain tasks (like visiting Pokéstops) can be repeated every day – and an hour outside having fun catching Pokémon will hardly feel like exercise at all!

USE AN OLDER PHONE

If children use an older phone to play Pokémon GO, then they won't be walking around with their own new device, which could get broken or stolen. Parents are also far less likely to have left a credit card linked to the old mobile. It also means that you can limit the amount of information used to set up an account, and what companies who gain access to your data can do with it.

AGREE PLAY BOUNDARIES

Ensure your child knows where they are (and aren't) allowed to go searching for Pokémon, when they have to be home, and how often they can play the game. Talk to other young Pokémon GO fans' parents or carers to see what boundaries they set for their children. Lunchtimes (if allowed by the school) or after school are ideal times for getting some exercise and catching all those Pokémon!

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://heimdalsecurity.com/blog/is-pokemon-go-safe/>

<https://bleedingcool.com/games/pokemon-go-announces-quality-of-life-updates-for-february-2021/>



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