

7th September 2022



WELLOW HOUSE

Autumn Term Newsletter



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A word from Mr Thompson.....

It was wonderful to have visitors in school this week as we held our first open morning of the academic year. To hear some positive feedback was heart warming and reminded us how fortunate we are at Wellow, not only in the wonderful spaces we have, but the fabulous members of the whole school community. Praise was given for the children's behaviour and their warmth. A special thank you to our Year 8's who were terrific 'tour guides'.

Later in the newsletter you can read how we came together to mark Día de la Hispanidad. Wellow is a culturally diverse community. We have pupils and families with heritage and connections to a wide variety of countries, religions and cultures.

Developing our pupils knowledge and understanding of the diversity found in our school and beyond is critical. By broadening their horizons and teaching the vast differences between themselves and others, we are able to promote self-esteem, awareness, respect, identity and empathy. Pupils are able to connect with each other, understand the world around them and feel part of a community whilst celebrating their uniqueness and individual liberty.

Not only is this important as part of the British Values, but studies show that pupils work better academically in diverse environments. Perhaps this is part of the reason that Wellow does so well!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Thompson



Mr Huzij- FS1 Teacher

Greetings all from Mr. Huzij, father of four beautiful girls, Early Years Teacher, former pupil of Wellow House School.

First things first, my last name... it's not something seen every day I know, and it sounds nothing like how it's spelt. For anyone reading this who doesn't know me already yet, 'Huzij' is pronounced "Who-Jay". You would not believe the fun and games/crippling inconvenience that this five-letter word has been for me over the years, hearing people try to say it only for me to have to politely correct every soul I have ever met...

Wellow House is a place I know well, as I was a pupil here, back in the halcyon days of the mid to late 90s. The Hubble Telescope hadn't been in orbit long, everyone got the Friends theme tune stuck in their heads (many still have it there), yoyo's were a must have, and I wasn't bald, indeed the 90s were wild. I came to Wellow at the age of seven terrified of school and with no academic grasp whatsoever.

Wellow turned all that around and I left with friends and a love of learning that I still know and enjoy to this day. I'm even fortunate enough to now work alongside two of my former teachers, something I'm sure none of us predicted, but something I deeply enjoy and hope they do too.

After leaving Wellow I went to Worksop College. It was the early 2000's, the internet was a thing and had been for a while apparently, but I didn't have a computer at home in those days, so I just took people's word for it. I had almost shoulder length hair back then that gave me the look of a more rotund and paler member of The Bee Gees! Shy but friendly as a youth, I did lots of Art and as many GCSEs and A levels as I could get my hands on at Worksop. I also was fortunate enough to make more close friendships there too (one of whom was at Wellow with me), and eventually went on to university (again with a friend I met at Wellow). Looking back, I must not have liked the idea of leaving University very much, as ended up staying for some time and found myself with degrees in Education Development, Psychology and a Master's Degree in Psychology. But real life had to start sometime and so began my attempts at starting the career I had studied so long for. However, this was never as straightforward as I had assumed it would be, walking like Frodo on a quest towards this far-off achievement, facing setbacks and dangers, perils, and difficulties, when all the while a giant eagle could have just flown me there from the start and saved loads of time and effort...



Indeed, I saw many people flying ahead onwards toward their successful careers in such a manner, but there I remained with my fluffy feet on the ground, going from adventure to adventure.

So far, I have been a portrait artist, a social worker, a doorman, a receptionist, a councillor, an appointments clerk, a clinical psychologist, a gardener, a researcher for National Geographic and yes, a teacher. I ultimately fell in love with Early Years education quite by accident, when working in Peru. Whilst doing animal psychology research in the Amazon, I found myself teaching English to the young children in the rainforest community where I was staying. What started as a fun little activity in my spare time soon became the focus of my attention and reset my direction in life. From Peru I would eventually go on to live and work in China, on the tropical island of Hainan off the South China coast, where I had every intention to remain forever. That was until my dog one day decided to chew up my passport... Living on an island, it turned out to be far simpler to get a direct flight back to the UK and get a new passport here, than to go to the British embassy on the mainland. I left China with a thirteen-day return ticket and arrived back in the UK on what turned out to be the weekend before Covid-19 changed the world for us all. With my visa and flight home cancelled, I found work teaching online and designing worksheets and curriculum plans for several schools I knew back in China. One day, I went to visit some old workmates at Kings Mills Hospital, where I met my fiancé, who had taken the job vacancy I created when I left for China years before.

So, it seems that life cares nothing for the plans we make, something that must causes great dissonance for teachers, who spend so much time planning things...

I would eventually come to work here at Wellow, teaching as part of our Early Years team in Pre-Prep. I am passionate about educating young people on nature and the natural world, about empathy and expression, having an academic thread within a play-based environment, creative arts and design, and teaching Mandarin Chinese to as many young learners as possible.

Richard Huzij (FS1)



Activities around school

Today we celebrated The Hispanic Day (Día de la Hispanidad) or National Day. This gave the children a little taste and culture from the language they are learning.

October 12th Is an annual national public holiday in Spain. It commemorates when Christopher Columbus first set foot in the Americas in 1492.

The children have been learning about the Spanish history in class and traditions; the children had the opportunity to read the menu in Spanish and try different dishes of Spanish cuisine.

Thanks to all the staff that supported us today.

Senorita Ana



SPAIN
FLAG

Children comments:

I liked the food we had at lunch today as it was very different to what we usually have in England, this was interesting as it gave us a further insight into the Spanish culture which is good to learn for our lessons. It was also nice to learn about the 12th of October via the presentation as I learnt things i didn't realise or know before such as the fact that Christopher Columbus was Italian but did his expeditions for the Spanish.

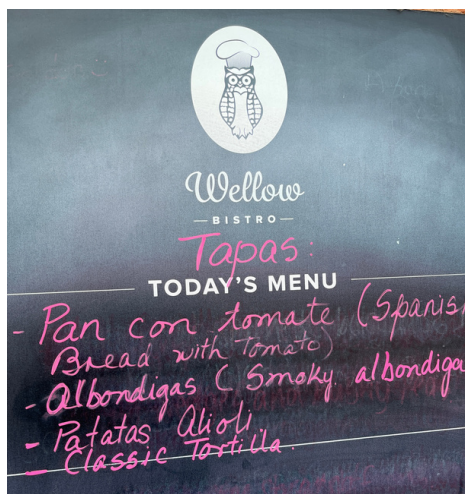
Leah

In my opinion, today was very good. I really liked eating the Spanish food because it was new. Also, I really liked learning about Hispanic day because it was interesting.

Charlie

I enjoyed the Spanish food, some of the food bothered My tongue and throat, other than that it was very nice. The reason we have had Spanish food was because it is Hispanic Day, The National Day of Spain or Fiesta Nacional De España. The day is only on the 12th Of October unless the 12th is A Sunday, then it would be celebrated on the 13th so people get another day of work!

Leon



Activities around school



Y5 have tested materials to find out if they are soluble or insoluble.

Y3 inspired by their literacy lessons on 'The Hodgeheg' have created some wonderful pastel artwork.



School Fixtures

U13 rugby at Westbourne

A brilliant win by 15 tries to 9 for our A team, our first U13 win there for a number of years. Well played, all. Great tries from Jack (6), Heath (5), Lucas (2), Mikey and Eddie.

Our B team played a touch match, as many are still very new to rugby. This was quite a large victory for Westbourne, but Kenzo scored a try for us and Alfie, Jasper and Josh made some good ground and passes.

Mr O’Kane



Joshua – champion of
the football table!



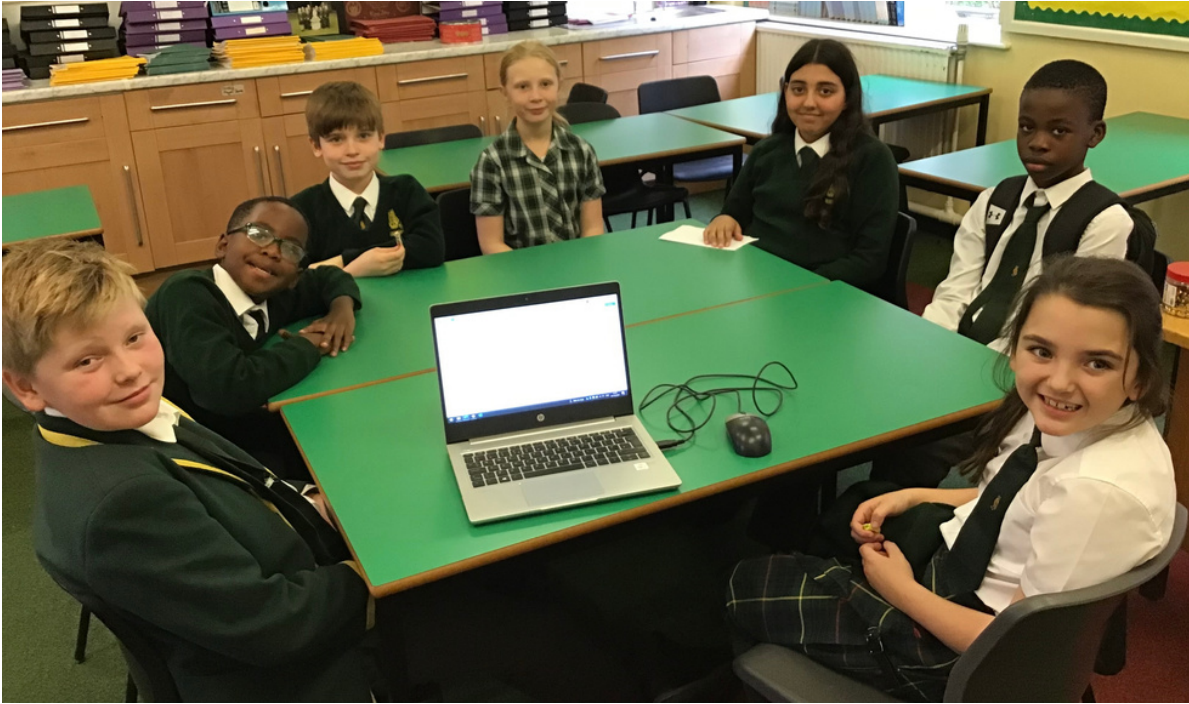
Awards



Congratulations to our worthy winners.....



School Council



The first meeting of the new School Council!

Just a few points brought up....

Can there be a better indoor option at wet breaks than the classroom?

Could younger girls have their hair down just at break times?

Is there any way we could make a room upstairs in the Main House into a common room?

Could we run a showjumping team, with the girls bringing their own horses?

Could the day finish a little earlier, say 4.30?

Could the top dojo scorer get a sweet with their certificate?

Food for thought....



Final Notices

- I do understand that items are becoming lost with greater frequency in the changing rooms We are monitoring this, ensuring children are putting things away carefully. Please also help be ensuring all items are named.
- Harvest Festival - we are welcoming Harvest produce from next week. Any donations of food items gratefully received.
- We had a wonderful Open Morning- thank you to those who continue to spread the positives about wonderful Wellow! Most new families present were there due to recommendations.

