

WEST BEDFORD



ELEMENTARY

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Principal: Susan Casey Vice Principals: Alison Birdsall, Courtney Smith

Monday, September 7, 2026

Dear West Bedford School PP-6 Families,

Thank you for a wonderful start-up to our 2026-2027 school year. I have had a lot of positive feedback about our curriculum night being held the night before the first day of school for students. Thank you for reaching out to share your thoughts. If you would like to provide feedback about this event, please email me at scasey@hrce.ca.

Throughout the month of September, the focus within our classrooms and throughout the building will be on creating strong, healthy relationships with students and teaching, modelling, and practicing our expectations found within our school matrix.

 WEST BEDFORD WOLVES					
	 Learning Spaces	 Shared Spaces	 Transitioning through Spaces	 Outside Spaces	 Travelling to and from School
D Dare to dream and have a growth mindset	- Try, try again and take risks, even when it's hard - Believe in yourself and think positively - Ask questions and celebrate mistakes as learning - Share your ideas proudly and inspire others	- Make thoughtful choices in shared areas - Think before you speak or act—your actions matter - Help create spaces where everyone feels safe and welcome	- Move quietly, with confidence and purpose to where you need to go - Be patient and set an example for others	- Try new games and make new friends - Learn from your mistakes and apologize if you hurt someone	- Be on time for school - Be positive! Each day is a fresh start - Follow school expectations and be mindful of others between school and home
A Accept Responsibility for our words and actions	- Follow directions and do your best work - Clean up after yourself and keep your space tidy - Use materials and technology responsibly - Apologize when needed and learn from your choices	- Clean up after yourself and use materials (like soap, paper towels) responsibly - Use bathrooms respectfully: flush, tidy up, and wash properly - Be where you're supposed to be - Respect lunch monitors and avoid wasting food	- WALK quietly, facing forward - Keep your feet and hands to yourself - Stay to the RIGHT side of hallway and stairs - Follow the teacher and listen to instructions	- Stay in supervised areas - Take care of school equipment - Play safely and listen to the adults on duty - Report and unsafe actions - Line up and enter the building when the whistle blows	- Walk scooters and bikes in the bus loop - Walk on the sidewalk and watch for cars when crossing the street or parking lot - Stay in your bus seat, keep hands and feet to yourself, and listen to the bus driver
N Nurture positive Relationships with ourselves, peers, adults	- Speak kindly and listen with your whole body - Help and encourage others, even if it feels like a risk - Welcome new classmates and include everyone - Ask and answer questions to support each other's learning	- Include others and make room for everyone - Use kind words and quiet voices - Be openminded and treat everyone with care and fairness - Listen respectfully to adults and classmates	- Be mindful of others working in the hall - Look forward and greet others with a smile or silent wave - Help others and give gentle reminders	- Use kind words and be polite - Look for others who could use a friend and include them - Play gently, fairly and take turns - Use your hands to help and words to solve problems	- Be kind to the bus driver - Use positive greetings and goodbyes - Talk using a respectful volume
C Cultivate Respect for self and others	- Keep your hands, feet, and belongings to yourself - Use quiet voices and stay focused during learning - Raise your hand and take turns to speak - Respect others' space, work, and property	- Be neat and clean - Respect others' space, property, and seating - Show appreciation for those who help us - Display calm, respectful behaviour	- Respect others' property and leave their cubbies and lockers alone - Pay attention to the person in front of you and respect personal space - Be kind and respectful with your words	- Clean up your garbage and any litter you find - Respect personal boundaries and others' property, such as toys, equipment, bikes	- Enter and exit building through designated doors - Sit at assigned bus tables and follow bus leaders, to the bus in an orderly line - Keep track of your belongings - Use respectful language when speaking with adults and peers
E Embrace Reciprocity to grow & learn together	- Work cooperatively and share materials - Learn from and with your classmates - Celebrate one another's ideas and successes - Keep the space safe, clean, and ready for learning	- Share space, time, and materials fairly with other classes - Follow expectations to keep shared areas welcoming for everyone - Work and play cooperatively with others - Help create a positive environment by encouraging respect and kindness	- Walk calmly without arguing or injuring yourself or others - Follow directions to keep everyone safe - Use calm and quiet voices so that others can learn	- Share space and equipment - Be a role model for kind words, positive behaviour and fair play	- Follow the bus rules - Be aware of your surroundings and how to keep everyone safe - Report unsafe actions to adults in charge - Go directly home or where you are supposed to go after school

We look forward to building a positive and supportive school community together as we begin another school year.

Warm regards,

Susan Casey, Principal

P-2 Students: A message from our Elementary Literacy Teachers (English and French Immersion)

In September, classroom teachers spend time getting to know their students and who they are as learners. Schools will be using *Universal Screening in Reading* for Grade 1 and 2 students in the English program and Acadiance Reading Français for students in French Immersion. This is one of the many ways teachers will assess learning.

What is Universal Screening in Reading?

It's a short (5-10 minute) activity that helps us see how your child is developing key reading skills. Think of it as a quick check-in on their reading journey, like looking at a map to see where they are and what might help them move forward.

Why do we do it?

The screening helps teachers understand children's strengths and where they may need extra support. This allows us to plan instruction, so students get what they need to succeed in reading.

Important to know:

This is *not* a test. There's no "pass" or "fail." It's a way for teachers to ensure students are supported in their learning.

Lunch Program:

The lunch program at WBS will be starting the week of September 8-11, 2026.

Registering and ordering

All lunches must be ordered through the online ordering system. To get started, visit www.NSLunch.ca and click "Order Now." Returning users can sign in using their existing account.

More information, including instructions on how to create a diner account, is available at www.NSLunch.ca.

Travelling to and from school:

School Buses- I have been asked to share a request from our pre-primary team to leave the first few rows with the harnesses open so that students in Pre-Primary can be buckled in. It is mandatory for Pre-Primary students to wear these seatbelts when travelling on the bus.

Walking to school- We would like to highlight that there are crosswalk lights now installed at the roundabout. For pedestrian safety, please use the lights so that vehicles can stop to allow for a safe crossing. Please remind your children to use the sidewalks.

Bikes and Scooters- Students in PP-12 are expected to walk with their bikes or scooters when on school property. This is to ensure safety for all. Also please note, it is now law that children must be 14 years old to use an e-bike or e-scooter.

Pre-Primary Parking passes: Parking passes will be handed out to our Pre-Primary families for the 2026-2027 school year during the week of September 8-11, 2026. You **MUST** have this parking pass visible to enter the upper driveway by the front playground. Cars will be directed to the Pre-Primary drop off area by a staff member. Please Park responsibly and only in defined parking spots or against the curb. Please do not block in other vehicles or leave your vehicle in the middle of the parking lot.

Accessible Parking Passes: if you have an accessible parking pass, this parking pass must be clearly visible and there should be a passenger in the vehicle that the pass is assigned to. We ask that you park in a marked accessible parking spot and not park in the emergency loop.

EXCEL Families: Those families who have a child in Excel can drop off their child between 7:30-7:50 am in the front loop. Pick up after school in the loop is from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Dropping off or picking up your child outside these times requires families to park in the lower parking lot.

Upcoming Dates

- September 10- Stand Up Against Bullying
- September 14- Home & School 6-7 pm/SAC 7-8:00 pm meetings in the WBS seminar room
- September 23- School Photos for PP-6 students and staff
- September 23- 3-8 pm for Grade 6 Band students
- September 25- Professional Learning Day - No classes PP-12
- September 29- Students and staff are welcome to wear an Orange Shirt
- September 30- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No school)

Stand Up Against Bullying Day is September 10

On Stand Up Against Bullying Day, we come together to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school communities.

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported and welcome at school. On Thursday, September 10, we invite students and staff to wear pink, if they're able, and help show that bullying has no place in our schools.

Together, we can help create school communities where everyone feels they belong.

Join us in observing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30, we honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and the survivors, families and communities who continue to live with their lasting impacts.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led movement that reminds us that Every Child Matters and encourages all of us to learn, reflect and support truth and reconciliation.

As there are no classes on Wednesday, September 30, we invite students and staff to wear orange, if they're able, on Tuesday, September 29.