



'Ready to learn, inspired to succeed, prepared for life.'



West Hill Primary School Newsletter

January 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. The term has started very well. This week the children are taking part in a science and design technology week, as part of this each class will have health workshops run by the school health team.

Last week, as part of Enabling Enterprise, the children took part in a 'Crime Scene Challenge'. The sugar snatcher struck in the school, stealing chocolate from the canteen. The children became detectives for the day collecting evidence to identify the culprits. One of the suspects was Little Red Riding Hood. Have a look on the school blog to see more details and photographs.

Growth Mindset Challenge

Growth mindset is a belief that you can develop your talents and abilities through hard work, good strategies and help from others! The more you practise a skill, stick with things that are hard and never give up, the more your brain will make connections and learn.

This year we have a new 'Growth Mindset' challenge. As you might be aware the government have an expectation that all children will know their times tables by year six. We have decided to take up the challenge and every class is working hard to learn the tables. Children then demonstrate what they have learnt in whole school assemblies. However, we cannot meet this challenge without support from you.

Children need to practise at home. All key stage 2 children have access to Education City which is a programme we have purchased to help children practice basic skills at home. The link is on the school website under our learning / learning at home. We are looking for more programmes to help your children practice, so keep looking to see what we find.

The link is: <http://www.westhillprimaryschool.org/learning-at-home/>

Staffing

Some of you may have noticed Miss Bates in the playground. She is working with the school this half term before she goes on more travels. We also have a new teacher Miss Thwaites who is working with different classes covering the teachers planning and assessment time. I am very pleased to say that Miss Maskell is able to stay with year 3 until the end of the summer term.

Fit for sport – After school care

The new after school care has started at West Hill. Fit for Sport provide care for the children from 3.15pm at reasonable prices. Speaking to the children taking part they appear to be having great fun. Please use the link below to get more information <http://www.fitforsport.co.uk/venues/west-hill-primary-school/>

If you find it difficult to collect your child from school on time, please use this facility. They run a short session from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

Road Safety / Travel Plan

Last term a number of parents spoke to me about their concerns regarding their journey to school along Lebanon Gardens. We both wrote to Wandsworth Council about the issues relating to the dangers the children face. I have followed this up as we have not yet had a reply to our letters. I have also arranged for a meeting with the police to discuss what we can do to make the journey safer.

This term I am going to develop a Travel Plan for West Hill Primary School which will address these issues and others including: walking to school, bicycle and scooter training etc. To ensure that I have the views of parents I will be holding a meeting for any interested parents to attend on Friday 29th January at 9am. I will send out further details nearer the time.

Lateness

Every day a number of pupils are late to school. This must be improved. These children not only disrupt the learning of other children in their class, but also miss really important learning that takes place at the beginning of the day. Children start the day learning basic skills such as handwriting, phonics, grammar and if they miss these lessons (or part of them) on a regular basis it will have a real impact on their learning. Please make sure your child is in the playground and in their line when the bell goes at 8.50am. In order to improve lateness the school will be introducing 'Lateness panels' for parents whose children are regularly late.

Attendance

Last year West Hill was in the lowest 10% of all schools nationally for attendance at 94.3%. The government requirement for children to attend is 95%. Although this does not look significantly different, it is. Unless your child is in school for at least 95% they will not make the progress in their learning that they deserve to make. We continue to hold fast track attendance panels with the Education Welfare Service for families whose children's attendance drops below the government requirement and fines will be given to families if their attendance does not improve. Please help us to help your children by ensuring they attend school every day and are in school on time.

West Hill Children's Centre Early Education and Children's Centre

Wendy Maskell is the new children's centre manager for West Hill. West Hill runs the children's centre in the park and the two year old provision for disadvantaged families. If you have children under 5 years you can access the many different services provided at the park which include: come and play sessions, advice with getting back to work and forest school. Please go to the centre to find out more.

If you have a child who is 2 years old or about to be 2 and you think you may meet the requirements of the 2 year old offer then please contact Wendy. We provide 15 hours free child care at the centre next to the school.

Phone number: 02088709928

We also run the **Enhanced Children Centre for Children**. It is a specialist setting established to support all Wandsworth families with children aged 0-5 years with a disability, special need or medical need. For more information please contact Pippa Bruce on 02088770758.

Free School Meals

Since the introduction of the free meals in early years and key stage one (years 1 and 2), I have noticed a significant drop in the number of children who are identified as being entitled to free school meals. The school gains additional funding to support these children but only if they are identified. Please could you fill in a free school meals form (available from the office) even if your child is in early years or key stage one. This will mean the school can spend more money through increased staff and resources on your child.

Parking outside the school

We have had a complaint from a neighbour about the traffic outside the school gates. They work shifts and their sleep is disturbed by parents who continuously hoot their car horns when picking up or dropping off their children. As a community school we value the relationship with our neighbours who already have to put up with lots of double parking and congestion at these times. Please help us by being considerate when collecting your children.

I believe that the situation of parents driving onto the pavement outside the school and parking in the school gate has improved therefore meaning our children are now safer. However, if you do observe anyone doing this, please take down their registration number and give it to the office staff so it can be reported to the police.

Dates

Every Monday at 9am Learn to Love to Read volunteers run Toddler sessions for parents and children at the school.

Tuesday 26 th January	Year 4 Enabling Enterprise Trip
Tuesday 26 th January	Year 1 Bay recycling centre trip
Wednesday 27 th January	Year 1 Elm recycling centre trip
Friday 29 th January	Meeting for parents re: school travel plan
Monday 1 st February	Big Foot theatre company for key stage 2
Wednesday 3 rd February	Year 1 trip to the mosque
Friday 5 th February	Early years' breakfast
Tuesday 9 th February	Recycling centre making paper with year 1
Wednesday 10 th February	10am Head teachers tour for new parents
Wednesday 10th February	Parents Evening 3.30pm to 8pm
Thursday 11th February	Parents Evening 3.30pm to 5pm
Friday 12th February	End of half term (finish at 3.15pm)
15th – 19th February	Half term holiday
Monday 22nd February	INSET no children in school
Tuesday 23rd February	Children start back
29 th Feb – 4 th March	Book Week
Monday 21 st March	Year 5 at Royal Festival Hall performance
Wednesday 23 rd March	Young Shakespeare company Midsummer nights dream
Thursday 24th March	End of Term School closes at 2pm
28th March – 8th April	Easter holidays
Monday 11th April	Children start back

Julie Dobson



'Ready to learn, inspired to succeed, prepared for life'

