



West Hill Primary School

Newsletter January 2017



Oracy

As I have mentioned in a previous newsletter, we have a big focus on Oracy at West Hill. Oracy is the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech. It is one of the targets in our School Improvement Plan:



'To develop pupil's oracy skills across all areas of the curriculum to enable them to speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of standard English. For pupils to 'articulate and justify arguments and opinions' (age appropriate).'

We are teaching children the spoken language skills that they need for educational progress, and for life in general as it will open more doors to employment opportunities in their future. Please reinforce this at home by encouraging any opportunity for discussion.

Reading



Reading at home is also very important. Please try to spend time reading the books they bring home from school together and visit the library to choose more books together. Our lending library is in the playground every Friday, which is a very quick and easy way for your child to choose a book to read so please use it! It is very important that they read every day at home as it helps your child to widen their vocabulary, improve their understanding, increase their general knowledge and enable them to have a better understanding of the world. It doesn't matter what they read; they may prefer non fiction, comic books or magazines. Remember any reading is good!



Maths

This term we have launched the Big Maths Challenge in Years 1-6 which you should have read about in the individual class newsletters. This is a weekly challenge which will be assessed in school in a timed test in order to consolidate your child's knowledge of a particular area of maths and to make sure they have rapid recall of mathematical operations. Please support your child's learning at home, perhaps by using some of the links to educational games that are on our website!

Games



Playing games and solving puzzles is a good way to learn. There are lots of resources online that can make learning fun for all ages. Please have a look at our website where we have links to many different sites that you and your children can use. Go to:

www.westhillprimaryschool.org/learning-at-home/

Picking up at 3.15pm

Please make sure you pick up your child promptly at 3.15pm. It can be very distressing for your child if they are not picked up at the same time as the rest of the class. If you think you cannot be at school in time to pick up your child you can book a place at Fit for Sport who provide our after school care. Their phone number is **0845 456 3233** . You can choose to book your child in for just an hour if this is all you need but they are open until 6pm.

Fit for Sport

As I have just mentioned, Fit for Sport run our after school care at West Hill. The children who currently attend really enjoy it as they do lots of activities. Adam from Fit for Sport, who runs our after school club, will be joining us at lunchtimes too! He will be providing activities which we think the children will really enjoy. Fit for Sport will also be starting to provide some paid for clubs after school so that your children have the opportunity to try new sports and activities. We will give you more information as soon as we can.



*We do need the support of our parents for after school care to continue. Unfortunately we have not had a large number of children attending Fit for Sport on a regular basis which puts it at risk for the future. Fit for Sport are very happy for you to book your child in for just one session to see if they like it. The feedback from children who currently attend is extremely positive! If you are interested you can contact them on **0845 456 3233** or go to their website www.fitforsport.co.uk. There is also more information on our website www.westhillprimaryschool.org/after-school-club/ including all prices.*

Eco Club

West Hill Eco Club have been working very hard since they launched their campaign in the Autumn to make us all more environmentally aware and to make sure we do more to make a difference whether it be in saving energy or recycling more amongst many other things.

This was recognised recently by Eco Schools who have now awarded us their Bronze Award to recognise our achievement in working towards a sustainable lifestyle. Here are our Eco Warriors with their certificate.



School Uniform ordering update

We had expected to be up and running with our new online ordering system for school uniform by mid January. Unfortunately due to a manufacturing delay, our supplier has not been able to meet that deadline. We appreciate that this means that you may not be able to order what you need at the moment and we apologise for any inconvenience. Please bear with us! We expect to be up and running in February.

Baby News!

We're very happy to tell you that Lauren Heinrich who left us in December to go on maternity leave, welcomed a little baby girl, Ivy Rae into the world on New Year's Day! Mother and baby are both doing well.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2017

1st February—Year 1 Trip to Mosque

8th/9th February—Parents Evening

Half Term: Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February

Monday 20th February: INSET day. SCHOOL CLOSED

First day back: Tuesday 21st February 2017

10th March— Year 1 Elm Assembly

20th March—Nursery/Reception visit to Bocketts Farm

23rd March—Reception Assembly

24th March—Red Nose Day

28th March—Year 5 perform in a Brighter Sounds Concert at the Royal Festival Hall

Last day of Spring Term: Friday 31st March (2pm finish)

Summer Term 2017

First day: Tuesday 18th April

School closed : Monday 1st May (Bank Holiday)

Half term: Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June

First day back: Monday 5th June

14th June—KS1 & KS2 Sports Day (21st June Reserve Sports Day)

28th June—Early Years Fun Sports Day

Last day of Summer Term: Friday 21st July (2pm finish)

All term dates for 2017/2018 are now available on the website.

1st day of Autumn Term 2017: Wednesday 6th September

