



## West Ashtead Primary School

### Newsletter Number 7    11 December 2017

- 1. Stars** A huge thank you to all of the children who made a real effort to make a star for our corridor displays. They look wonderful and show considerable skill, imagination and attention to detail. The only disappointment is that fewer than half the children in the school were willing to make a star so the corridors are not as decorated as we had hoped. Here are a few pictures of the decorations hanging from the ceiling currently:



- 2. School admissions** Surrey County Council would like us to remind everyone who is applying for a place at an Infant or Primary school for next September about the deadline for applications:

*“In an effort to reduce the number of late applications received, we would be very grateful if you could remind parents with children in your school or attached nursery (where applicable), including parents with pre-school siblings, that the closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2018 entry is **15 January 2018.**”*

**RESPECT**

**RESILIENCE**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**3. Reading at home** Of all the things we teach children, perhaps the most important is how to read. At West Ashted we encourage children to read not only for accuracy and comprehension, but also for enjoyment. To provide an incentive to read at home we hold our weekly reading challenge. This takes the form of a prize draw every Friday. To enter, each class has to have at least 20 children who have read at least 4 times during the previous week and had their reading diary signed by a parent to prove it. The most we have ever had in a prize draw is 8 classes; the least was 1 class. It would be brilliant if every class could be in the draw every week. To enable this to happen, please could you ensure your child tries to read every day including week ends and that you record this in their reading diary? Or for older children, they write it in the diary themselves and you counter sign it? That said, we appreciate that many children have out of school activities to attend which make it difficult to read every day, which is why we only ask for 4 days reading each week. The winning class in the draw wins a small prize for each child.

**4. Chess** The winners of this term's chess club tournaments have been announced and medals awarded in assembly last Friday.

In the beginners club:

1<sup>st</sup> Harley Morton

2<sup>nd</sup> Anabelle Croucher

3<sup>rd</sup> Elliot Wood

4<sup>th</sup> Alfie Orbell

5<sup>th</sup> Jesse Townsend

6<sup>th</sup> Josh Graham

7<sup>th</sup> Max Loh

Grading prize Lucas de Vincentiis

In the Intermediate club:

1<sup>st</sup> Jake Loh

2<sup>nd</sup> Jonah Long

3<sup>rd</sup> Casey Stokes

4<sup>th</sup> Luca Viotto

5<sup>th</sup> Diya Menon

Well done to all of them. Mrs Armitage, our chess teacher has spaces in both clubs for new members in the New Year. She can be contacted via the school office.

**5. Staff car park.** Could I ask that the small number of parents who are using the staff car park to drop off and collect children stop doing so? We don't have enough spaces for all staff as it is. Thank you.

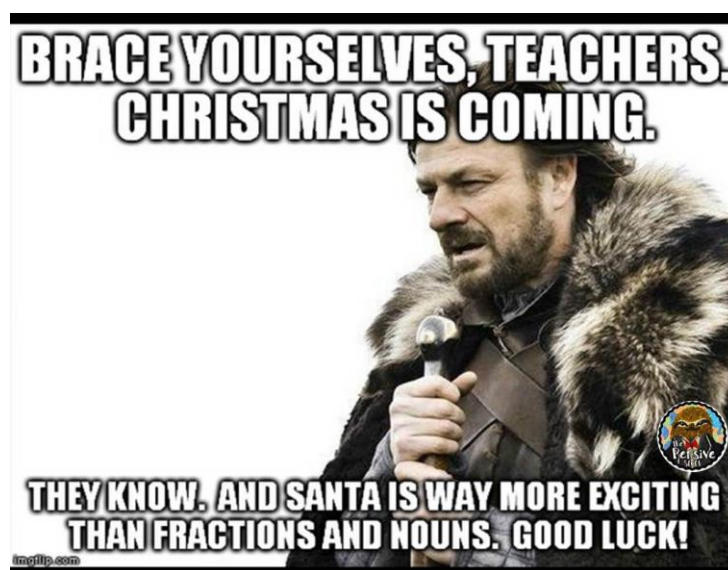
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6. **PE kit** With the weather turning colder, now is the time for children to have a track or jogging suit to wear over their T-shirt and shorts for outdoor PE lessons. Currently very few appear to have anything suitable. We are happy for them to wear hats, gloves and coats as well, as long as it does not stop them participating fully. We will continue to take them outside in all weathers except heavy rain, so please could you ensure they have suitable outdoor sports wear – all named clearly, of course? Thank you
  
7. **Class assemblies** We are enormously grateful to all parents and grandparents who give up time to watch their children’s class assemblies. Performing in front of a large audience is a big deal for most children and having a friendly face at the back of the hall, really helps. Also all children want to impress their parents so having you there really matter to them. It has been part of the West Ashtead way of doing class assemblies to invite parents to stay afterwards for a cup of tea or coffee. We have noticed that the number staying has dropped a lot over the past couple of years, presumably because you have to get to work or another commitment. These days it is unusual to have more than 2 or 3 parents staying and sometimes we have none at all. For this reason we are proposing to stop offering a hot drink at the end of class assemblies from the start of next term. If you have an opinion about this, either way, please could you let me know?
  
8. **Good bye** At the end of this term we say good bye to a number of children who are leaving us to move to other schools. We are very sad to be losing them, in several cases after being with us for only one term, but we send them our very best wishes for the future, whether at another local school or one on the other side of the world.
  
9. **Next term** Next term begins for the children on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> January at 8:55am

And finally... Our children are definitely are of what time of year it is...

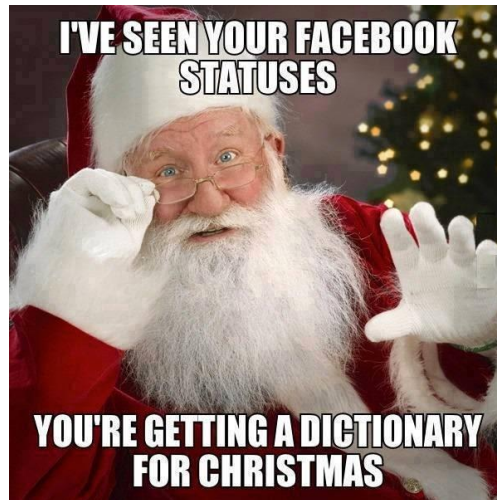


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And Santa has been watching us as well...



Have a good week and as this is the final newsletter for 2017, on behalf of all of us at West Ashtead, can I wish you a very happy, enjoyable (if not restful) Christmas and a successful and exciting 2018.

*Rob Hart*

\*\*\*\* *Our website has up to date information on events, trips, contact details etc. Please view it at: [www.west-ashtead.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.west-ashtead.surrey.sch.uk) \*\*\*\**

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