



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 13 23rd April 2018

- 1. Boy's football** Just before Easter our boys' A team played in a tournament at Oakfield Junior School against 7 other local teams. They had a mixed afternoon, winning 2 matches, drawing 2 and losing 3. This left them in 5th position. There is just one more football event left for this season as our girls compete in their tournament this afternoon.
- 2. Netball** Also just before Easter, Miss White took our A team to play in their local tournament, held at Therfield school. Again, playing against 7 other schools, they won all of their matches except one, against Eastwick, which they drew. This left them in equal first place with Eastwick. According to the rules of the competition, the number of goals scored was considered and Eastwick had scored 3 more goals than us, so we had to settle for 2nd place. Well done to all of the players and thank you to Miss White for coaching them.
- 3. Clubs** Just a reminder that teacher lead clubs start on WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL. The exceptions to that are clubs run the external companies. Can I remind you also that when a child joins a club they are making a commitment to attend that club every week? We do still have some children who believe they can decide from week to week if they are going to attend. We cannot run clubs on that basis and any children behaving in this way will have to stop attending that club completely.
- 4. Reading challenge** Every Friday in Celebration Assembly, Miss Hopkins holds a prize draw for our reading challenge. Every class in which at least 20 children have managed to read at home and record it in their reading diary at least 4 times during that week is entered into the draw to win a small but desirable prize. Currently it is unusual for more than 3 or 4 classes out of 12 to achieve this and in spite of regular reminders, the idea of reading at home and recording it does not seem to be standard practice for most of our children, especially in Years 5 and 6. While the standard of reading across the school is very high overall, everyone could do more either to improve their reading or to read more widely, so it is vital that all children from Robins to Year 6 make an effort to read at home regularly. Anything you can do to encourage your children to do this and record it in their reading diary would be appreciated.

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5. **Safeguarding** In a recent Safeguarding bulletin I noticed an item about Roblox, which many of our children use. Since this app allows children to befriend others online- including people they do not know, there are concerns about its safety. I have pasted the item below for your information.

Roblox

The Education Safeguarding Team have been contacted by a number of schools about the popular app Roblox. There are number of resources available for settings and parents/carers which explain how children can be supported to use it safely. This includes accepting friend requests and the potential for children to receive private messages.



<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

<https://www.net->

[aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/](https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/roblox/)

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/roblox-guide-parents>

<http://www.connectsafely.org/roblox/>

<https://www.common sense media.org/website-reviews/roblox>

We are sent an online safeguarding magazine called DITTO, which we put on the school website for your information (go to parents/e-safety). This edition contains items on

- Privacy.
- Skin gambling
- Why children take risks online
- Challenges
- The game - Fortnite
- In DITTO junior Deer Park Primary School shares with us what they got up to during their online safety week.

The item on Fortnite is definitely worth reading as it is growing in popularity among children and like Roblox, it is not necessarily completely safe for them to use unsupervised.

6. **Lunchtime** We have increased the number of activities in which children can take part at lunchtimes. The idea is that by giving them lots of choices we can avoid the disputes and disagreements which we have had previously, especially between boys in Years 5 and 6. We have organised rotas for children to use the trim trail and play tennis, table tennis and football (2 pitches have been marked out in opposite corners of the field). They can use the running track, they can play rounders or cricket; there is a rota for playing in the woodland or they can make up their own games as children have always done. In short there are lots of choices and no reason for children to claim to have nothing to do. In addition we keep our eyes open for children who are on their own and we check if they are happy with that or if they would like to join in with their friends' game, in which case we help them to do so. Further, we have organised the rotas so that the Year 5 and 6 boys are doing different things well away from each other so the rivalry schools always get during the summer term as the Year 6's try to maintain their position as 'top dogs' while the Year 5's, knowing that Year 6 is on the way out try to assume that position themselves, can be at least minimised.

7. **Toffee Bear** We have sold all 100 Toffee Bears but I am aware that more might be wanted. If you would like to buy a teddy, please let the school office know. Assuming there is sufficient demand we will place an extra order. There will be a new West Ashtead soft toy to buy in the autumn, just in time for Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has bought a bear. It has raised nearly £400 all of which will go into our Drama fund, to improve resources for drama productions.
8. **Measles** We have been asked by the Health Authority to bring to your attention the current measles epidemic. A letter from them but signed by me is attached with this newsletter.
9. **Maths lesson** We are very keen for you to understand not only how well your children are doing in school, but also how they are being taught. In Maths, for example we are using a system which originated in the Far East known as Mastery Maths. It is likely that unless you work in schools yourself, you will not know how this differs from previous teaching systems. To help you, Ms Hart, our Maths Leader will be holding a Maths evening on Tuesday, 5th June at 7pm. She will be teaching a Maths lesson, using the Mastery method and you will be her pupils. This event will give you an understanding of how we are teaching your children and the methods we are using. Places are limited so if you would like to take part, please contact the school office to book as soon as possible
10. **Mrs Card** It is with great sadness I have to tell you that Mrs Alison Card, who has worked in the school office for 8 years and for the past two years has also been one of our ELSAs, will be leaving us on 11th May. She has been offered a position in Surrey County Council's Children's Services department. Mrs Card has been an integral part of West Ashtead, both as a parent and a member of staff and the school just won't be the same without her. We all wish her the very best for the future. Since she lives in the village, I am sure she will be spotted from time to time, so we will be able to keep in touch!

And finally... When children do something daft and we ask them why they did it and they just shrug their shoulders, perhaps they are just being human?



Have a good week.

Rob Hart

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