



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 8 14th January 2019

I hope you have enjoyed the first week back to school. Thank you for all the good wishes, it is much appreciated. The children have all settled back in well and I am delighted at the calm, orderly way they are moving around the school. It makes such a difference so we will be persevering. Although we have only been in school five days there is a lot to share.

Staffing

I am delighted to announce that Ms Elisabeth O'Hanlon has been appointed as Acting Assistant Headteacher. She is a real asset and has brilliant ideas to further improve our school. She is a great advocate for child centred learning so she is the perfect match for us.

Parent Workshop

Ms O'Hanlon will be running a Parent Workshop on Tuesday 5th February on Personal, Social and Health Education at West Ashtead. She will be showing the curriculum that the children cover and the activities which are used. She has done an enormous amount of work over the last few years to ensure that all our children have good quality lessons and support in this area. The session will be for an hour and will start at 7pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Parent Forum

I would like to invite all parents to partake in an open forum. I am keen to gather your ideas on the school and to use these in the development of short, medium and long term plans for the school. There will be two sessions to enable as many of you as possible to attend. They will be on Jan 28th Jan from 9 -10am and 30th Jan from 7 – 8pm. This will be an informal opportunity for you to consider what works well in our school and what could be further developed.

All our staff have already undertaken such an exercise which has been really insightful. Please could you let the office know which session you will be attending so that we can plan parking if necessary!

Year 6

We have had our termly elections for House Captains and Vice Captains. Congratulations to:

Fire: House Captains are Sam and Lillyanne. Vice Captains are Bethany and Freddie

Water: House Captains are Conor and Lucy. Vice Captains are Ollie and Lauren

Earth: House Captains are Fin and Maisy. Vice Captains are Oscar and Brooke

The speeches they gave were clear and concise. We want to foster a greater sense of leadership. To achieve this, they will be taking a major role in our whole school assemblies and did a great job on Wednesday and Friday. They will also be choosing a whole school charity that we will be fundraising for across the remaining two terms. They have been monitoring the lunchtime activities with me and have put forward some thoughtful solutions which the Senior Leadership Team and School Council will be considering.

We have also slightly extended the Year 6 run clubs. Year 6 will now plan, organise and run activities for all our infants once a half term. This will allow for more space, variety and time for the activities. The teachers in Year 6 and infants will help the children set up and evaluate the different activities. The first session will be on Friday 15th February. Mrs Legg, our Extended Schools Leader, will be overseeing this development.

Curriculum

Mrs Legg and Miss Clemson have been very busy planning. The children in Swans and Kingfishers now have a 2 year rolling programme based on the National Curriculum and all the enhancements that we know motivate and engage children. Their topic of dinosaurs was launched with some incredible CCTV footage of dinosaurs roaming our school grounds. The engagement and the language of the activities that followed was delightful. This is the type of teaching and learning that really makes me proud!

From next week our children in Year 6 will be grouped for maths. All children will follow the same Mastery maths lesson sequence and will have the same curriculum coverage and content but grouping will give us the following advantages. It will enable some of our high flying mathematicians to move through the material at a faster pace and to have swifter access to further challenge. It will also allow others time and support to consolidate their understanding before moving on. If you have any questions about this approach, please contact your class teacher.

Extra-curricular and Enhancements

Teacher led clubs begin this week and I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs Haddad who has volunteered to share the Cookery Club with Mrs D now that I have other commitments. I am also extremely proud of Hannah in Year 5, a very keen and talented cook, who will be taking my place at Pudding Club alongside Mrs D. Jessie in Year 6 also supports as necessary. I am determined to keep cookery flourishing at West Ashted as it is such an important life skill. Mrs Tennent and Mrs Wilton have also volunteered to run Sewing Club and I am so grateful that we have staff and parents who are prepared to support our philosophy of offering many different opportunities and experiences for our children.

We have a lot of extra-curricular activities planned for this term and new additions include a whole school clay project under the guidance of Ashted Arts Society. We have bravely entered a competition at St John's, Leatherhead for our Year 5 and Year 6 keen mathematicians. We also have quite a number of class assemblies so please look carefully at the dates below!

Mrs Love

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Love who will be leaving us on Friday to pastures new. She has been a massive support to me over the past years at West Ashted and she and her sense of humour will be much missed. We welcome Mrs Candice Savio, an experienced Bursar, as her replacement and I look forward to introducing her to the warm atmosphere at West Ashted.

I have enjoyed my first week very much. It is wonderful to be greeted by the children at the beginning of the day and to say goodbye at the end. I will be there every day unless I am caught up in meetings or other urgent business.

Best wishes

Ruth Hall

Acting Headteacher

Important Dates for your diary for the next 6 weeks

Date	Event
14.01.2019	Teacher Led Clubs begin
15.01.2019	FOWA Disco
18.01.2019	Dodgeball Competition at Leatherhead Trinity 1pm-3pm
22.01.2019	Year 3 Meet the Teacher at 7pm
28.01.2019	Indoor Athletics Competition at Howard of Effingham 12pm –2.30pm
28.01.2019	Parent Forum 9am-10am
30.01.2019	Parent Forum 7pm- 8pm
01.02.2019	Junior Choir singing at the O2
05.02.2019	PHSE Information Meeting 7pm-8pm
05.02.2019	5G Class Assembly at 9:05am
07.02.2019	Shakespeare Workshop whole school
08.02.2019	Shakespeare Workshop whole school
11.02.2019	6M and 6P Thames Explorers Trip
12.02.2019	4W Class Assembly at 9:05am
13.02.2019	6H Thames Explorers Trip
18.02.2019	Half Term

Our full calendar of events is available on our website:

[Click here for school calendar](#)

[Click here for school trips information](#)

******Please note all dates are subject to change at the headteacher's discretion******