



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 4 21st October 2019

This first half term has passed very quickly and I am beginning to look forward to a week of walking in the Peak District – weather permitting.

Curriculum

Mrs Legg has been working hard on formulating a long term strategic plan for technology development at West Ashtead. We will be strengthening our Wi-Fi and upgrading our interactive whiteboards. Having visited Outstanding schools to see their provision, we have decided that we will gradually be moving over to a cloud based system and training staff and children how to use the Google Drive and Google products, alongside Microsoft ones. Our ultimate aim is to provide our children with as many different types of technology as we can so they are fully prepared for whatever it might look like in the future. As part of the strategic plan we will be purchasing Chromebooks to complement our laptops and investing in some Apple technology as well.

Year 5 have had a very interactive workshop on the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons last Friday. The children were totally immersed in their learning.

Mr Gardiner is leading a year-long project to enhance our reading further and these will be shared at a later date.

Thank you for the many positive comments about our redecorated entrance area. We feel that this area truly reflects the philosophy and aims of West Ashtead and gives all visitors a clear vision of the work going on in school.

Sport

Cross Country has got off to a fantastic start this year. On average we take 35 children to the event each week. Not only do we look smart whilst representing the school, we are also achieving some excellent results. The senior girls came 2nd overall at the last two events and this week the junior boys coming 3rd! Special mentions must go to Freya who came 5th in the junior girls' event, Lottie who came 2nd and Izzy 3rd in the senior girls. Grant was 11th in the junior boys and Lennie 7th in the senior boys, great achievements. With the extra training session on a Tuesday afternoon, the children's stamina for these events has improved tremendously with a lot of our runners improving on their previous week's position each week. We will now have a break from the racing events over the winter but will be returning on 6th March 2020. Cross Country training will however continue during this time on a Tuesday 3:30-4:30pm.

West Ashtead had a brilliant opportunity to visit Epsom College to play hockey on their new water based pitch last Wednesday. This was organised by Rhys Smith (GB hockey player) as part of inner city hockey. Other local and not so local schools were invited too and all the children were able to play hockey with a range of GB hockey stars. Tess Howard - another GB star - was particularly impressed by the skill and attitude of all the children representing West Ashtead. Everyone who attended showed great sportsmanship (especially when their teacher got pulled in to umpire!) and should be proud of all they achieved. Thank you to all of the parents who supported their children in attending this fantastic session. Tess, Rhys and the other GB stars who were coaching at the session are in action for their Olympic qualifiers on the 2nd of November!



Mrs Hosken has organised several football tournaments with local schools and we look forward to more tales of sportsmanship and prowess.

Parliamentary Review

West Ashtead has been invited to be part of The Parliamentary Review 2020. I have been tasked with writing a 1.000 word article on the challenges we have faced and what we have achieved so far at West Ashtead. This will be published online and shared nationwide with other schools. It was a great surprise to receive the letter but I am looking forward to working with professional journalists and feel proud to have been given the opportunity to share the positive story of our children to a wider audience. Well done to all the staff and children who have made this possible.

Playground Leaders

Miss Dalchow has worked hard with our Year 5 Playground Leaders. They have shared their proposals with the School Council and the rest of the school. Our playground now has zoned areas and a wider range of activities. The Playground Leaders have been trained and will be visible in the playground and available to teach different team games to any child who is interested. The School Council have discussed how to spend the £428.60 raised from the Obstacle Course and Fruit Kebab event last July. Suggestions include board games, colouring, musical instruments and teddies so stand by!

Harvest Festival

Many thanks for the superb contributions of food for our Harvest Festival. The children were suitably impressed with the display and the Food Bank was very grateful.

Poppies

For one week only we will be selling poppies and other merchandise to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Due to the half term, we will only have a very short selling period. The suggested donations are 50p and £1.

Mrs De Almeida

Unfortunately Mrs D is still unwell but we hope to see her return in the near future.

Parent Volunteering

Many thanks to all the parents who have generously volunteered their support for a myriad of jobs. I am busy collating and very grateful for the positive impact this will have on our school

Parents Evening

I look forward to seeing you at our Parents Evening on Wednesday and Thursday evening this week. Staff will have your child's Individual Assessment Summary and next steps to share with you.

Please remember that there will be **NO afterschool** clubs on either of these days

West Ashtead Bake-off 2019 25th October.

There is still time for children to design and make their cakes for our Bake-off Competition. Billy the Dog has been part of an assembly outlining the support Canine Concern offers. Billy will also be part of some class library sessions. Billy is an extremely popular member of our school and I always stop what I am doing when I hear his arrival! I am also clean eating to prepare my body for the onslaught of cake testing that will be necessary.

Have a lovely half term and fingers crossed for a dry week.

Best wishes

Ruth Hall

Headteacher

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Details of up-coming events are kept updated on our [CALENDAR](#)

Please do regularly check it for any changes and new events

23 October 16:00 – 17:30	Parents Evening - No AFTER school clubs
24 October 16:00 – 20:00	Parents Evening - No AFTER school clubs
25 October	WHOLE SCHOOL – Nasal Flu vaccination WHOLE SCHOOL – Bake-Off HALF TERM – usual school finish time
4 November	Children back to school – Usual Time
11 November	Year 3 – “Big Fish Monday” London
15 November	FOWA – Firework Display 18:00
19 November 09:00 – 09:30	Class Assembly 4GH
03 December 09:00 – 09:30	Class Assembly 3H
11/12 December 19:00	Junior Carol Concert
12/13 December 09:30	Infant Nativity Play
16 December 13:30	Infant Christmas Party
17 December PM	Year 6 Christmas Fair – parents invited from 15:30
19 December	Whole School Christmas Day FOWA – Christmas Disco
20 December	School finishes at 13:00