



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 5 11th November 2019

I hope that everyone had a lovely half term. It was lovely to see so many of you at the two Parents Evening. I hope you are proud of how well your children have settled in their new class and that you enjoyed seeing the work they have produced.

Curriculum

Last week we have hosted two visitors - a National Leader of Excellence and a Deputy Head of an outstanding school. We looked at a range of English, Maths and Topic books. Everyone commented on the presentation and neatness of the books as well as the quality and quantity of work. Well done to all the children and staff who are keeping up the high expectations in all areas of school life.

We have adjusted the way we teach spelling recently. Children have a pre-test on Monday to see what they know about the week's spelling pattern that is coming up. They then have three days of spelling sessions based on this spelling pattern followed by a post-test on Friday to see if the pattern has been embedded.

Playground and Car Park and walking to school

A huge thank you for heeding the advice to stay on the top playground at the end of the day. It ensures that our Juniors are so much calmer and it means that our youngest Red Banana children can make their way to the Qube easily. Thank you as well for adhering to the car parking. We have had a few near misses of children and this means that we do not have that constant concern that one of our children will be hurt.

We have also had reports of children walking to and from school with headphones in, eyes on their phones and some narrow escapes. If your child is walking to and from school, it might be worthwhile double checking that they are fully aware of how to keep themselves safe.

Playground Leaders

The work undertaken by Miss Dalchow and the Playground Leaders is now becoming embedded. We will be asking some Year 3 children to undertake monitoring and feedback sessions to see if there is anything else that we could do to make our break times even better. This week saw the first of the Thursday lunchtime football sessions. Well done to the Year 6s who remembered their kit, signed up, had an early lunch and were on the pitch by 12.45. It was great to see you all playing so enthusiastically.

Poppies

Thank you to the Year 6 children who have been patiently selling poppies to everyone at school. Your kindness in helping our youngest children with the transactions is much appreciated.

West Ashtead Bake-off 2019

This was such a super way to end our first half term. We had just under 90 entries and the standard was very high - we obviously have some very creative and imaginative cooks. The House Captains found the judging to be very tricky as you had to be impartial. The results are Highly Commended – Mollie, Sophie, Ella, Hucky, Lenny, Alastair, Emily, Holly, Harriet, Thomas and Florence. Star Bakers are Isla (Earth), Rosie (Water) and Jacob (Swans). The overall Showstopper was Jacob. Thanks to your generosity we will be sending £200 to Canine Concern.

Online Safety

Childnet have updated their parent and carer toolkit that will help parents have conversations about online safety. Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children:

1. "You can always come to me if you need help."
2. "What would you do if this happened...?"
3. "Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online."
4. "Keep your personal information safe, and other people's too."
5. "Be respectful to others online."
6. "Think before you post."
7. "Remember to ask if it's okay."
8. "Remember not everything is true online."
9. "The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like."
10. "Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to."

The Parent and Carer Toolkit can be found here: [Parent and carer toolkit](#)

And finally

Congratulations to Karlos who had the West Ashted winning entry for Chris Grayling's Christmas Card Competition. Congratulations to Jessica, Phoebe and Betsie who won the Design a Vegetable Competition which was judged internally. I have just heard that Betsie's design has been chosen from our local schools group and goes to the next stage of the competition!

We sadly say goodbye to Mrs Hine who has been working in Kingfishers. She is leaving to spend more time with her second job with Nursery children.

I am looking forward to the amazing firework display on Friday and hope to see you all there as well.

Best wishes

Ruth Hall

CHRISTMAS 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

1 December 11:30 – 14:30	FOWA Christmas Fair
11/12 December 19:00	Junior Carol Concert
12/13 December 09:30	Infant Nativity Play (Dress Rehearsal 11/12/19)
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

(Start of term: TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2020)