



## West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 6 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

A truly magnificent fireworks display last week. Huge thanks to Mrs Hills and all the other hardworking volunteers who remained calm and cheerful despite all the challenges of putting on such a large event.

### Curriculum

Year 3 had an amazing outing to Billingsgate Fish Market where they handled a great variety of fish and made fish fingers. The staff at Billingsgate Cookery School were very impressed with the behaviour and engagement of our children. I am pleased that we have been able to provide a different and unusual experience. Meanwhile Robins have been dismantling a television to discover what is inside. This ensured great fine motor skills, concentration and led to some in-depth conversations and vocabulary development.

Last Wednesday our teachers had an extended training session to learn all about Purple Mash. This is an award winning online program that allows us to teach and embed computing and digital skills across our curriculum. As Purple Mash is online it can be accessed from anywhere and your child should have their username and login details stuck into their Reading Diary. We do hope that they will continue their learning at home and share the work they have completed in school with you.

We have made a flurry of purchases. We will shortly have 15 Chromebooks as part of our computing strategic plan. We have also bought a maths game app for the Infants so look out for that launch. We will soon be adding new stock to our infants' home reader selection. We are also investigating an online maths tuition programme to be used in Year 5 and Year 6.

### Lexia Core 5

We have purchased an online reading programme called Lexia Core 5. This is a bespoke reading programme tailored to meet the children's individual reading needs. Our chosen children have sessions in school and can also access at home. The children must work independently and if they become stuck the computer provides support. If a child continues to struggle, it is flagged on our system and a 1-1 teaching session is delivered by a teacher. Some children have made impressive progress in a very short space of time, so if your child is lucky enough to be part of this initiative I do urge you to make sure that your child uses it at home to get the maximum benefit.

### Sport

Last week some of our girls and boys played in a mini football tournament. The girls won both their matches 8-0 and 7-0. Our Year 6 boys played three games, winning two and drawing one. They reached the finals but unfortunately lost 1-0 to The Greville. All our players showed great focus, determination and sportsmanship. Mrs Hosken is very proud of all their achievements.

### Sporting Events and Clubs

Mrs Hosken is working hard to organise sporting events with local schools. If you are able to help referee or support in any way please let the office know. Last year we were lucky enough to have the strong support of a group of parents who helped us organise and run competitive matches. This meant that we were able to provide opportunities that would otherwise have been closed to our school due to teaching or other commitments. Thank you to Mr Coldicott and Mrs Walsh who are working hard to source a netball coach so we can have a netball club. If you have any contacts, please let Mrs Walsh in the office know.

### Special Educational Needs

We will be starting a year long project in January alongside David Bartram OBE, a national Special Education Needs expert. Mrs Allum, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will be collaborating with other local schools sharing good practice and ensuring that our provision is as effective and efficient as possible.

### Open Days and Evenings

I have introduced our school to many parents over the last few weeks. They have been overwhelmingly positive about the school with comments about the good behaviour, friendly atmosphere and the quality of the work they have seen. Many thanks to those of you who have recommended us!

### Stationery

An unexpected side effect of the children supplying their own stationery is that I no longer pick up pencils on a daily basis. Everyone is taking great care of their equipment and I have only picked up three pencils since September – long may it continue!

### And finally

We welcome Miss Elise Williams-More who will be joining Kingfishers. We look forward to sharing all the amazing things about our school.

This Friday is MUFTI day for the Christmas Fair, please remember to bring in bottles and jam jars to support the excellent work of our Friends. I look forward to seeing all the excitement at the Fair on Sunday.

Best wishes

*Ruth Hall*

Headteacher

## [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

<b>1 December 11:30 – 14:30</b>	FOWA Christmas Fair
<b>11/12 December 19:00</b>	Junior Carol Concert
<b>12/13 December 09:30</b>	Infant Nativity Play (Dress Rehearsal 11/12/19)
<b>16 December 13:30</b>	Infant Christmas Party
<b>17 December PM</b>	Year 6 Christmas Fair – parents invited from 15:30
<b>19 December</b>	Whole School Christmas Day
	FOWA – Christmas Disco
<b>20 December</b>	School finishes at <b>13:00</b>
	<b>(Start of term: TUESDAY 7 JANUARY 2020)</b>

