



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 20 17th July 2020

The end of a very strange school year is drawing to a close.

When we initially closed back in March I spoke to all our staff and said that the only way we would get through this is if we all worked together. I am immensely proud that this pronouncement was fulfilled and more by our very dedicated staff throughout the school.

- West Ashtead has been open and I have been in school every day since March.
- We have worked with ever growing numbers of children. For the past 7 weeks alone we have had over 100 children in school each day.
- I am especially proud of our youngest children, they nearly all returned at the earliest opportunity and worked with new teachers and in new classrooms with ease.
- Staff moved year groups to ensure that every child in a bubble is working with a teacher each and every day
- Teaching assistants changed their working days and hours to ensure that our most vulnerable children are supported each and every day.
- Mrs Legg moved heaven and earth to ensure that Google classroom was set up quickly. She supported families and teachers alike to ensure that everything was as smooth as possible.
- Teachers provided a full tailored and bespoke curriculum online.
- Our Year 6s returned for a full on 4 days. Their achievements with Mrs Barber can be viewed on our Facebook page. The Year 6 Leavers Committee also worked very hard to organise a Leaver's presentation to ensure that the children could receive their Leavers Book, signed shirts and their dictionary from the Rotary Club. It was great that we could have one last goodbye altogether on the field.
- We had two transition days for all our remaining children. I was so pleased that almost everyone returned – it is definitely one of my all-time education highlights. The pure enjoyment on the children's faces was worth all the hard work.

Google classroom will remain open until Monday 24th August.

It is also a sad day as we say goodbye to:

Mrs Sally Carpenter, teaching assistant in Year 4. She has been a very calming and positive influence.

Miss Elise Williams-More, teaching assistant in Kingfishers, who will be starting teaching training in September. We know that she will make a brilliant teacher.

Mrs Marie Andrews who is moving to a new school nearer to home. She has joined in everything with gusto this term.

Mrs Linda Spence who has worked as a midday supervisor for many many years. She remembers the school when it had a swimming pool!

Mrs Anne Obitz who has taught French with huge enthusiasm and some excellent props to our youngest children. She directed a fabulous French play with our older children and was in the midst of planning a French singing assembly when we closed. She has always been a positive cheerful member of staff who enthused the children with her lively teaching methods.

Miss Sophie Golding who started with us as a newly qualified teacher. She has taught in Year 3 and Year 4 as well as volunteering to move to Kingfishers after Easter. She has been a breath of fresh air, always keen and eager to help and can be relied upon to entertain us all with her singing, dancing and adventurous ideas. She will be much missed.

Our children have learned a lot about themselves over the past months. I have learned that I am resilient, well organised, flexible and can survive on 4 hours sleep a night. I am extremely proud of everything that West Ashted has achieved together and know that we can achieve even more.

I cannot thank you enough for all the messages of support and appreciation that we have had. They have sustained us through some difficult times. I do hope that every one of you has a relaxing summer break and we will see you all again on Thursday 3rd September.

With all best wishes
Ruth Hall
Headteacher