



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 2 11th September 2020

It seems like we have never been away. I can hear the happy hum of children working – everyone is settled and getting back into the rhythm of school life. The children have adjusted very well to the tweaks and adjustments so thank you for all you have done to enable us to ease back into school smoothly. We continually revise and review our procedures to ensure the best for your children. This does mean another lengthy newsletter!

School Opening

Our Y3s have blended very well together with children from different schools and it seems that they have always been part of West Ashtead. Our Robins have started their transition. As with Year 3, we have planned a different transition this year to ensure that every child has the best opportunity to grow and flourish with us. They are currently building up to full time with 'stay and plays'. They looked so smart and happy in their uniforms this week – long may it continue.

This week Mrs Love and I undertook a school walk to ensure that our expectations for the environment are being upheld. Staff are all very well aware of our new processes and procedures and are going above and beyond to ensure that tables, chairs and equipment are cleaned thoroughly and regularly. Mr Heimsath is working super hard cleaning throughout the day to great effect. The children are all using the soap correctly and with little mess – no mean achievement.

Clubs

Please find attached our clubs timetable for the Autumn Term. We have studied the relevant Government guidance and have worked closely with outside providers to enable this provision to be offered. As you will see the numbers have been limited and the groupings match in-school groupings as much as practical. **Government guidance advises parents 'to limit the number of different out-of-school settings providers they access, as far as possible. Where parents use childcare providers or out of school extra-curricular activities for their children, schools should encourage parents and carers to seek assurance that the providers are carefully considering their own protective measures, and children should only attend settings that can demonstrate this. DfE has also issued [guidance for parents and carers.](#)'** Unfortunately there will be no teacher led clubs this term as my staff already have their hands full with the different expectations and routines that have been placed upon them. Our club provision will be tightly monitored and reviewed regularly.

For Before-School Sports clubs, children should come in their **own** sports clothes and bring in their uniform in a bag. The children will change before school.

For After-School Sports clubs children will need to bring in their **own** sports clothes in a bag. They will change in their classrooms from where they will be collected at the end of the day. The children will go home in this sports kit with their school clothes in the bag.

School P.E kits should not be used for any club.

Lunches

We have reviewed our new lunch routines and in collaboration with our cook Mrs Humphris we will be offering hot lunches from 21st September. Scopay will be updated to reflect the new meal choices and menus from Friday 18th September.

We must politely remind you that we are a nut and seed free school and ask you to keep that in mind when making your packed lunches. It has come to our attention that some children have had Peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella sandwiches and cereal bars containing nuts.

We also request for the children to bring in a healthy snack. This can be a piece of fruit or cut up vegetables. We do not allow crisps to be eaten at playtime.

Keeping children safe

At West Ashted we are committed to keeping our children safe. All staff have undertaken their annual Safeguarding training and we have a cycle of training updates throughout the year. If anyone in the school community has a concern about the welfare of a child at the school – whether in or out of school, they should report it to Mrs Hall, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Ms O'Hanlon, Miss Hopkins and Mrs Legg are our Deputy DSLs.

Online Safety

Currently, the minimum age to open an account on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, TikTok and Snapchat is 13. YouTube requires account holders to be 18, however a 13-year-old can sign up with a parent's permission.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance figures are good and we monitor these figures regularly and address any issues promptly either internally or with outside support.

Please be aware that The Education (Pupil Registration)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. The policy of the Government to which this school has agreed, states that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period the Local Authority must prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance under section 444 Education Act 1996.

Please be aware that **each** parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for **each** child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and one child, each parent will receive one Penalty Notice.

If there are two parents and two children incurring unauthorised absences, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices, which in this case would amount to £120 each if paid within 21days.

Going Forward

Meet the Teacher

We are planning to release an online version of our year group information meetings through Google Classroom which we hope you will find useful. We will send an email when these are ready.

Google Classroom

We are expanding our use of Google Classroom this year as a more immediate means of celebrating work in school, setting homework and for the teachers to communicate directly with you. These will replace the Learning Letters.

The children have all been added to their new Google Classrooms. All previous classrooms and submitted work has been archived. Please visit <https://classroom.google.com> or use the mobile app. Once you have logged in children should be able to accept the invitation to join their new class.

If children have forgotten the password they created earlier in the year or have any other problems please contact Mrs Legg who can reset it for you. Slegg@west-ashtead.surrey.sch.uk

House Captains

Well done to all the candidates who bravely put themselves forward to be House Captains. This term the hustings were done virtually with some very impressive film making. The election voting process was held outside and the vote counting was very tense. Congratulations to:

Bertie and Hazel (Fire), Cerys and Phoebe (Water), Ted and Millie (Earth).

Lastly, a BIG Thank you to Mole Valley Mulch and Reggie's mum who have donated and spread bark chippings for Robins Mud Kitchen and outside reading area as well as for our flowerbeds. We are extremely grateful.

With all best wishes for a lovely weekend.

Ruth Hall
Headteacher