



West Ashtead Primary School

Newsletter Number 1 4th September 2020

Welcome back! It is great to have everyone all together and under the same roof once more. I am delighted that we are operating a full timetable with no curtailment to school hours. Welcome to all our new children and families – I hope you enjoy your time with us. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Teri Coulson has been appointed as a full time Higher Level Teaching Assistant. She will be working across the school covering classes and carrying out speech and language and other interventions as appropriate.

School Opening

The children have settled well into their new classes and have fully understood the focus on hygiene. They have quickly adapted to the new coming in arrangements. Thank you for finding the right gates and pick up points! Please can I remind you to deliver and collect promptly and to adhere to social distancing if you need to pick up from the Junior Playground.

Children are in class bubbles and have playtimes and lunchtimes in Year group bubbles. They were very pleased to see each other yesterday and playtime was a joy to behold and the atmosphere of excitement was palpable! We have the same staff supervising play and lunch times and they are taking the opportunity to get to know the children well and to introduce new games and activities to them.

We receive many guidance updates from the Government. We continually review and adjust as appropriate but my overarching aim for West Ashtead is to ensure that the school looks and operates as close to normal for the vast majority of time. It is what our children deserve and need. As you may be aware, I do not do soap opera dramatics to ensure that our calm atmosphere continues.

Clubs

We are currently working in close liaison with our club providers to ensure that our risk assessments are robust and that the club provision matches school provision in line with Government guidelines. Unfortunately we will not be able to offer teacher led clubs at the current time but as with everything else this will be reviewed regularly. I will send out a detailed letter with the club timetable.

A24 Gate

Once our Infants and Year 3 children are confident with their new classes we will open the A24 gate for them as well. We will send out an email the day before to let you know. I am hoping that this will be towards the end of next week. Thank you for your patience and co-operation.

Curriculum

The whole school is currently working on the same book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. The aim is to have a whole school display based on the work produced. It is a great project to embed our school community and has got us off to a good start. All lessons are currently beginning with revision and consolidation activities so that teachers can thoroughly assess any gaps that need to be addressed.

School Lunches

The children have settled well into the current lunchtime routine. We are working closely with Twelve15 to ensure the packed lunch provides a complete lunch for our children. Based on feedback there will be an additional item in each lunch bag next week. The leadership team is reviewing lunch arrangements at our next meeting with the aim of getting back to hot lunches as soon as possible.

Staff Update

I am very sad to report that Mrs Susan Leonard has decided to leave us. She has worked so hard with the children in Year 2 and was a fabulous asset to us. Her maths interventions also had incredible impact. Mrs Lisa Harding will also be leaving after some very dedicated work with our oldest pupils. They will be much missed but we wish them both all the best in their new endeavours.

Going Forward

Asthma Inhalers, Epipens and General Medication.

Please can you ensure that we have in date and sufficient inhalers and spacers. Juniors keep their inhalers in the classroom and Infants' are stored in the medical room and taken out at play and lunchtimes.

Please ensure that we have in date epipens if required, along with an up to date Medical Care Plan.

Where possible the need for prescribed medicines to be administered at school should be avoided. Parents are therefore requested to try to arrange the timing of doses accordingly. If this is unavoidable, then please complete the medication request form [here](#), and hand to the office with the medication.

All medicines must be kept in the school office.

Emotion Coaching

Just before the school closed, all staff had two extended training sessions with Dave Damon, our Educational Psychologist on emotion coaching. This is a very effective way of connecting with children, recognising their emotions, helping them to name their emotions and to build strategies to cope with the more negative emotions and behaviour that may stem from those feelings. This strategy dovetails very well with our work on restorative approaches to justice.

Meet the Teacher

We are planning virtual Meet the Teacher sessions so watch this space.

Parents Evening

We will be holding parents evenings on **Wednesday 21st** and **Thursday 22nd October** from 4 – 7pm. More detailed information will be sent out in October.

West Ashtead Best in Show

Following our very successful and popular Bake Off competition last year we will be holding a village show on **Friday 23rd October**. There will be different categories of classes for children to enter. This will be organised by the new House Captains and full details will be sent in the next few weeks.

I am enjoying looking forward to the future and putting more plans in place.

With all best wishes
Ruth Hall
Headteacher

