



WESTERN ROAD C.P.SCHOOL

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Newsletter — Friday 18th December 2015 Issue No: 7

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely time we've had in school over the last few days! We all thoroughly enjoyed last week's Nativity performance by our very talented infant classes. My thanks to all the Infant staff for working so hard with the children and to parents who helped with costumes and props. It was a wonderful occasion.

On Monday afternoon the school held its annual Christmas Fair. It was a great way to kick off the final week. My thanks to Laura, Ali, Cris and everyone on the FOWR team for all the hard work which went into preparing for this event. Thanks to all their efforts and everyone's support it was a huge success, raising £900!

The school enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday and, as I'm sure you've been informed, we were visited by a very special guest who popped in to say a brief hello to the children, despite it being a busy time of year for him. (I am of course talking about our Finance and Health and Safety governor, Mr Watkinson!)



Thank you to those of you who were able to come along to our "Carols around the Tree" concert yesterday. I'm sure you will agree with me that this was a lovely way to end the term and put us all in the festive spirit.



And finally, on behalf of all the staff, I'd like to say a big thank you for all the lovely and generous gifts, cards and kind messages we've received and to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas.

Matthew Montebello

New Appointments

I am very pleased to announce two new appointments. Miss Hoare is a specialist PE and music teacher. She will be teaching Year Four from March onwards, covering Mrs Bedford whilst she is on maternity leave. We have also appointed an outstanding Year Six teacher with leadership experience to cover Mrs Wooler when she leaves to go on maternity leave at the end of next term. I will be able to give you more information about this appointment at the beginning of next term.

Goodbye

I am sad to inform you that Mrs Flowers will be leaving us this term. Mrs Flowers has worked at the school for over nine years. She has made a significant contribution to the life of the school and a real difference to the learning of the children in her care. We will all miss her cheery smile and wish her well for the future.

News from the Governors

We wanted to take this opportunity of the last newsletter of the calendar year to bring you up to date on the work of the governing body. Coinciding with a restructure and reorganization of the governing body, after an eventful 3 ½ years, Ken Caplan will be stepping down as the Chair of Governors to become the Vice Chair. Jonathan Sharpe (Community Governor) and Sam Caughey (Parent Governor) will become the Co-Chairs as of January. Rather than working through a committee system, each governor has been asked to take on designated roles, like Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Pupil Progress Data Tracking, etc. This will help to streamline our oversight efforts and play to the strengths of individual governors. Although we have dedicated focus areas, issues like Finance and Budget in particular continue to remain the responsibility of the whole governing body.

As you will have seen from the Minutes of the Parents' Forum meetings, we will begin the process of recruiting a permanent Headteacher in late January with support from East Sussex County Council. We are confident and optimistic that we will identify an appropriate candidate for the role. To align with the required notice periods, our aim is to appoint in April with a start date set for the beginning of the next academic year.

As you will know, we are in the "Ofsted window" which means that we could be visited by Ofsted at any point in the coming months. Whilst we are very confident in the school's direction of travel, there are, as always, things to work on and improve. We would value your views and opinions and would encourage you to use Parent View (the online survey with a link from the school's website) to provide feedback. This will be the first area that Ofsted look at before coming to visit. Governors will also be keen to meet you at the next Parents' Evening, should you wish to ask any questions or provide any feedback directly.

We remain grateful for all the different ways that parents and carers contribute to the school. Please continue to join in and support the Friends of Western Road. The FOWR Artists and Makers event, for example, provides invaluable financial support at a time when budgets continue to dwindle. Along with your individual contributions helping out with various aspects of improving our school, both the FOWR and the Parents' Forum make a real difference in ensuring that Western Road remains a community school with the children at the centre.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season,
Western Road CP School Governors

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday, 19 th January	Phonics Training 3.45pm (all Year One parents welcome)
Tuesday, 2 nd February	E-safety training 6.30pm (all parents welcome)
Friday, 5 th February	Year Three Class Celebration Assembly 9.15am (all parents welcome)
Friday, 12 th February	Year Four Class Celebration Assembly 9.15am (all parents welcome)

Please note, all key dates are published regularly on the school website.

Request!

Please could we ask for donations of any unwanted cameras (after Christmas) to use as part of our Computing curriculum. Thank you in advance.

News From Reception

In Silver Birch class we have been making our own emergency vehicles.



News From Year One

Elm Class have been learning their number bonds to 10, and have created games using Numicon to help them remember which numbers add together to make 10. The children then taught their games to others in the class, so they could play together!

News From Year Two

Huge congratulations to the children in Year Two for leading the Nativity at the end of last week. I am sure you will agree they did a fantastic job and the Hall was filled with an admiring audience!

News From Year Three

Larch Class have worked very hard at impressing and glazing clay to make Christmas gifts and writing Christmas free verse poems inside their cards. They were very proud of their fantastic compositions.



News From Year Four

Year 4 have been learning about Mount Vesuvius and the destruction of Pompeii in 79AD. We have produced some fabulous art and descriptive writing based on a story called 'Escape from Pompeii.' Here are a few extracts:
'Suddenly, in one nail biting moment, there was a nail-biting BOOM!'

'The eruption of lava started, like a boiling pot of water bubbling over the brim.'

'The friendly mountain had their city in flames!'

'Ear splitting screams rung out as Mount Vesuvius coughed up ash and sneezed lava, like it had a deadly cold.'

The storm was building up. The sea was choppy. The volcano roared like a lion.'

News From Year Five

Year 5 have been writing a letter to Father Christmas (with a challenge to use their Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling targets) and decorating their Christmas tree decorations to sell at the Christmas Fair.



News From Year Six

In addition to the outstanding work Year Six have produced this term, many children have shown particular care and support of the younger children at playtimes and lunchtimes. Their tireless efforts are much appreciated by the younger children and really emphasise our community school spirit.



Celebration Assembly

Due to the Newsletter falling on the same day as Celebration Assembly, photographs and names of the children being awarded with Headteacher certificates and cups will go out at the end of the first week of Term Three. Congratulations to all children who received their certificates and cups today.

Safe-Guarding Children at Western Road Community Primary School:

At Western Road Community Primary, all staff take safeguarding children very seriously. All staff have been trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection. If you have any concerns about a child's well-being, bullying or e-safety, please contact the Designated Teachers for Child Protection: **Ms Masters and Mr Montebello.**