

West Green Primary School Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write to you about money.

The school's money.

Money, the lack of it, is a big issue for schools at the moment, especially in West Sussex. I'm sure that many of you will have read the "Worth Less?" campaign letters that have been sent out over the past few years. It seems like this campaign is finally getting somewhere, but it doesn't change the fact that at the moment, West Sussex schools including West Green Primary – that's your child's school place, is funded 143rd out of 147 local authorities. That means that there are some schools in the country that get double the amount of funding per child that we do.

The school has had to make some strategic decisions around funding in the past in order to keep going. We have been very lucky in terms of getting grants for things like the pond and some of the outdoor areas, but they have just been the tip of the iceberg.

It looks like even leaner times are on the way unless something changes in the way that West Sussex is funded for their schools.

So what can you do to help?

Firstly, I'd like to thank you all for your support of the school fundraising events. We try to create a balance between raising funds for the school, and for charity. We think we get it right, but please do tell us if you think we should do something different.

Secondly, even if your child automatically gets free school meals because they are in Reception, Year1 or Year 2, please let us know if you are eligible for Free School Meals generally.

How do Free School Meals help us and you?

If you are in receipt of certain benefits and you are successful in applying, the school will get extra funding to support your child called 'Pupil Premium'. This includes extra help from teachers and teaching assistants, free school uniform, help with trips, free books, and of course free school meals. This funding carries on for 6 years even if your circumstances change, so it's well worth applying even if you receive qualifying benefits for a few months.

I know that some of you may be hesitating in applying because you don't want your child to have a 'label'. Rest assured that we treat this information as sensitively and confidentially as possible, and never draw attention to the fact in school. Please contact the school office for more information on how to apply for Free School Meals.

As a final persuasive note, I'm happy to share the fact that as a child I received free school meals myself and survived to tell the tale. I was particularly fond of the spam fritters but really couldn't stand the haggis... yes, they really did serve haggis as school lunches in Scotland in the '70s.

Kind regards,
Mr A Hodgson

Quiz Night

Once again, the Quiz Night was hugely popular, raising £474.00 for school funds. This money has been used to purchase much needed iPads that are used to enrich the children's learning.

A fantastic night was had by all, with some excellent raffle prizes won. This would not have been possible without the exceptional efforts of Miss Bailey, Miss Ruse and Mrs Moore, who went the extra mile in organising and running the event. I am sure you will all join me in giving them our sincerest thanks.

Packed Lunch

We have been asked to clarify what the school stance for children's packed lunch is.

As a school we recommend that children have as healthy a packed lunch as possible, which may include fruit and vegetables. We also recommend that parents limit treats to one item. It is important that whatever you decide to pack in your child's lunch box it is something that they enjoy and gives them the energy they need for an afternoon of learning.

Reading Bingo

Well done to all those children that completed the Reading Bingo Challenge over the half-term break. The children really embraced the challenge. Here are some of the responses from the children when asked what they loved about the activity:

I loved.....

'Reading to my unicorn'. – Molly (YR)

'Reading in my den. I made it in my bedroom.' – Khalil (Y4)

'Reading the jokes best. They made me laugh and I made others laugh too.' – Rafay (Y5)

'Reading to my cousin best' – Ella (Y2)

'Reading under my table because it was fun and a bit dark'. – Nadin (Y3)

Year 5 Herstmonceux Observatory Trip

Year 5 had the best day learning about the history of telescopes, understanding how rockets 'lift off' and experimenting in the vast science galleries. The adults particularly enjoyed the mysterious light and sound room – especially the disappearing mirrors! The children were fabulously behaved with all staff members of the museum commenting on how well they worked together and listened. Well done Year 5.

Here are some of the children's favourite parts of the trip:

'The light and mirror room with the spooky mirror and plasma ball as well as getting ejected from a seat!!!'

'The science show because it was fun when I got swept across the floor, it felt like I was on a hover board.'

'The discovery park was amazing.'



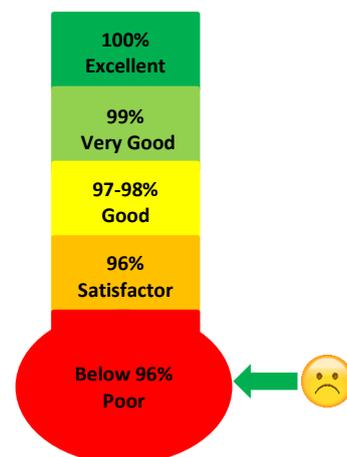
Attendance Matters

At West Green Primary School, we take attendance and punctuality very seriously. Whole school attendance for October was only 95.7%, this is below our target figure of 97%. By working together, I am sure that we can reach our attendance target.

As well as attendance, punctuality makes a real difference to your child's learning. It is also an important life skill. Children who are late in the morning are often rushed. They are unable to settle into their environment with their peers and miss the crucial introduction to the days learning. It can take a long time to fully catch up on even a few minutes missed. All of which can be very stressful for a child.

We would like to remind you all that your child should be at school for 8.45am and in their classroom, settled and ready learning to by 8:55am. Even a couple of minutes late a day can add up to over 3 days of missed learning per year.

If, for any reason, your child is late to school they must be signed into school at the office so that our records can be updated.



After School Clubs

The last club sessions for the Autumn Term are as follows:

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday 17 th Dec | Karate |
| Tuesday 11 th Dec | Multisport Years 3 – 6 |
| Wednesday 12 th Dec | Multisport Years 1 – 2 Drama |
| Thursday 13 th Dec | Choir Dodge ball |
| Friday 14 th Dec | Football Club Year 1 – 4 Football Team Year 5 & 6 |

Fundraising

A big thank you to everyone for their generosity during our fund raising events.

We have raised £194.15 for Children in Need. In addition to this, the book fair raised £125.00 that has been used to purchase school library books for the children to enjoy.



Friday 14th December £2.35

Festive Menu

Choose a main meal...
Roast Turkey
with Stuffing, Cocktail Sausage & Gravy
or
Quorn Fillet
with Stuffing Ball & Gravy

on the side...
Roast Potatoes
Peas and Carrots

for dessert...
Chocolate Dipped Shortbread
or
Fruit Salad

for a drink...
Fruit Squash
Milk
Water

To enjoy our festive-inspired day, please
order at www.mealselector.co.uk
by Sunday 2nd December

West Sussex County Council **Chartwells**
EAT. LEARN. LIVE.

Autumn Term Dates

| | |
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| 2 nd December | Deadline for Ordering Christmas Lunch (via Chartwells meal selector website) |
| 3 rd December | Start of Christmas Teddy Bear Sale |
| 3 rd December | Tickets Available for EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production and Christmas Disco from School Office |
| 4 th December | Year 4 Class Assembly, 9:00am – parent/carer invite |
| 7 th December | Year 5 Cornet Recital, 9:30am – parent/carer invite |
| 7 th December | School Disco: 3:45 – 4:45pm Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 5:00 – 6:00pm Year 3 – Year 6 |
| 11 th December | Carol Service at Crawley Baptist Church, 10:00 – 11:00am – parents/carers welcome |
| 12 th December | EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production, 2:00 – 3:00pm |
| 13 th December | EYFS/KS1 Christmas Production, 9:30 – 10:15am |
| 14 th December | Christmas Lunch |
| 14 th December | Christmas Jumper Day |
| 19 th December | Last Day of Term |
| Winter Break: 20th December 2018 – 2nd January 2019 | |
| 3 rd January | Start of Spring term, school open |
| 30 th January | Kids Matter Parenting Programme Taster Session, 9:00am in school hall |
| 4 th February | Young Voices Concert at O2, London |
| 7 th February | Come and Share our Learning: Reading, 9:00am – parent/carer invite all years |
| 15 th February | Sponsored Reading Half-Term Challenge |
| Half Term: 18th – 22nd February 2019 | |
| 25 th February | INSET Day (school closed to children) |
| 8 th March | Mid-Year Reports Sent Home |
| 13 th March | Parents Evening, 3:30 – 6:00pm |
| 14 th March | Parents Evening, 4:30 – 7:00pm |
| 28 th March | Year 2 Class Assembly – parent/carer invite |
| Easter Break: 8th – 22nd April 2019 | |

Yours sincerely
Mr A Hodgson - Headteacher