



West Wycombe Combined School

Newsletter

Issue 1: Friday 22nd September

www.westwycombe.bucks.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the autumn term! It is already proving to be a busy and exciting one!

Walking around this week it has been fantastic to see how well all of our pupils have settled back in after the summer break and we are especially proud of all our new Reception children, who are doing really well.

We have recently devised a new behaviour policy, which is working well. There may be some tweaks over the coming months, once we have had a chance to iron out any issues that may arise. The new system involves a focus on new rewards, such as:



- **Praise postcards** will be posted home
- **House points**
- Each week, we will nominate one child from each class to be a '**Learner of the week**' and another child for '**Star of the week**'
- **Headteacher's & Deputy Headteacher's stickers** – for good conduct or work that is brought to the Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher
- **Half-termly Headteacher's breakfast** – one girl and boy from each class will be chosen by the class teacher to attend, as a result of positive behaviour or learning
- Half-termly **Platinum Reward time** afternoon – A range of activities will be available – examples of activities which may run are: Football, DVDs, walks, quiet activities (e.g. colouring, painting)
- Attendance awards

We have also revised the consequences for poor behaviour, which follow a 4 stage model: code yellow, orange, purple and red will be issued, depending on the behaviour. We have also put together a new Anti-bullying policy.

The children appear very positive about it, which is encouraging. Further information is available on the website.

Best wishes,

Ms Abi Preston
Headteacher



Contact details

If you have changed any of your contact details over the summer holidays, please ensure you inform the office as soon as possible, so your child's details can be updated.



Parking

We request that all parents park in the garden centre carpark when dropping off and picking up children. No cars should be parked by the entrance or up Church Lane as the National Trust has now made this 'residents only' parking. The school carpark is for staff only and parents are not permitted to park here when collecting or dropping off their child.



Dates for your diary

25 th September	WOW Travel Tracker starts
27 th September	PTA bags 2 school due Pets as Therapy introduction session
2 nd October	Our first Y6 led assembly
5 th October	Whole School Science dome workshop
10 th October	Whole school skipping workshops
11 th October	First full Pets as Therapy session
12 th October	7pm -PTA fashion show
17 th October	Flu vaccines R to Y4 Y5 & Y6 Science Workshop 3.30-7.30pm Parents consultations
18 th October	3.30-5.30pm Parents consultations Headteacher's breakfast
20 th October	Platinum reward time pm

Half term



Parent helpers

I am amazed by how supportive parents are in West Wycombe – it really is incredible! If any parents want to come in to help in school or to do reading with the children, we would very much appreciate any support parents can offer. We also hope to do some painting in the outdoor reception area so any helpers would be greatly appreciated, along with any donations for outdoor fence paint. Please get in touch with the office if you are able to help at all.

PTA

The PTA have been working hard to organise some fantastic events this year. Here are some of the forthcoming events to add to your diaries:

29th September 1.45pm - *Macmillan Coffee Morning*

12th October 7pm - *Fashion Show*

6th December - *Christmas fayre tombola*

There will also be an opportunity for children to design their own Christmas cards this year also.



Apologies

We are very sorry that the news about dates for the individual photos was not shared in time with parents. The proofs of the photos that were taken will come home shortly; if any parents are disappointed with them, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

Wrap Around Care – Expression of Interest

Please remember to return your forms to let us know if you would be interested in a breakfast and after school club service.

Communications

In an effort to improve communications with our families, we are going to start sending parents a weekly diary dates memo, on the weeks where the newsletter is not produced. We hope you will find this a useful addition.

Skipping Workshop

All children will take part in a skipping workshop on 10th October, run by 'Dan the Skipping Man'. Please make sure the children have their PE kits in school.



Pets as Therapy – Reader Dog

We are very pleased to announce we will be having a 'Reader Dog' from Pets as Therapy starting work with some of our children. Children are being selected by teachers to take part in this exciting initiative for this term. Those who have been selected will receive a letter home requesting permission to take part.

There is a wealth of research that demonstrates that children reading to dogs has an incredible impact on reading attainment, due to the non-judgmental reading practice. Our reader dog is called Sophie and she is a miniature poodle. Due to being a poodle, her hair is hypo-allergenic, so any children with allergies should not be affected. I am aware there will be some children who are frightened of dogs; most children who are not part of the intervention will not need to have contact with her, unless chosen to do so. Sophie will be visiting weekly, with her first visit being on Wednesday 27th September to meet her groups of children. The full weekly sessions will then commence on 11th October. She is fully trained for her role as a reader dog and is a regular at visiting hospitals and care homes to help a range of people in the community. We look forward to welcoming her to our school!



We are now making phone calls to parents whenever children have had any head bumps and if they attend the medical room as a result. This is not to alarm parents; this is a precaution in case of any side effects are seen at home later on. A letter will also come home to parents if children have bumped their heads.

New healthcare plans have been sent home to relevant parents – please ensure these are completed and returned to the office as soon as possible. It is vital that we have up to date information about medical conditions and treatment for them.

Reward assemblies

Following on from our new behaviour policy, we will be delivering news of who has been awarded the 'Star of the Week' and 'Learner of the Week' in our Friday assemblies. Badges will be given to children to wear for the week and then they will be returned for the following week. At this stage, we will be running these assemblies internally. This is as a result of feedback from some parents, who struggled to juggle work and other commitments with attending reward assemblies. It also means that children whose parents could not attend would not be disappointed.

We will trial this new way of announcing rewards but I am happy to receive feedback from parents about this.

Key Learning Skills

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the 'Meet & Greet' recently. It was lovely to see such a fantastic number of parents in attendance. Every parent should have received their own Key Skills packs, which detail the curriculum coverage for each year group and provide some prompts for parents to support your children's learning. If any families did not receive their Key Skills pack, please let the office know.

