

**An Daras**  
Multi Academy Trust

# Windmill Hill Academy Monthly Family Newsletter

'Gateway to Lifelong Learning'  
'Porth dhe lyenn'



Mr A Terry  
Head of School

**Monday 23rd July 2018**



The final one! Welcome to the final newsletter of the academic year, 2017-2018. I looked at my comments from this time last year and really they echo what I would like to say for this year so I have kept some parts more or less the same.

We are now very close to the holiday and the pupils can now have a very well-earned rest. Once again they have worked extremely hard throughout the year and we (the staff) have all been very impressed with the positive attitude and dedication they have shown towards their learning. They really are all super pupils. I now hope they can all have a relaxing and pleasant summer.

The end of the term, once again, also signals the end of time for our Y6 pupils here at Windmill Hill. After seven years there is always a very close bond between staff and pupils and although it is a time to recognise and celebrate their achievements it is also tinged with sadness as we will all miss them all very much. They have been a super class throughout their time here and I would like to say how proud I am of each and everyone of them.

The end of term this year also means that we are saying goodbye to some of our staff. They are a wonderful group and they have always given everything for the school over the long years they have been with us. We will all definitely miss their valuable dedication, expertise and hard work. There is nearly fifty years experience between all of them and they have always given so much (and even more) for the pupils during their time. I would like to wish them all the very best of luck for the future and we hope they will come back and see us.

Finally, I would just like to say a huge THANK YOU, once again to all parents/carers for the support you have given us throughout the year. Your help and support is invaluable and we do very much appreciate all you do for us. We look forward to seeing you all again on **Thursday 6th September**. We are however, not in a rush to see that date just yet, ha.

## Goodbye Year 6.

## Good Luck at Launceston College.

## We will miss you all.



Please subscribe for newsletter on the front page of the school website to get newsletters automatically e-mailed to you. Black and white copies are also available in the foyer and on the website under 'News'

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>24th July</b>	Last day of term
<b>4th Sept</b>	Inset Day (no children in on this day)
<b>5th Sept</b>	Inset Day (no children in on this day)
<b>6th September</b>	Return to school

## Attendance Figures for July 2017

Year	2nd July	9th July	16th July
YF	99.3%	93.4%	94.8%
Y1	98.2%	99.3%	92%
Y2	98.9%	98.2%	95%
Y3	88.3%	94.8%	92.8%
Y4	98.6%	99.7%	93.1%
Y5	95.4%	96.2%	93.5%
Y6	92%	96.7%	93.9%

## Visible Learners Awards Summer Term

Year F	Joshua J	Lexie G
Year 1	Kamil K	Leah L
Year 2	Blake C	Ellie C
Year 3	Kaspian L	Flora D
Year 4	Louis F	Gemma H
Year 5		
Year 6	Emily T	Thomas D W

## Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
13th July	Myles D Sienna M	Harry P Chelsee G	Autumn B Ava R	Alicia T Marley L	Kacper G Angel B		Finley R Eimija K

# Key Stage 1 News

## Sports day and Sports morning

Key Stage 1 worked hard in mixed-age teams to practice and improve their sporting skills during our sports morning. They all ran, skipped, threw javelins and even hula-hooped in their groups. They supported and encouraged each other to do their best, which was fantastic to see.

The children also all took part in our sports day races to earn points for their house teams. There were some fantastic sporting performances and they had an opportunity to cheer their team members on in their races too. Well done Key Stage 1!



## Launceston Castle Visits

Year F, Year 1 and Year 2 were all lucky to have glorious weather for their class trips to Launceston Castle where they learnt more about the history of the castle and investigated its features. The visit enhanced their project learning in the classroom about our Knights and Castles topic. They were able to imagine what it would have been like to have lived in the castle in the past. After climbing the steps all the way to the top, we were also rewarded with a splendid view of the surrounding area and spotted a number of local landmarks too - including our school.

Year 1 and 2 also enjoyed our Enrichment Day back in school and there were also many fantastic themed costumes.



## Year 2's visits to Pendruccombe Residential Home

This year the Year 2 pupils have visited the residents at Pendruccombe Residential home on more than one occasion. Activities have included: singing songs from the nativity and Christmas carols, colouring with the residents, reading to the residents and playing their favourite games together. The pupils have really benefited by gaining knowledge about the older generation



and learning about different people who make up our community. We have succeeded in our aim to bridge the gap between old and young people, fostering a greater understanding between the generations. The pupils have been a real credit to the Academy during their visits - well done Year 2!



# Key Stage 2 News

## Sewing Club

Sewing club has become very popular on Thursday afternoons.

Children from years 4,5 and 6 have attended the afternoon club with Mrs Williams. It is great to see some boys joining in with the girls

enjoying new sewing skills . Well done boys!

The group showing some of the things they have made during the year..



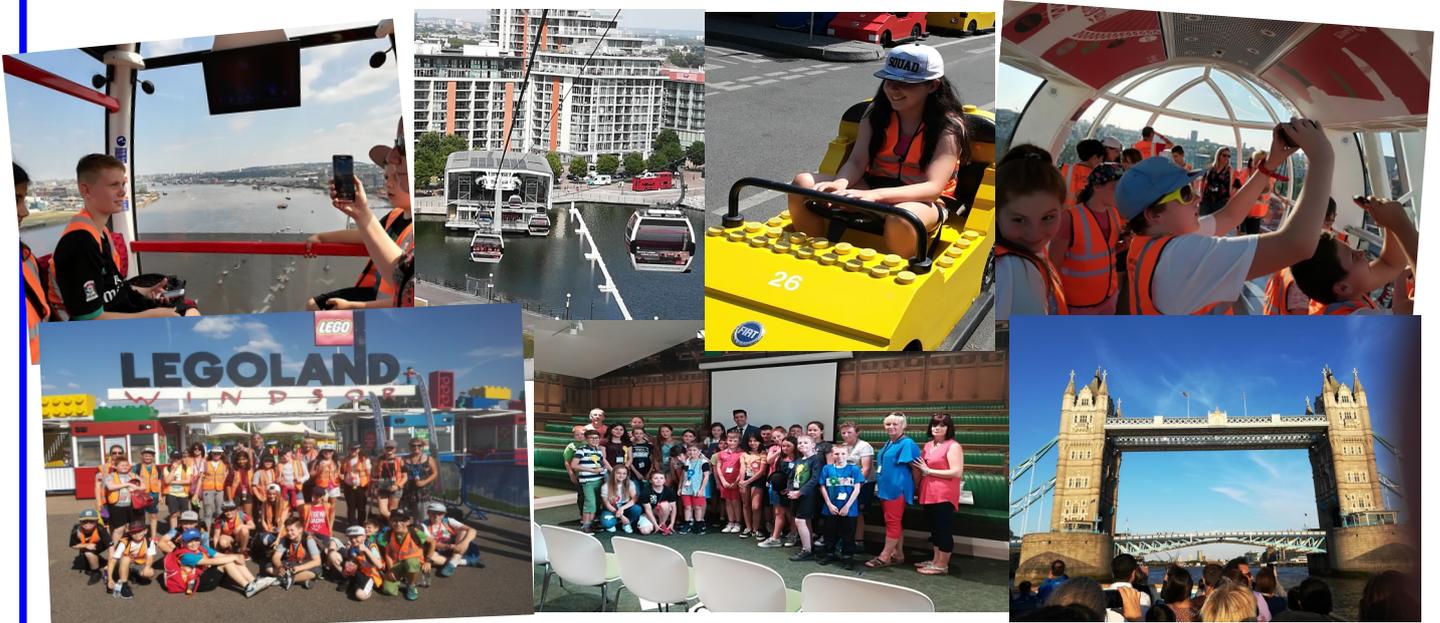
Sewing Club will return in the autumn term

## Year 6 LONDON Residential Week

Year 6 had a wonderful time in London on their residential week during the first week of July. The weather was beautiful and sunny, but VERY hot! (Most children laid on TOP of their duvets rather than UNDER them!)

As usual, the trip had been meticulously organised by Mrs. Clark and she had planned so much for us to do. 'Thank you. Mrs. Clark—it was amazing!!

On the whole the children were very well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves and staff had a wonderful week too—though very tiring! Thank you Year 6 for a great week! Very good luck for the future at college and beyond. Don't forget to come and see us sometimes too — we love to hear all about your college life and hear how you are getting on. Very best wishes from Windmill Hill.



## Visible Learning at WHA Newsletter 2018

### Visible Learning Update

Did you know at Windmill Hill Academy, we have been working closely with our An Daras Schools on a learning journey called 'Visible Learning'? The Visible Learning improvement model is based upon the principles developed by John Hattie's research.

Recently we had a visit from Wendy Delf, our Visible Learning External Mentor with Mrs Saunders, our MAT Visible Learning Leader. Both adults spoke with members of staff, children across the school and looked at our learning environment and children's learning books.

The visitors were pleased with our learning journey but also gave us some recommendations on our Visible Learning Journey for next year. You can find out more information from our website. Our Visible Learning coaches are Miss Jones (Foundation teacher) and our new additional coach will be Mrs Charrett-Dykes (Year Three Teacher). We hope to share with you our Visible Learning Journey throughout the year next year in our newsletters.

### What is Visible Learning?

Pupils take ownership of their own learning. They know where they are within the curriculum and what their next steps are. Using their goals grids they can track their own progress. The pupils know what to do when they come across something they don't know and have strategies to progress with their learning. Pupils seek feedback and respond to it, and more importantly they give feedback to staff about their teaching.

Pupils are active in their learning and are assessment capable. Assessment Capable Learners can ask and find the answer to: Where am I going? How am I going there? Where to next?

Pupils can employ a range of meta-cognitive strategies developed through a shared language of learning. Pupils see learning as hard work, have a 'can do' approach and a desire to succeed.

Through the introduction of Visible Learning, we encourage children to really challenge themselves. Each class, has a 'learning pit' when they find the learning difficult and challenging. The children talk about where they are with their learning in relation to the pit, and work on strategies and skills to assist in their learning in order to achieve their learning intention and success criteria. We encourage the children to place themselves in the pit as this is where learning is at its best.

Visible learners are able to

Understand their learning intentions

Know and are challenged by the success criteria

Develop a range of learning strategies

Seek feedback and look for their next steps in learning

### Follow our Twitter Feed

Did you know Windmill Hill Academy has a Twitter account? The aim of our Twitter account is to showcase the learning that is happening and keep parents informed about exciting learning projects such as 'Year Three Art Weaving Day'. Please do follow us on twitter directly or follow us through the website. We use twitter to tweet about our learning displays and examples of visible learning. Come and join our community.



# Windmill Hill Academy

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23 July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to introduce more "loose parts" into our Early Years provisions.

Loose parts are the opposite of toys. Toys are designed with specific purposes; loose parts are not.

The concept of "loose parts" is understood by children worldwide; any child noticing odds and ends lying about will instinctively pick them up and put them to use. This is because children have active minds with a gift for seeing possibilities that adults miss.

In open-ended play children themselves decide what to do, how to do it and what to use. For children who immerse in it, open-ended play evolves in an amazing way. Initially it consists of fluid experimentation. Over time it becomes increasingly purposeful as children start to plan what to act out or invent.

Loose parts can be small as corks or as large as drain pipes – healthy imagination finds uses for them all!

We would like to collect some "loose parts" for our Early Years provisions and would be grateful if anyone could donate any of the following for our "wish list":

Large loose parts for construction and outdoor areas:

Crates, guttering, cable spools, building bricks, off-cuts of wood, tyres, different size wheels, steering wheels, pallets, rope, tarpaulin.

Other loose parts:

Buttons, cotton reels, materials, threads, wool, string, shells, pebbles, pine cones, nuts and bolts, pots and pans, utensils, door knobs, corks, logs, wicker baskets, wire baskets, sea glass, wooden trays, wooden pegs, wooden crates, spice racks.

If you have any of the above we would be extremely grateful if you could bring them to Windmill Hill Academy or we are happy to arrange collection of larger items.

Thank you for your support.

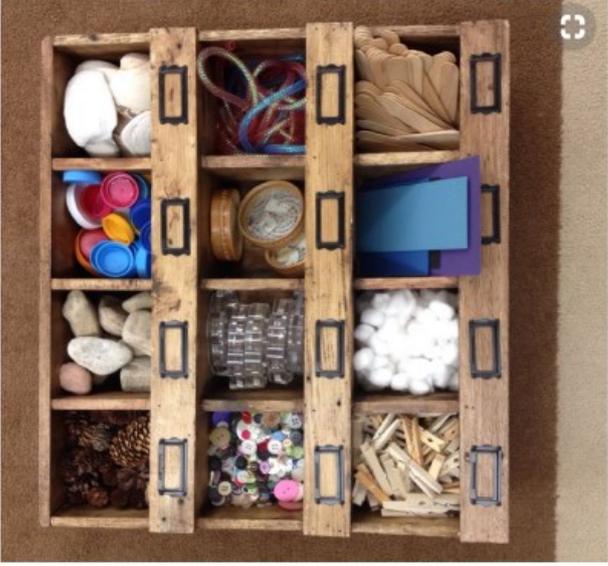
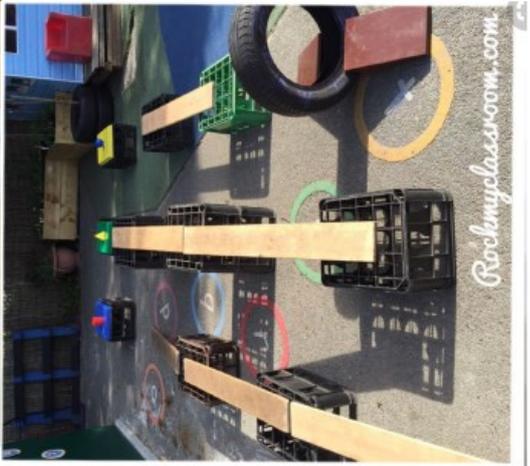
Miss S Jones

Year F Teacher



Wanted

Loose parts





## For Parents

Welcome to the Parents and Carers section of the Scomis Essentials Online Safety

Service Newsletter. The final

edition for this academic year (2017/18), providing reminders, hints and tips for parents and carers to consider to keep children safe online.

Visit **Internet Matters** website to learn about what children might be doing online.

Whatever their age, Internet Matters:

- can help you to find out more about what your children might be doing online
- provide simple, practical and easy advice on steps to take to keep your child/children as safe as possible

**Internet Safety check-list for pre-school (0-5)**

includes recommendations to:

- Explore together
- Search safely

Review video: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

**Internet Safety check-list for young children (6-10)**

includes recommendations to:

- Put yourself in control
- Use 'airplane mode' to prevent in-app purchases

Review video: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/6-10/>

**Internet Safety check-list for pre-teens (11-13)**

includes recommendations to:

- Check age-ratings
- Start discussions about social networking
- Keep their private information private

Review video: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/11-13/>

**Internet Safety check-list for teens (14+)** includes recommendations to:

- Talk about their online reputation
- Respect themselves and others online
- Stay safe on the move

Review video: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/>

## What to do if you need help

Childnet provides advice on what to do if a child comes to you and needs your help including:

- **Communication.** It is essential to talk to your child/children and reassure them they should always tell you if something upsets or worries them online
- **Save the evidence wherever possible** – include screen shots, emails, texts
- **Knowing who to report to is really important** – familiarise yourself with the advice available on Childnet's website

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/how-to-make-a-report>

Don't forget the NSPCC's online safety advice for parents:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/>

Need to talk to somebody (especially during the school holidays) about online safety?  
Want help with setting up parental controls?  
Want help with adjusting privacy settings?  
Want advice on social networks?

**FREE** advice is just a phone call away from the 02 and NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5002

**Gaming addiction has officially been recognised by the World Health Organisation as a mental health condition** – Read expert advice and steps to take to protect children from developing the condition, including:

- carry out a digital detox
- make sure that games are age and content appropriate
- reduce screen time

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/gaming-addiction-can-prevent-children-developing/>

**Need help with setting up Parental Control Guides?**

- Tablets
- Smartphones
- Games Consoles
- Operating Systems

Find out more:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>

**Need conversation starters for those tricky questions about social media Apps?**

**Read Commonsense Media's Q&As**

[https://www.common sense media.org/blog/help-my-kid-wants-to-use-social-media/?i=6801383&l=512\\_HTML&u=111308372&mid=7000332&jb=283&utm\\_source=071318+Default&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=weekly](https://www.common sense media.org/blog/help-my-kid-wants-to-use-social-media/?i=6801383&l=512_HTML&u=111308372&mid=7000332&jb=283&utm_source=071318+Default&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly)

**Are you addicted to your smartphone?**

[Apple](#) has unveiled an App to help people monitor/ reduce the time they spend on their iPads/iPhones

<https://screentimelabs.com/>

For more information contact Scomis:

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