

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Thursday 31st October 2019



Wow, where did that first half term go? It was a very busy but productive and enjoyable one. I hope you all managed to find some time to relax in the half term holiday.

It was great to see so many of you attending your child's parent consultations before half term. We hope you found the longer style consultations beneficial in giving you longer to discuss your child's learning and next steps. If you weren't able to attend your child's consultation, please liaise with your child's class teacher as they'll happily find a mutually convenient time.

Last half term's learning connection block was, 'Rebellion and Invasion' and it was great to see and hear all of the learning that took place both at school and at home (their home learning looked wonderful!). The children enjoyed sharing their learning with each other in a celebration of learning assembly and with you at the parent drop ins - they really do enjoy sharing their learning with you. We hope you can make the next one (see diary dates section). The next learning connection block is, 'Natural Elements', which will run for approximately five weeks. As mentioned before, all year groups (Y1—6) will be focusing on the same learning connection block at the same point but focus on a different concept. A copy of the parental overview was sent home at the start of this week to give you a flavour of the learning taking place during the concept. You would have also received a copy of a knowledge organiser with the key facts related to the learning concept. The expectation is that pupils learn the information, both at school and at home, as they will be quizzed at various points during the learning concept. Both documents, are also available on ClassDojo and our website.

You may have noticed two new logos at the bottom of this newsletter. I am pleased to say that we achieved two learning marks. We achieved the Visible Learning Plus mark as a result of being a 'Visible Learning' school and we achieved the School Games Silver award as recognition of all of the sport and sporting events and enrichments that take place here at Windmill Hill Academy.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time back here at Windmill Hill Academy and thank you to everyone for being so supportive. Hopefully, I have now had the chance to meet you all. If I haven't, please do come and say 'hi'.

This half term is also a very busy one with the lead up to the Christmas holidays so please take the time to read this newsletter and please look out for Class Dojo updates to keep you up to date with forthcoming events.

As a request of our Pupil Parliament Eco Group, we are trying to be an 'Eco friendly' school. Therefore, we won't be sending home newsletters. Black and white copies are available in the foyer. It will also be available on the website under 'Newsletters' in the 'Parents' tab and will be posted on ClassDojo.

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Recognition of positive behaviour

It was great to be handing out so many rewards and achievements last half term as recognition of the children's learning and behaviour. We have slightly updated our behaviour policy to reflect the 'Rights Respecting School' and 'Trauma Informed School' status. Our policy promotes positive behaviour. Please refer to the website for the full version.

Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
27th Sept	Imarni Merrick	Laila Elif	Riley Lexi	Violet Ruby	Marissa Brennan	Dominika Alfie	Theo Isla
4th Oct	Tobias Isla	Meadow Freddie C	Quintin Harry	Morwenna Kayla	Autumn Callie	Noah Emma	Liam G Elizabeth
11th Oct	Coen Rosey	Tomasz Buddy	Alfie Abe	Chelsee Emily	Eliza Autumn	Aime Ewan	Ria Warren

Visible Learners of the half term

Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Aidan Autumn	Max Chloe	Leighton Violet	Owen Izabella	Jamie Alfie	Oliwia Zack	Milo Summer

Writers and Mathematicians of the half term

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Writing	Hope	Olivia	Harry	Alyssa	Eva	Alfie	Elizabeth
Maths	Kai	Antoni	Florence	Iannis	Benjamin	Maja	Louis

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
27th Sept	Florence	Elise	Daniel
4th Oct	Millie	Leah	Madison
11th Oct	Freya	Ava	Jamie

Positive Role Model

4th Oct
Poppy (Y3)

School Improvement: Attendance

Our school target for attendance is 97.3 % and, as you know, we have attendance rewards for both classes and individual pupils to encourage good attendance. If your child arrives after the 8.55am bell but before 9.15am, they will receive a late mark. If they arrive after 9.15am, they will be marked as an unauthorised absence for the morning session. Please notify us as soon as possible if your child is unwell and we can record this as an authorised absence. If we do not receive a reason (we will try to contact ALL contacts for your child), the absence will be unauthorised. Holiday will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, so if this is the case, please email or write to the Head of School (Mrs Abby Bassett). We are happy to give medication, e.g. Calpol if your child has a cold but is well enough to come to school, in line with our 'Managing Medicines in School' policy. Please bring medication to reception and complete a form. Please try and keep medical/dental appointments outside school hours. Where this is not feasible, please take your child out of school for as little time as possible. The reason we try to achieve good attendance is not about the school target – it is for your child's future. We work closely with the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to monitor termly attendance and she will contact families where attendance is a persistent problem. Please remember, if you have any problems getting your child to school regularly – come and talk to us, we are happy to help.

Attendance Figures for September/ October 2019

Year	27th Sept	4th Oct	11th Oct	17th Oct
YF	91.5%	95.5%	99.6%	87%
Y1	96%	93.4%	94.8%	94%
Y2	96.1%	95.7%	99.3%	99.1%
Y3	97.8%	89.6%	97.1%	99.1%
Y4	97%	89.6%	98.2%	95.1%
Y5	94.2%	96.2%	98.5%	93.1%
Y6	98.1%	99.3%	93.9%	97.3%
Whole school	95.9%	94.2%	97.3%	95%

The class with the highest attendance each week, receives an extra playtime and the attendance trophy.

Our annual attendance target is 97.3%.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

31st Oct	Prospective new parents (YF) tour
1st Nov	Friends of WHA 'Monster Ball' disco (3.30—4.30pm: KS1, 5-6pm: KS2)
7th Nov	Y1 Phonics workshop
12th Nov	'Come and read with your child' parent drop in
13th Nov	Tempest Photographs
27th Nov	Nasal Flu Vaccinations
28th Nov	Year F/KS1 Parent drop in (9-9.30am)
28th Nov	Prospective new parents (YF) tour
29th Nov	KS2 (Y3, 4 and 6) Parent drop in (3.15pm—3.45pm)
2nd Dec	KS2 (Y5) Parent drop in (3.15pm—3.45pm)
6th Dec	Christmas Decorations Day
11th Dec	Year F/KS1 Christmas Dinner
11th Dec	KS2 Christmas Performance (at the Town Hall)
12th Dec	Wrap a Gift
13th Dec	Friends of WHA Christmas Fair
18th Dec	KS2 Christmas Dinner
18th Dec	Year F/KS1 Nativity (at St Mary's Church)
19th Dec	Christmas Party Day
20th Dec	Last day of term
23rd Dec—3rd Dec	Christmas Holidays
6th Jan	INSET day
7th Jan	New term begins

Autumn comes to Year F

The children in Year F have been learning all about what happens in Autumn as part of their 'Why do trees lose their leaves?' topic.

They have learnt all about harvest and what happens at this time of the year. As part of this learning, they have made still life paintings of a marrow, practised their fine motor skills by hammering golf tees into vegetables and experimented with making patterns by working together to roll conkers through paint!

They have also been learning an Autumn themed poem, why not ask them if they can recite it to you?



Poppy Appeal 2019

We will be selling poppies and other related items on behalf of the Royal British Legion as part of Remembrance Day. The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our Armed Forces community. Year 6 will begin selling them **today (Thursday 31st October)**. If your child would like to donate in exchange for an item, please can they bring their donations into school in a named enveloped or purse/wallet. There are recommended donations that vary from £1—£1.50. Miss Young will post a picture of the prices on ClassDojo.



Lest We Forget



Year 3's Gallery in Zebediah's

Last half term, Year Three learnt about local history as part of the 'Rebellion and Invasion' learning connection block. Their art focus was textiles and how to sew a running stitch to create a design of the castle. They used Karen Farrington's art as an inspiration for

design and colour choice. I think you'll agree, that they look FANTASTIC! Well done Year Three! They are being showcased in Zebediah's in the Town Centre but for this week only. We hope you get the chance to pop in and see them on display.



Quality time with Mary and Misty, our Pet Therapy Nationwide volunteer and dog



We have all thoroughly enjoyed meeting Mary and Misty, our Pet Therapy Nationwide volunteer and dog. All of the children (consent permitting) have just about met them. If not, they will get a chance to meet them this half term. Once they have all had a chance to meet them, the children will have the opportunity to read to Misty.

How does a dog help children to read?

Dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are non-judgmental, which is especially crucial to

struggling, emerging readers. The dogs also provide confidence to children as they do not make fun of them when they read, but above all they make amazing listeners, providing the children with a sense of comfort and love. Research has proved that students who read to dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write, and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills among the children they mix with.



Why have a school dog?

Children can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with a dog. In addition to these benefits, children take great enjoyment from interaction with a dog and having a dog in school can encourage reluctant children to come to school. Misty is gentle and loving, and offers children opportunities to improve their social development skills, unconditional acceptance and the chance to do something really well. For some children, a dog will be a special friend, helping them to build self-esteem, relax and have fun. For others, time spent with a dog will be a reward for

excellent effort with a difficult challenge.





Thank YOU!

Thank you for your donations to Launceston Foodbank, as part of our Harvest Festival. We were overwhelmed by your generosity. Yvonne King, a Launceston Foodbank Leader, came into our school and led an assembly. The children learnt about the good work that Launceston Foodbank does and they learnt about how your donations can reach out and support our local community.



Please support us in going cashless!

As a Multi-Academy Trust, we are intending to be cashless by the end of this term. In order to do so, we will need you to use the Schoolmoney APP, where you can pay for school dinners, trips, etc. If you are having any problems in setting up the APP or using your account, please speak to Mrs Zoffman in the office.



Parking

Please can we remind everyone to park considerately at all times. If you bring children to breakfast club, please leave your car in a parking space and take them to the door. Parking on site (other than for bringing children to breakfast club or collecting from an after school club) is strictly for staff and people with school parking permits. These permits are for Blue Badge holders or anyone who has a letter from a recognised medical professional stating they have a medical condition. Please respect these rules at all times to help us keep a safe site. Parking permits are available for The Cattle Market or The Leisure Centre. Please call at the office to receive one. These are free.

Windmill Breakfast Club

We have a successful Breakfast club before school commences each day during term time. Your child will be well looked after by qualified staff in the school hall where they can socialise and play with the toys and games available.



Children have a choice of various healthy cereals, fresh fruit, yoghurts, toast and drinks if they wish to eat breakfast. We open at 8am.



The school day starts at 8.50am. Younger children will be escorted to the playground to commence their school day (YF will be taken to YF building). If you have an early appointment or meeting and there's no-one to look after the kids, or if your child is nervous about coming into school, why not try us? Per session £2.30 (Concessions may be available).



For any queries or more information, please contact: Mrs Williams, Mrs Rutherford or ask at the office.

Do you have a child who was born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016?

If so, you must now apply for a school place for him/her for September 2020. If you have a child born between the above dates, you must submit an online application (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions). If you do not have internet access, please call in at the school office for further information. A formal application through Cornwall Council must be made by parents for all places for children due to start school in September 2020. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2020**.

If you, or your know any prospective parents would like to have a tour of our wonderful school, please let them know that my next date is **Thursday 28th November at 9.30am**. I will do another one in December, if required.

Year 6 parents should have received a communication regarding transfer to secondary school and details of the application process and submitted their application online (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions), as the deadline is today (**31st October**). If you haven't, please contact them directly as it is in your child's best interest that you do not delay doing this.



MONSTER BALL

FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

KEY STAGE 1 - 3:30PM-4:30PM

KEY STAGE 2 - 5PM-6PM

£2 ENTRY - INCLUDES

DISCO, SWEETS AND

DRINK

GLITTER TATTOOS-50P

GLOW STICKS-£1