

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Friday 27th September 2019



Although the summer holidays seem like a distant memory, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all children and parents, including our new families, to the new academic year at Windmill Hill Academy. I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to the new school year ahead.

As the new Head of School at Windmill Hill Academy, it has been wonderful to see so many familiar faces and meet new ones. If we haven't managed to speak yet, please do come and say 'hello' - you will normally see me on morning duty. For those that don't know me, I was previously the Assistant Head of School at Windmill Hill Academy for three years between September 2015 and July 2018. Last academic year, I was seconded to Princetown Community Primary on Dartmoor as their Head of School for a year. Although it was sad to hear that Mr Terry was retiring, I was honoured to be offered the post as it is a very lovely school and I am very proud to be part of it and of the whole school community.

You may have also noticed some other new faces within our staff team. We welcome Mrs Sharpe, Year 3 Teacher, Mr Bullock, Year 4 Teacher, and Mrs Tryner, a learning support assistant in Year 5.

The children have had a great start to the new school year. It was so lovely to see so many smiley and enthusiastic faces on the first day back and I am glad to see this has continued. I have been impressed by how quickly the children have settled and they also look super smart in their uniforms.

The autumn term is always very busy. Please look out for Class Dojo updates and the monthly newsletter to keep you up to date with forthcoming events.

School Improvement: the wider curriculum

Before the summer holidays, the teachers spent a lot of time rewriting our long term curriculum map to reflect the emphasis on the wider curriculum. All year groups (Year 1 to 6) will be focusing on the same learning connection block at the same point but focus on a different concept. The aim of this is to make wider curriculum but to also build on the pupils' learning year upon year. For this half term, the learning connection block is called, 'Rebellion and Invasion'. Some classes have been focusing on local history, the Romans or World War Two. A copy of a parental overview was sent home at the start of the term (also a copy on ClassDojo and the school website) 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. You will receive a copy of both of these documents at the start of each learning concept. They will also feature on ClassDojo and the website. Please note that the length of some of the concepts vary. The next one will start after half term and be 5 weeks and the following will be 3 weeks. The children have been enthused by their new learning and we have already received some fantastic home learning linked to their learning concepts.

We are trying to be an 'Eco friendly' school so we don't send 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.

Recognition of positive behaviour

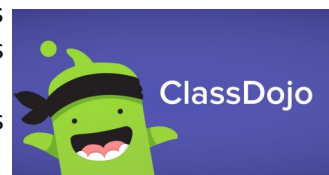
We have slightly updated our behaviour policy to reflect the 'Rights Respecting School' and 'Trauma Informed School' status. We will put a parent friendly version on ClassDojo and/or the newsletter soon. Our policy promotes positive behaviour. Here is a flavour of how positive behaviour is recognised:

- Regular verbal praise and appreciation
- Stickers
- Celebrating success with others
- Person of the week
- House Team points (ClassDojo points)
- Golden time
- Celebration assembly rewards
- Stars of the week
- Respect and Kindness trophies
- Positive Role Model Trophy
- Raffle
- Attendance trophy for the class (and extra playtime) and end of term/year badges
- Karate reading bands
- Visible Learner of the half term
- Mathematician and Writer of the half term
- End of year trophies

Class Dojo

Nearly all of our parents and carers are signed up to ClassDojo. I think you'll agree that it is a fantastic tool for you to gain an insight into your child's learning and behaviour, as well as a tool for communicating key messages and updates to parents. Please can I remind you that if you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please speak to them at the end of the day or make an appointment, as teachers will not be using the messaging facility.

If you are having trouble connecting to ClassDojo, please speak to your child's class teacher or myself (Mrs Bassett), as we can support you in connecting to it.



Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
13th Sept	Sol Hope	Jessica Max	Violet Florence	Phoebe Jacob	Benjamin Eva	Joseph Maja	Gemma Daniel
20th Sept	Shiying Autumn	Antoni Franky	Tyler Freya	Zak Alyssa	Lola Oliwia	Flora Jowan	Kelsie Louis

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
13th Sept	Dante	Aimee N	Zack
20th Sept	Jude	Chelsee	Gemma

Positive Role Model

20th Sept
Kristian (Y6)

Meet our new Head girl and boy and Deputy head girl and boy

After much deliberation, our head girl and boy and deputies were voted for by staff for their consistent good behaviour and being good roles to other children. Meet Kristian (Head Boy), Daisy (Head Girl), Liam G (Deputy Head Boy) and Summer (Deputy Head girl). They have already had their first duty in supporting me showing around prospective new parents—they did a fabulous job and were commended by the parents for their professionalism. For the Year 6s, there are many other roles they have including prefects, house captains and librarians. All classes have the opportunities for extra roles. One of which is Pupil Parliament, where all pupils are part of and some are leaders for their group. We will let you know about our Pupil Parliament and their action plans for the year soon.



Attendance Figures for September 2019

Year	6th Sept	13th Sept	20th Sept
YF	N/A	91.9%	99.2%
Y1	90%	96.7%	88.3%
Y2	100% ★	100% ★	96.1%
Y3	87%	100% ★	88.9%
Y4	88.9%	98.9%	88.9%
Y5	90.7%	98.5%	97.3%
Y6	90.7%	94.7%	96.3%
Whole school	90.9%	97.2%	93.5%

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

Our annual attendance target is 97%+.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10th Oct	Donations for the Foodbank
10th Oct (9-9.30am)	KS1 Parent Drop in
11th Oct (3.15—3.45pm)	KS2 Parent Drop in
Wk beg 14th Oct	Mon (Y6 and YF), Tues (Y5 and Y3), Wed (Y4) and Thurs (Y1 and Y2) parent consultations
15th Oct	Parent Consultations (evening)
18th Oct	INSET day (Parent Consultations)
21st—25th Oct	Half term
31st Oct	Prospective new parents (YF) tour
1st Nov	Friends 'Monster Ball' disco (3.30—4.30pm: KS1, 5-6pm: KS2)
6th Dec	Christmas Decorations Day
TBC	Christmas Dinner
TBC	KS1 Nativity Performance
TBC	KS2 Christmas Performance
13th Dec	Friends Christmas Fair
19th Dec	Christmas Party Day
23rd Dec—3rd Dec	Christmas Holiday
6th Jan	INSET day
7th Jan	New term begins

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 31st October at 9.30am**. I will do another one in November and December.

Year 6 – secondary transfer: All Year 6 parents should have received a communication regarding transfer to secondary school and details of the application process. If any Year 6 parents have not received this, please let us know. Again, you must submit an online application (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions). It is very important that you now deal with the application for your child and it is in your child's best interest that you do not delay doing this. If anyone does not have internet access or has any queries about the process, please contact the office. The deadline for applications is **31st October 2019**.

BOWLING CLUB

Welcome back to some members and welcome to all new children to our club. As you know from our meeting a fortnight ago, we meet every Wednesday afternoons to go down to Kensey Bowling Club where we are expertly taught how to bowl using the 'woods' and correct techniques by Nicky Gilbert and Jean



Wilkinson who are regular members of the club. They bring the children to such a standard that we can partake in the inter-schools championships in May next year. Some of the children in the past have become so enthused by the game that they make use of extra free lessons run by the club on Thursdays as well as our Wednesday school club. Our first lesson was on the 18th September and was outside on the lawn. Then we could not go last week and next week (2nd Oct) while the club sets up the mats for indoor bowls which will run throughout the winter months.

May I take this opportunity to thank all parents who came to our meeting and have offered to help transport our children to the club each week. We could not do it without you, so thank you.

As this club has been well subscribed I am afraid that we will have to run it on alternate weeks, otherwise the children will spend more time queuing than time bowling! So, after the two weeks off Y6 will come the first week back and Y5 the following week. I look forward to seeing you develop into star bowlers!

Mrs. Millard

Please support us in going cashless!

As a Multi-Academy Trust, we are intending to be cashless by the end of this half 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.

Meet Mary and Misty, our Pet Therapy Nationwide volunteer and dog



What breed of dog is Misty?

Misty is a Labrador Retriever, a pedigree breed specially chosen because they are renowned for being loving dogs that are excellent with children. Furthermore, Labradors respond very well to training. Mary and Misty are both registered with Pet Therapy Nationwide and have both passed the necessary training and checks.

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.

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.

Is there a risk in bringing a dog into a school environment?

Yes there is, though there are a variety of accidents which can happen within the school which far exceed the number of incidents caused by a dog. The risk assessment for Misty has been completed and will be reviewed regularly. Misty and Mary will always have a base room when in school and will be under full control of Mary. There will also be a member of staff supervising. Please note that pupils only with completed consent forms will be able to visit Misty. It is important that you inform us if your child has an allergy to dogs/pets.

Mary and Misty have already started and will visit once a week, where they will spend the afternoon in school. We will make sure that all pupils have the chance to meet them. It may take a while as everyone, including the staff, want a cuddle! We will then give pupils opportunities to read to Misty.



VISIT BY MR. BEALE

On Wednesday 18th September Mr. Beale (Angel and Autumn's dad) came into school to help Year 6 with their learning. For years now, Mr. Beale has been collecting memorabilia from World War 1 and World War 2 and his collection is vast. Because Year 6 have been learning about World War 2, Mr. Beale brought in part of his collection of artefacts.... mostly things from Germany. His collection included things like flags (one was

worth a lot of money!), books, parts of uniforms, and a German helmet - worth about £3000!!!

There were also medals, brooch pins and rings. Year 6 were fascinated as Mr. Beale told them all about each of the artefacts and much, much more. He is so knowledgeable about the wars and the different armies involved. Mr. Beale was also able to answer the children's many, many questions. Summer and Ahmed had so many questions to ask and comments to make, (especially as Summer had been to France during the Summer holiday to visit and find out about the many places involved in WW2 and what happened to our soldiers and who is now incredibly knowledgeable about it herself - well done Summer!). At the end of Mr. Beale's talk the children spent time looking at the artefacts and asking even MORE questions! Finally, Angel took to the floor and informed everyone about some of the atrocities of war - Well done Angel. Year 6 learned so much that afternoon and we cannot thank Mr. Beale (and Angel) enough for taking the time to come into school and being so informative. Before leaving and after helping Mr. Beale to pack all his precious things away, Year 6 gave him a huge round of applause.

Thank you again, very much, Mr. Beale and Angel.



COMBINED HARVEST APPEAL



HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS HARVEST

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

PASTA SAUCE
VEGETABLES
MEAT
FISH
FRUIT
TEA
COFFEE
JAM
RICE
CEREAL

Don't forget...

*You can help transform
more lives with a financial
donation too.*



This year, during harvest, we will be supporting our local Foodbank in Launceston. We hope you can support by donating items on **Thursday 10th October.**

