

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Friday 29th November 2019



December must be just around the corner because I am starting to hear the sound of children singing their performance songs, see scripts being highlighted, lines being learnt, props being made and even the odd sheep costume appearing from the cupboards!

Key Stage Two's performance of 'Hansel and Gretel' will be at the Town Hall on Wednesday 11th December. There will be two performance times during that day—2pm and 6pm. Key Stage One's Nativity will be at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 18th December at 2pm. We look forward to you joining us.

It is a very special but busy time of year so please keep a note of the dates on here and posted on ClassDojo. ClassDojo is our main form of communication to parents so if you haven't signed up to it yet, please do. In addition, if you are having any problems connecting to it, please come and see me and I'll give you a hand.

School Improvement: the wider curriculum

Mr Swait, who is an Academy Improvement Officer for the An Daras Trust, visited us on Friday 22nd November to carry out a monitoring visit on the wider curriculum. This consisted of him speaking to me about the revised wider curriculum, speaking to subject leaders, speaking to pupils from the School Forum Pupil Parliament group, as well as looking at learning in books and at displays.

The feedback we received was very positive. Here are some key points:

- Leaders are taking appropriate action to secure a curriculum offer that is coherently planned and sequenced to enable all pupils to achieve well. The new approaches to the curriculum design are being implemented consistently across all classes.
- Subject leaders speak knowledgeably about their work and are increasingly able to demonstrate the impact of their actions.
- Pupils' work shows they are now studying a range of subjects in-depth, enabling them to know more, do more and remember more.
- Pupils are now beginning to recall prior knowledge, understanding and skills more concisely and make connections between different subject areas and units of study.

Our next steps are to fully establish our new approach to the curriculum design and continue to develop and embed key knowledge and skills in pupils' long term memories.

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.

Website: www.windmillhillacademy.org

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Attendance Figures for November 2019

	YF	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Whole School
1st Nov	96.3%	96.6%	98.2%	96.8%	98.6%	93.3%	97.1%	96.7%
8th Nov	90%	96.6%	89.3%	90.3%	97.1%	93.7%	98.6%	93.7%
15th Nov	93.7%	97.2%	95%	87.1%	95.7%	95.7%	98.6%	94.7%
22nd Nov	93.3%	93.1%	92.9%	88.2%	90.7%	97.9%	97.9%	93.4%

The class with the highest attendance each week receives an extra playtime and the attendance trophy. There will be individual awards rewarded at the end of term for high attendance.

Our annual attendance target is 97.3%.

Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1st Nov	Ivy Aidan	Laila Zachary	Freya Leighton	Harry P Izabella	Casey Alex	Jayden H Selime	Liam G Kristian Daisy Summer
8th Nov	Imogen Filip	Olivia Jack	Jude Alfie	Summer Kanisha	Chelsea Oliwia	Isla Jayden L	Reuben Angel
15th Nov	Eleanor Noah	Sarah Leo	Samuel Jamie	Oscar Kanisha	Esther Blake	Dillan Jowan	Tegan Reuben
22nd Nov	Aaron Samantha	Max Y Isabella	Leighton Sienna	Joseph Finlay	Brennan Niamh	Logan Isla	James Kelsie

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
1st Nov	Meadow	Phoebe	Angel
8th Nov	Violet	Elsie	Joseph
15th Nov	Max T	Lacey	Daniel
22nd Nov	Tyler	Marissa	Jamie

Positive Role Model

1st Nov
Daisy (Y6)
15th Nov
Isla (YF)

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

If so, you/they must now apply for a school place for him/her for September 2020 via the 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**.

We have carried out some tours this term for prospective parents led by Mrs Bassett and the Head/Deputy Head girls and boys which have proved popular. Well done to the pupils for being excellent ambassadors and thank you to Mrs Paterson for serving the refreshments.

Our last tour was yesterday but if you or someone you know couldn't make it and would like a tour please speak to Mrs Zoffman in the office and she'll be able to arrange one for you.



Decorations Day

Decorations day is next Friday, **Friday 6th December**. The children will be busy making cards, decorations, calendars etc. We welcome parents, carers or grandparents to come into school to help the children between **9.30am and 11.30am**.

The Friends of WHA will provide refreshments for all of the helpers.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2nd Dec** KS2 (Y5) Parent drop in (3.15pm—3.45pm)
- 5th Dec** Christmas Jumper Day
- 6th Dec** Christmas Decorations Day
- 11th Dec** Bags2School Collection
- 11th Dec** Year F/KS1 Christmas Dinner
- 11th Dec** KS2 Christmas Performances (at the Town Hall)
2pm & 6pm
- 12th Dec** Wrap a Gift
- 13th Dec** Friends of WHA Christmas Fair
3.30pm—5.30pm
- 18th Dec** KS2 Christmas Dinner
- 18th Dec** Year F/KS1 Nativity (at St Mary's Church) **2pm**
- 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



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We will be holding a Christmas Jumper/Non-School uniform day on Thursday 5th December in exchange for a tombola prize.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

Please return any sold or unsold draw tickets/books by Wednesday 11th December. There are more tickets available at the school office if required.

We have lots and lots of FAB-U-LOUS prizes for you to win!!

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We are holding our annual Christmas Fayre on Friday 13th December 3.30pm until 5.30pm to raise funds for the school.

We hope to see you there.

Thursday 12th December: Wrap-a-Gift Day

During the morning, the children will have the opportunity to purchase and wrap (with help) secret Christmas gifts for their parents/carers. Children may purchase a maximum of two gifts at 50p each (please do not send money for more than two gifts and please do not send the money in until the day). To make the day a success, we will need plenty of gifts to wrap! If you could make donations of suitable items for Mums and Dads we would be extremely grateful – soap, talc, pens, notelets, chocolates (nut free) or unwanted items from last year, perhaps? There is a box in the entrance lobby and contributions towards wrap-a-gift may be placed in this. Once wrapped and labelled, the presents will be kept underneath our Christmas tree until the last day of term when they will be handed out.



Windmill Hill Academy

Christmas fair

Friday 13th December 3:30 - 5:30

**Raffle - Stalls - Santa's Grotto - Tombola - Games
- Lucky Dip - Hot Dogs - Refreshments
and lots more!**

**Events will be all over the school so please pick up
your map as you enter the building**

All children must be accompanied by an adult





St Mary Magdalene Parish Church
Festival of Christmas Trees

Friday 29th November from 7pm. Admission Free (donations welcomed)
 Daily until Sunday 8th December 10am to 4.30pm (Sundays 12noon to 4pm)
 All are welcomed to the Family Christingle Service at 4pm Sunday 8 December

Lots of exciting events going on in Launceston!



Launceston Charity
Santa Run

Sunday 1st December

Starts 11am in Launceston Town Square
 Entry forms & more information available from
 Launceston Tourist Information Centre.

Launceston Christmas Lights

Switch on & late night shopping extravaganza!

Friday 29th November

Lawrence House Museum open from 12pm to 4pm

Town Square Skate Rink opens at 3.30pm

(Open all weekend. Advance booking essential - book your 30 minute slot at Launceston Tourist Information Centre 01566 772324)

Street Market around the Town Centre from 5pm

Entertainment on the stage from 4pm

Plus Market Stalls, Snow Machine, Samba Band, Entertainers, Launceston Town Band, Popchoir

Santa will be in the Town Square in time for the Big Christmas Lights Switch On at 6.30pm!

St Mary Magdalene Church Christmas Tree Festival opens at 7pm

Launceston's fabulous, independent shops will be open until 8pm



Year Five and Six Basketball Skills

Again this year, Windmill Hill Academy is lucky enough to take full advantage of the events put on and run by the young leaders at Launceston College. Most recently, Years Five and Six attended an event where they were introduced to the game of basketball through skills based activities which then culminated in an afternoon tournament of mini games. It was great to watch how the children interacted and supported each other outside of the classroom and how they responded to the young leaders, some of whom were previous school pupils.



Year 1 Journey Around the World

Well done to everyone in Year 1 who confidently shared their learning with the whole school in our 'Natural Elements' Learning Connection Block assembly this week.

To help us learn the names and locations of the World's seven Continents and five Oceans, we created a class story about a penguin who travelled from Antarctica around the world to each of the continents. On this exciting adventure he met lots of animals, including; a kangaroo, a panda, a lion, a parrot and a brown bear. He also saw some of the world's largest geographical features like; the Great Barrier Reef, the Himalayan Mountains, the Sahara Desert, the River Nile, the Amazon Rainforest and the Grand Canyon. Finally, he met us when he visited Europe!

The children have really enjoyed creating our story and sharing their geography learning with others, especially teaching the rest of the school a song to help us remember the names of the continents in the order of their size. Well done Year 1!



Well done also to the following pupils who were awarded certificates in assembly for their 'Natural Elements' concept learning this half-term.

Year 1: Meadow and Antoni

Year 2: Abe and Jude

Year 3: Chelsea and Elias

Year 4: Ben and Aimee

Year 5: Maja and Joseph

Year 6: Angel and James





'COME AND READ WITH YOUR CHILD'

Parent Drop in

On Tuesday 19th November, we held a 'Come and read with your child' event from 9.00 until 9.30am. Parents were invited to come in to the school hall and choose a reading space whilst their children were sent for.

Then the children chose a book from the trolley and sat comfortably alongside their adult and they read and shared the story together. So many parents came that the hall was soon full and it was lovely to see. Cold drinks and biscuits were provided for the children. This proved to be a very popular event and will be repeated at some point soon, so 'watch this space.'



There is also a great READING CHALLENGE:

Do you love to read in weird and wonderful places?

Do you have an unusual reading buddy?

We want to see!!

Send in your photos via ClassDojo of reading in weird and wacky places or perhaps reading to your pet pooch - a prize will be awarded each month to the most unusual.

Happy reading!



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.



Bags to School

Bags2School bags went out a few weeks ago. There will be a collection on **Wednesday 11th December** so please make sure bags are returned before then. Here is a link of what can be accepted: <https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

All funds raised will go to the Friends of WHA. Many thanks for your support.

SchoolMoney APP

Thank you for supporting us in using the SchoolMoney APP. We are having slight teething problems with it at the moment, e.g. parents having trouble logging in. Mrs Zoffman is fully aware of the situation and is trying to sort out the issues. If you are having any trouble, please let her know. Please rest assured that your child will still be able to order a school dinner as we are still taking orders manually until the problems are sorted. In addition, in the meantime, we will still accept cash for school dinners.

Please visit our updated website: www.windmillhillacademy.org

Please follow us on Twitter: @ADMAT_WHA



School Uniform

We strongly encourage all pupils to wear school uniform. It helps them to have a sense of belonging. Our school has a very practical but smart uniform. It follows a colour scheme of royal blue and black or grey and consists of:

- A white shirt, blouse or polo shirt
- A royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan (jumpers can be purchased from the school office)
- Black or grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Blue and white gingham dress (Summer months)
- Black shoes which meet the Health and Safety requirements of the school.



It is essential that children have a change of clothing for PE. We suggest that this is left in a bag on the child's peg during the school week and taken home at weekends/half term for washing. This should be:

- Black or grey shorts
- White t-shirt
- White socks
- Black or grey joggers or leggings
- Additional school jumper or a fleece (recommended for the colder months)
- Plimsolls or flexible soled trainers (strongly recommended for wet weather)

It is essential that all items of clothing are CLEARLY named.

The wearing of jewellery is not appropriate. Children who have their ears pierced may wear small studs or rings. Wearing of makeup is not appropriate.

Allergy Aware and 'Nut free' School

**THIS SCHOOL IS
NUT FREE**



THANK YOU
for keeping our school safe!

Thank you for supporting us in becoming an allergy aware and nut free school. We strive to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils and staff. **As from 2nd December, we would like this to be common practice.**

As a nut allergy can be life threatening, we are asking all members of the school community for their help in minimising the risk to these children by not providing your child with any products containing nuts in their packed lunch box or for snack time. Some examples include: fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts, chocolate bars or sweets that

contain nuts, sesame seed rolls, nutella and chocolate spread, peanut butter, cakes made with nuts and muesli bars.

Please note that we will have to remove any nut products the pupils have in their lunch box or as a snack. If the nut product is their main meal, we would need to contact you to provide an alternative. If this is not possible, the child would be provided with a school dinner but at a cost to the parent if the child is in Key Stage Two.

Whilst we know some children like to bring in chocolates for their classmates to celebrate their birthday, we ask that they do not bring in chocolates or tins of chocolates that contain nuts e.g. Celebrations. Unfortunately, these will not be handed out and the chocolate will be sent home unopened. Instead, you are more than welcome to bring in sweets. This will also be the case on our forthcoming party day. Any homemade items will need to be nut free, made in a nut free environment and the ingredients listed.

I realise this is a significant change in school but it has been introduced due to specific allergies, so that the school takes all reasonable steps to keep all of the pupils safe.

Thank you to those who have already returned their signed agreements. If you haven't, please can you do so as soon as possible.

Packed Lunch Policy

As part of the allergy aware process, we thought it was a good time to update and review our packed lunch policy.

Attached is a copy for you all to view.

