

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Friday 18th December 2020



It has been a very different term (and year) but there have been many positives and enjoyable experiences. We haven't been able to carry out all of our usual events but we have adapted many to adhere to the guidelines. Some of my favourites have been marking Remembrance Day as a school across Teams, watching the different classes' virtual Christmas performances, having our Christmas dinner in year group bubbles and performing the '12 days of Christmas' as a whole school via Teams.

We have all certainly adapted to our 'new normal' and I would like to thank you for all of your support. All guidelines will remain in place after the Christmas holidays in line with the Government guidance and our risk assessments. I would like to take this opportunity to praise the children for all of their hard work this term. I have seen such huge progress and successes from them—they really are a credit to us all! I would also like to thank all of the staff who all work extremely hard and remain a very positive team, despite all of the challenges related to Covid-19. In addition, thank you to all of our governors, Friends and volunteers (lots are supporting remotely, e.g. making staff aprons) who take the time to support our school on a daily basis.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Although it will be a slightly different Christmas for us all, please have a lovely break and please find the time to rest and have plenty of fun!

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school on **Tuesday 5th January**.

Covid-19 Guidance for the Christmas holidays

The Government guidance says if someone tests positive for coronavirus, those who were in close contact with them 48 hours before the symptoms emerged are likely to need to be told to self-isolate. This means that if the school term finishes on Friday 18th December, pupils or staff who develop symptoms up to the Sunday could still have had close contact with others in school within those 48 hours. As it is only schools that hold the information about bubbles and seating plans, PHE is relying on schools and school leaders to provide this.

The additional challenge is that while the symptoms may develop two days after the end of the term (e.g. on the Sunday), in many cases it could take people a few additional days to book a test and receive the results. This means that PHE may need information about close contacts into the start of the following week. The DfE and PHE have already said where a pupil or staff member develops symptoms after the 48 hours, they should not need to contact the school and can use the 'normal' national track and trace system.

If any children do test positive up to and including 24th December, could you please contact myself on Class Dojo. I will check Class Dojo once a day during the morning. If a pupil or staff member does test positive, I will notify all families with children in that bubble on Class Dojo so we are asking parents to check class dojo daily up to and including Christmas Eve. Please note, the messaging system on ClassDojo is to only be used for this purpose.



School Improvement: School Garden

This half term, our Youth Town Councillors met virtually with Youth Town Council Lead, Margaret Young. They explained to her about our recent development of the school garden to include a new path which allows for safer access to the school during drop off and pick up times. They explained that, alongside our Eco and Outdoor Pupil Parliament groups, they wanted to further develop our school garden in order to maximise learning opportunities.

They put forward their ideas and managed to secure approximately £400 to support this project.

We have also applied for a Tesco Bags for Help grant and are in the process of applying for further funding from the Town Council.

We look forward to sharing our developments during the course of the year. If you haven't used the garden access yet, please try it after Christmas. It is much safer than walking to/from the top of Windmill Hill.



Xmas4schools™

The Friends of WHA would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who took part in this. We have raised £163 for the school. There were a few hiccups with our delivery which was beyond our control, but hopefully you all now have your orders and are pleased with them.

Raffles

Friends would like to thank Tesco for donating the hamper for us to raffle to raise funds for the school. Also a huge thank you to Mrs Noble who made the Advent Calendars to raffle. To date, we have made £145 for both raffles. Thank you.

Christmas Jumper Day

Children enjoyed putting on their colourful jumpers to support Save the Children Fund and Friends of WHA. A whopping £117 was raised which will be split for both causes, £58.50 to each.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year. Hopefully next year we will be able to organise events to raise funds as before. Watch this space!

Take care and keep safe.



Year F

Fantastic Phonics!

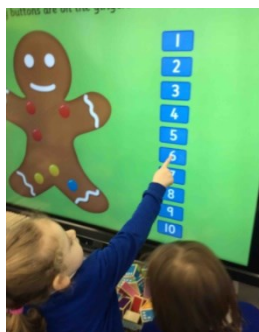
Year F have been practising their fantastic phonics in a variety of different and fun activities!



...From using our phonics skills to segment and write CVC words and common exception words...



... To recognising and reading phonemes in the snowflake phoneme race.

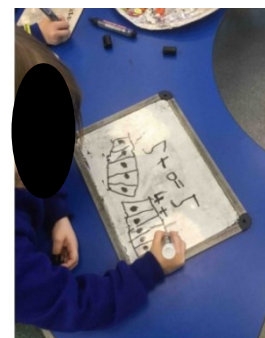


Marvellous Maths

Year F have also been developing their mathematical skills too! From matching numeral to quantity...



... to solving addition number sentences and recording their answers.



Christmas Nativity 2020

The children in Year F took part in the nativity story 'We're going on a baby hunt.' The performance went really well and parents can view it on the Year F Class Dojo page.



The Year F team would like to wish all the children at Windmill Hill Academy and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 1

Well done Year 1 for all your fantastic learning this term!

Here are a few of our festive photos:



Year 2

WOW - what a busy half term it has been for Year 2! From writing simile poems in English, to learning all about germs and how they spread in Science. It has been a jammed pack time! We have also been able to become pastry chefs as in Design and Technology (DT) we have been looking at food and baked goods.

We looked at all the steps needed to have a successful bake, including what we need to buy, what equipment we need, the ingredients and how to make it. We have even been able to make our own biscuits and flapjack, which the children enjoyed on party day!

Thank you for all your support. The Year 2 team would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Year 3

In maths, Year 3 have been focusing their learning on multiplication and division. This is a challenging unit of work, but through their robust resilience and tenacity, every child has made progress, evidenced in their recent end of unit assessment. Brilliant!

Year 3 have enjoyed developing their reflection skills, with the focus being on both behaviour and learning, which is naturally making each child more self-aware.

Through learning a related text about a magical space and exploring the different ideas innovated by each child, supported Year 3 to be curious about their learning. Connecting their previous and current learning, Year 3 then created an imaginative piece of writing about their own magical space.

Festive activities: Decoration and creative day, Christmas jumper day, Christmas Dinner and Party Day.



Year 4

As part of our Natural Elements learning connection block Year 4 have been completing some learning on Sir Francis Drake. As a class, we wrote diary entries and placed ourselves in the shoes of the original

pilgrims and discussed what their journey would have been like. Here are a few examples:

Thursday 3rd December
LT: To understand the Pilgrim's journey journey

Learning Focus:	Distance - Cold task To write a diary entry.	Success Criteria	Prove it	Self Assessment	Peer
To use past tense.		Traped		1 2 3	
To use first person.		I we us		1 2 3	
To use descriptive words.		queasy, imagen, eason, catapillar		1 2 3	
To share emotions.		queasy, touchor		1 2 3	
To share how you feel.		queasy, traped		1 2 3	

Dear Diary,

We and my crammies have been traviling for a few days and I already feel a bit queasy. The bottle to us is like we are traped in a eason and we are the catapillars.

11th October 1620

Dear Diary,

We've been here for a month now and I don't feel any better. A month ago I had to get out of here. ^{PLEASE} You can't imagine the touchor I'm going through. ^{How} how do you survive in this life? You may ask.

11th September 1620

Dear Diary,

We've been traviling for about a week now ever since we had to turn back two times before this rapid time. I've been feeling queasy because the new country ^{we're} traviling to might not accept us from the religion we put our crammies believe in. It smells like every body's discussing the smell of the sea. I feel sick from the boat. I keep on making me feel light headed that turns into unchconquiness and that's it for today.

11 October 1620

Dear Diary,

Just imagine being at the new country. Maybe we just want to jump off the boat. The ship is just horrible and it's stuck in the body of put through. I'd rather be someone's captured boat of England than go to this new country. The sea and water is running put it's not. PLEASE HELP! who are you? This you made the biggest decision to stay back at England.

Year 5

Christmas 2020

This Christmas at Windmill Hill Academy has been very different from previous years but we have all managed to continue our celebrations within our bubbles. Year 5 enjoyed eating our Christmas dinner together and practised hard with our mini performance (look out for it on ClassDojo). We were delighted to have a tree to decorate with the peg dolls and salt dough decorations that we made on Decorations Day – I think you'll agree that it looks spectacular!



Year 6

Merry Christmas from everyone in Year 6



Amazing Achievements

Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
4th Dec	Bobby Maja	Scott Margo	Ella Laura	Jamie Freya	Kayla Phoebe	Casey Elsie	Isla Oscar K
11th Dec	Isabelle Freddie	Isla Coen	Max T Lilian	Jude Siqu	Joseph Zak	Nora Lohen	Ewan Abigail
18th Dec	Paige Zachary	Samantha Autumn	Sarah Zachary	Umut Riley	Chelsee Poppy	Raegan Alfie	Kornel Emma

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
4th Dec	Olivia (Y2)	Samuel (Y3)	Lola (Y6)
11th Dec	Hope (Y1)	Elias (Y4)	Casey (Y5)
18th Dec	Luna (YF)	Violet (Y3)	Dominika (Y6)

Positive Role Model

4th Dec
Chelsee (Y4)
18th Dec
Maja (Y6)

Raffle ticket winners

27th Nov
Dominika (Y6), Myles (Y3) and Harry (Y3)
11th Dec
Sienna Mc (Y3), Myles (Y3), Alfie (Y5) and Marissa (Y5)

Writers and Mathematicians of the half term

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Writing	Alfie	Aidan	Ella	Alfie	Alyssa	Callie	Aime
Maths	Logan	Adem	Isabella	Jack C	Owen	Ella	Kornel

Visible Learners of the half term

Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Louis L	Imarni	Antoni	Jude	Darcey	Karol	Samuel
Holly	Adem	Julia	Florence	Oscar	Callie	Flora

This term's winning house team is **Blue team** (Northgate) with an AMAZING **6203** house team points. All of the children enjoyed a reward (voted by them) in school (in year group bubbles) this week.

Do you have a child who was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017?

If so, you must now apply for a school place for him/her for September 2021. If you have a child born between the above dates, you must submit an online application (www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions). A formal application through Cornwall Council must be made by parents for all places for children due to start school in September 2021. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2021**. Please note, we were oversubscribed this year so please make sure you apply before the deadline.

We are currently unable to give tours to prospective parents due to Covid-19 restrictions which I know is disappointing. However, with the help of pupils and staff, we have created a video of our wonderful school. To view it, please visit: https://youtu.be/lwGbD_Z9uq8

Please share with anyone else you know that may be interested. Please also take the time to look around our website: www.windmillhillacademy.org

If you have further questions, please email them to windmill@andaras.org

Attendance Figures for November/December 2020

The class with the highest attendance each week, receives an extra playtime and the attendance trophy. If your child achieved 100% attendance for this term, they have received a badge for 100% as well as a bronze badge. Each term they can earn a different colour attendance badge. And, for each term within the year, they can earn themselves an additional bronze, silver or gold badge.

Our annual attendance target is 97%+.

Year	23rd Nov	30th Nov	7th Dec
YF	98.1%	98.1%	98.7%
Y1	98.2%	98.5%	94.1%
Y2	96.7%	95.3%	92.3%
Y3	98.7%	97.3%	97.1%
Y4	98.5%	97.8%	94.8%
Y5	92.4%	96.3%	96.3%
Y6	95%	95.7%	95.5%
Whole school	96.8%	97%	95.6%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th Dec	Last day of term
21st Dec - 1st Jan	Christmas Holiday
4th Jan	INSET day
5th Jan	New term begins
12th Jan	Bag2School Collection
15th - 19th Feb	Half term
2nd - 16th April	Easter Holidays
Month of May	Y2 Special Learning (Optional SATs)
Week beg 10th May (may be slightly later due to change in ar- rangements due to Covid-19)	Y6 SATs week
31st May - 4th June	Half term
7th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check week Y4 Optional Multiplication Tables check window (3 weeks)
Week beg 12th July	Whole school Transition week
21st July	Last day of term for pupils
22nd and 23rd July	INSET Days

Please note, that some of the assessments dates may slightly change due to Covid-19 and the Governments' decision to alter some of the dates.



Bag2School

If you have been clearing out recently, please bring your donations into school on the morning of collection (12th January) and leave outside the main entrance. Items collected - men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories. (No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please). All funds raised will go to the Friends of WHA.

Medicines

We understand that from time to time your child may require to take medication within school time, e.g. antibiotics. This is fine as it allows your child to continue attending school without affecting their learning. However, in order for us to administer it, we require you to fill in a form. Therefore, please can all medicines be given in to the office and a form completed. Please note, this does not include medicines to treat Covid-19 symptoms, e.g. Calpol to keep down a temperature.

End of Day Arrangements

It is important that we have an up to date record of your child's end of arrangements. We understand that, on occasions, these may change. Please ensure that any changes are given to your child's class teacher/via the office in the morning or phone the office by 2.30pm at the latest.



Windmill Breakfast Club

Windmill Hill Academy has provision for before school opens in the form of a Breakfast Club. It has fully opened in line with the Covid-19 regulations for breakfast clubs.



If you are in need of childcare before the school day commences, why not book into the Breakfast Club where they can safely eat breakfast and play within their class bubbles between the hours of 8am and 9am. They will be supervised by two qualified staff, Mrs Williams and Mrs Rutherford, for the duration of their stay before being escorted to their classrooms at the appropriate times.

There is a small charge for attending the club: £3.00 per session which includes breakfast of cereals, toast, fruit and juice or milk. If you are in receipt of Child's Tax Credits you may be able to claim the childcare costs back when filling in your annual award. Receipts can be arranged for this (please speak to Mrs Williams). Also, children who are in receipt of free school dinners or PPG, the cost is £2 per session.

Booking onto the club can be done online through the EDUSPOT app www.eduspot.co.uk whereby you can book the days you require and pay for them too. It's so easy! You will have to set up your information with a current email address and mobile number.

If you need any more information with reference to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



Discounted School Uniform

We have a limited amount of jumpers left and they are at a reduced rate. This is due to sales going online so we do not need to hold stock.

We have sizes 24, 34 and small adult. They are at a discounted rate of £5.

We also have some caps (with the neck protection) at a discounted rate of £2.

Get them whilst you can! If you require any, please contact Mrs Zoffman in the office.



School uniform can now be purchased online from Price and Buckland at <https://price-buckland.co.uk/>. Select the school finder tab from the menu and view the range.

You will notice that you can now buy cardigans, aswell as jumpers. There is also the option to buy addition items, such as PE shorts/t-shirts. Please note there is no requirement to purchase the t-shirts/shorts/fleece advertised on the website, but there is the option to should you wish.

Please note, the fleece is not to be used in place of a school jumper/cardigan and is only to be used as an extra layer in the winter months or for PE. Similarly, that the hoodie is only to be used for PE.

We still have our uniform donation station so if you need an item, please contact us. We also welcome donations (to be placed in a plastic bag for quarantining before handing out).

For more information on our school uniform, please visit our school website:

www.windmillhillacademy.org/web/academy_uniform/205398

SchoolMoneyAPP (Eduspot)

After Christmas, we require ALL parents to use the APP to book and pay (if applicable) for school dinners or select if they are a packed lunch. This is to be done in advance by the end of the day on a Sunday prior to the week ahead. If you have not pre-booked and paid (if applicable) a required school dinner, you will be contacted to provide a packed lunch for your child. We appreciate you supporting us with this as it really speeds up the morning routine which means we can fit more learning in!

Please ensure you are able to access it before Christmas. If you are having any problems, please call Mrs Zoffman in the office.

Parking

Please can we remind everyone to park considerately at all times and drive with due care and attention. 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) 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.

We encourage you to use our 'drop and go' system in the morning for pupils in Key Stage 2 or park in one of the local car parks. Parking permits are available so please call the office to arrange one. These are free. Please avoid parking in the local streets. We have had several complaints from local residents regarding parking, e.g. blocking driveways and parking on double yellow lines, obstructing the road etc. The Police have been informed.

