

# Windmill Hill Academy

## Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett  
Head of School

**Friday 31st January 2020**



It feels a bit strange saying 'Happy New Year' to you now as the Christmas holidays seem like a distant memory. But, this is our first newsletter of 2020 so, 'Happy New Year' to you all. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and a well-deserved rest.

I am pleased to say that the pupils have settled back quickly into the routines and their learning. Their current learning connection block is 'Civilisation' with each class focusing on a particular concept. All the documents linked are now on ClassDojo, our website and have been sent home. We ask for your support in helping your child to learn the facts on their knowledge organiser linked to their learning concept and completing their homework.

Again, it is a very busy term so please take note of the key dates in this newsletter and that were posted on ClassDojo. ClassDojo is our main source of communication so please ensure you are signed up to it and check it regularly.

### Windmill Hill Academy's Vision

*Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners*

We are committed to this by developing our 'Learning Sails' with Pupils:

- **Reflection:** We ask all learners to give thought or consideration on their actions and learning.
- **Self-awareness:** We encourage self-awareness and having a conscious knowledge of one's own character, feelings and learning. We encourage learners to know where they are with their learning and their next steps.
- **Curiosity:** We inspire all learners to have strong desire to know or learn something, questioning their learning experiences to find out more.
- **Resilience and Tenacity:** We promote the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties or challenge. We encourage all to be very determined and show determination despite the challenge.
- **Connect:** We promote learning where connections can be made, where children can relate new and old learning.

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](http://www.windmillhillacademy.org) E-mail: [windmill@andaras.org](mailto:windmill@andaras.org) Twitter: @ADMAT\_WHA Tel: 01566 772143



## **School Improvement: the wider curriculum**

Mr Swait, who is an Academy Improvement Officer for the An Daras Trust, visited us on Monday 13th January to carry out a monitoring visit on phonics and reading. This links to one of our Academy Improvement Priorities this year which is to improve achievement in reading.

The visit consisted of him speaking to me about phonics and reading in our academy, speaking to subject leaders (in particular, Miss Young who is our English Lead), speaking to pupils from the School Forum Pupil Parliament group, speaking to staff, as well as observing learning, looking at learning in books and at displays.

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

- The school's provision for early reading and phonics is effective.
- Leaders place the upmost importance on ensuring that all pupils, including the very weakest attainers, achieve well in reading over time. Close tracking and effective support strategies ensure that pupils who start to fall behind are identified quickly and start to catch up.
- Children start learning their letters and sounds from day 1 in Reception.
- Leaders have mapped out precisely the letters and sounds that pupils should know term by term. The school's phonics programme is suitably ambitious for all.
- Teachers ensure that the books that pupils read are well-matched to their phonic abilities.
- Leaders ensure that staff have the necessary skills and expertise to deliver phonics and early reading effectively.
- Pupils talk knowledgeably and enthusiastically about the books that they read.
- Class story times are used well to promote pupils love and enjoyment of books.

Our next steps include:

- Making reading areas more enticing across the school to capture pupils' interests and imagination.
- Leaders should further extend the breadth of reading materials that support each stage in the school's phonics programme to enable increased opportunities for pupils to practice and consolidate their letters and sounds, prior to moving on.
- Teachers should develop the abilities of the younger pupils to talk about their experiences of books, including their favourite authors, more readily.

All of which, we are already working on and addressing. We will keep you updated. Ways that you can support your child is to ensure that they are reading on a daily basis, practising their phonics and asking them questions to aid their comprehension. When you are listening to your child read, please ask them to re-read sentences that they have found difficult to further practice and develop their fluency.



Spring Term 2020 75 Surveys received	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know / NA	Analysis
1. My child is happy at this school.	48%	51%	1%	0%	0%	Vast majority agree
2. My child feels safe at this school.	64%	36%	0%	0%	0%	All agree
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	47%	49%	3%	1%	0%	Vast majority agree
4. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively. 5 responses missing	9%	11%	9%	1%	70%	Vast majority agree that there have been no instances and, if there have been, they have been dealt with quickly and effectively.
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. 1 response missing	53%	45%	1%	0%	1%	Vast majority agree
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly. 4 responses missing	38%	41%	4%	0%	17%	Vast majority agree
7a. Does your child have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)?						
7b. My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed. 1 response missing	1 response		1 response			Unable to make judgement as only 2 responses.
8. The school has high expectations for my child. 1 response missing	32%	58%	1%	0%	9%	Vast majority agree
9. My child does well at this school.	44%	55%	1%	0%	0%	Vast majority agree
10. The school lets me know how my child is doing. 1 response missing	34%	63%	3%	0%	0%	Vast majority agree
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school. 1 response missing	44%	53%	0%	0%	3%	Vast majority agree
12. There is a good range of learning trips or visits during school hours. 1 response missing	30%	58%	10%	1%	1%	Majority agree
13. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school. 1 response missing	41%	50%	4%	1%	4%	Vast majority agree
14. The school supports my child's wider personal development. 2 responses missing	30%	62%	3%	0%	5%	Vast majority agree
15. I/we are satisfied with our choice of school (yes/no) 7 responses missing	Yes: 100%					All agree
16. Please comment on what the school does particularly well:						
"I feel that staff are always approachable and always willing to listen"						
"Inviting parents in for activities/showcases/readine"						

"Good after school clubs"  
 "I am very happy that my kids are safe and treated well in school"  
 "I am proud to see the changes while my children learn in school"  
 "Thank you very much"  
 "The teachers are very interested and my children are more successful at this school"  
 "Range of trips that builds on learning"  
 "Forest school is amazing – thank you. It's such a fantastic experience for the children"  
 "Swimming is brilliant too – thank you"  
 "I think the school celebrates children's achievements well and deal with behaviour well"  
 "I am very happy with the school and all involved in my child's education. Thank you very much"  
 "Messages with updates all the time"  
 "Informs you of any problems with your child promptly"  
 "Mrs Carter has been fab with up to date information via Dojo and her feedback at parents' evening was very informative"  
 "The school are great at having an open door where you know that your voice will be listened to"  
 "I know that my children are very much cared for"  
 "The school always keeps us up to speed on what the children are learning and communicate well with parents on most things"  
 "Overall, a brilliant school with caring teachers!"  
 "Ensuring learning is tailored to every child's requirements"  
 "Setting targets for children by rewarding them with karate bands"  
 "Rewarding children with certificates/trophies when they have done well"  
 "I personally feel that the school do well with making each child feel part of the school community"  
 "My child has been well supported by the Foundation Stage team"  
 "My child is happy at school and enjoys all of the different things they do"  
 "My child has thrived since being at Windmill. She loves school and enjoys every aspect of it"

#### **Response to surveys by Abby Bassett (Head of School)**

Thank you for completing the surveys. They do help us to evaluate all of the different aspects of your child(ren)'s experience here at Windmill Hill Academy.

It has been pleasing to see the positive results and that the majority tend to agree in most of the areas. All staff are working extremely hard and have worked hard to improve the priorities from the previous survey, including improving parental engagement and communication. We're glad that you have enjoyed the parent workshops and drop ins. More are planned for the rest of this year so please look at the key dates. ClassDojo has proved an excellent tool for communication and we hope to use this as our main communication tool so please ensure that you check it regularly. All newsletters, updates, curriculum documents are put on here to keep you updated on your child's learning and key information/dates. Our school website is also regularly updated.

Trips, enrichments and after school clubs have been identified as priorities from this survey. I can confirm that the Year 5 Carnyorth trip is going ahead this year and that information was given out last week with a planned parent meeting soon. Due to revising and improving the wider curriculum provision this year, teachers are trying to plan enrichment/trips linked to these without being too costly. We will keep you updated on these.

We try to provide a range of after school clubs for all pupils. We tend to find that pupils in Key Stage One and Year F can be very tired at the end of the day so not as many are offered for this age group. There are a range of after schools on offer this term including: netball, bowls, sewing, Plymouth Argyle and Science. Due to workload, I cannot expect teachers to provide a club. However, we are trialling Plymouth Argyle, which is a paid for club. We may be able to offer similar opportunities but I hope you understand that there may be a cost incurred. Do not forget that Mrs Gilbert and Mr Parkin offer a range of music lessons. Please enquire if you would like to know more information about these.





Stars of The Week							
	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
10th Jan	Rosann Ivy	Laura Julia	Seth Violet	Zak Alyssa	Raegan Nora	Bailey Selime	George Madison
17th Jan	Rosey Sol	Sarah Freddie S	Sam Lexi W	Izabella Ruby	Karol Alex	Ewan Poppy	Jamie Liam M
24th Jan	Scott Hope	Ella Elif	Lexie G Quintin	Kayla Harry	Aimee Marissa	Samuel Abigail	Emily Warren

Respect and Kindness			
	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
10th Jan	Siqi	Esther	Isla W
17th Jan	Elif	Iannis	Kristian
23rd Jan	Autumn	Owen	Ewan

Positive Role Model
10th Jan
Florence (Y2)
23rd Jan
Oliwia (Y5)



### Attendance Figures for January 2020

	YF	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Whole School	
10th Jan	84.1%	90.4%	92.9%	91.7%	98.3%	100% 	96.9%	93.6%	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 each term for
17th Jan	97.7%	96.7%	96.1%	99.3%	95.9%	98.2%	100% 	97.7%	
24th Jan	89.4%	88.7%	94.1%	92.6%	98.7%	97.5%	97.1%	94.7%	

100%.

**Our annual attendance target is 97.3%.**

### 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. We are not currently on track to achieve our target. I understand that there were a high number of children with chicken pox and sickness bugs but lateness and a high number of absences by some pupils has not supported this.

It is important your child is prompt for the 8.50am bell and lines up in the playground. It really helps your child settle in the morning and doesn't cause disturbances to the class so they are all ready for learning. It also allows Mrs Zoffman to speak to parents and visitors without having to sign in pupils. Please note, 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. Unless your child has a sickness bug or a medical condition that is contagious, it is really worth them trying school and if they deteriorate we will contact you. We are happy to give medication, e.g. Calpol if your child has a cold but are 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 and we also require an appointment card.

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).

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.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>13th Jan—23rd March</b>	Years 2 and 4 Swimming Sessions <i>Every Monday afternoon (10 sessions)</i>
<b>4th Feb</b> 9-9.30am	Whole School 'Come and Read with your Child' Parent Drop in
<b>7th Feb</b>	Year 1 Enrichment Day
<b>7th Feb</b>	Year 3 Enrichment Day
<b>7th Feb</b> 3.30-4pm: KS1 5-6pm: KS2	Friends of WHA's Disco
<b>13th Feb</b> 9-9.30am	KS1 (Years F, 1 and 2)'s Curriculum Showcase of Learning to parents
<b>14th Feb</b> 3.30-4pm	KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)'s Curriculum Showcase of Learning to parents
<b>17th Feb</b>	Half term week
<b>24th Feb</b>	Back to school
<b>27th Feb</b> 9-9.30am	Year F and 1 Phonics Workshop for parents
<b>5th March</b>	World Book Day
<b>5th March</b>	St Piran's Parade (Year 5 taking part)
<b>23rd March</b>	Parent Consultations Week More details to follow. Evening Consultations on 24th March
<b>26th March</b>	Last day of term
<b>27th March</b>	INSET day Parent Consultations
<b>14th April</b>	New term begins

### **SchoolMoney APP**

Thank you for supporting us in using the SchoolMoney APP to order and pay for school dinners. We ask you to make sure ALL lunches (packed lunches/school dinners - free or paid) are booked on the SchoolMoney APP by each Sunday evening. Also, please liaise with your child of what they will be having so there is no confusion.

If you are having a problems with it, please come and speak to Mrs Zoffman in the office.

# FIND YOUR BRAVE

#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
WEEK

3 - 9 FEBRUARY 2020

[www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

## 3-9 FEBRUARY 2020 IS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

The week is run by children's mental health charity **Place2Be** to focus on the importance of children and young people's mental health. This year's theme is **FIND YOUR BRAVE**.

### WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Bravery comes in all shapes and sizes and is different for everyone. Bravery can be about sharing worries and asking for help, trying something new or pushing yourself outside your comfort zone. **FINDING YOUR BRAVE** can build your confidence, self-esteem and make you feel good about yourself.

Life often throws challenges our way. Bravery isn't about coping alone or holding things in. It's about finding positive ways to deal with things that might be difficult, overcoming physical and mental challenges and looking after yourself.

We all have times when we need to **FIND OUR BRAVE**.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Here are a few simple ways you can encourage your child to **FIND THEIR BRAVE**.

1. **Remind your child that bravery comes in many forms and everyone is different.** What's brave for them might not feel brave to someone else.
2. **Chat with your child about a time when you've had to FIND YOUR BRAVE.** It might have been something big or small.
3. **Praise your child when they FIND THEIR BRAVE.** Maybe they've kept going at learning a new skill or tried something outside of their comfort zone which boosted their confidence.
4. **Point out examples of bravery in books and films** to your child and talk about how trying out different ways of being brave will help them feel good.
5. **Reassure your child that not feeling brave is OK too** and that there are times when it might be more difficult to be brave.

At children's mental health charity Place2Be we want all children to think about how they look after their minds.

Let your child know that if they are not sure about something, they should talk to an adult they trust. It could be you, someone in your family, a teacher or someone else in their school.

If you're worried about your child's mental health you can talk to your GP or someone at your child's school.

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website [www.place2be.org.uk/contacts](http://www.place2be.org.uk/contacts)





## Pupil Parliament - Community and Charity

### Australia Appeal

In our meeting last week our Pupil Parliament group - Community and Charities - decided that they felt we should help the people and animals affected by the awful Australian Bush Fires. So it was decided that the proceeds for our Valentine Disco should be sent to 'WWF Australia Bush Fire Appeal' to help them. We then began to design posters for the disco pointing out what the money would be used for. We also decided to rename the disco and call it a **'Love our Planet' Valentine Ball.**

By Summer Scott

**URGENT APPEAL:** Across the country, over 10 million hectares of Australian land has been burned to the ground. Over 1 billion animals have lost their lives so far, including thousands of koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, birds and other iconic wildlife. Thousands of people have also lost their homes and have been made homeless.



School Disco – **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Our usual Valentine disco has a new title this year – following Pupil Parliament meetings we have chosen to call it the **'LOVE OUR PLANET' VALENTINES DISCO.**

KS1 children are invited from 3.30 - 4.30pm

KS2 children are invited from 5pm – 6pm



The cost is **£2** per child

(sweets and drinks included)

**We hope to see you there!**



# Thank you!

Thank you for supporting the Friends of Windmill Hill Academy. In the past twelve months, we have raised a tremendous amount which has and will continue to benefit your children's learning in a lot of ways. Without your support, we would not be able to buy extra equipment, etc and the children would not be able to have wonderful experiences and enrichment days. We are truly grateful for your support.

## List of fundraising events already carried out in 2019:

Valentines Disco  
Easter Bingo  
Film Clubs  
Sponsored Bounce  
Summer Fayre  
Monster Ball  
Christmas Fayre  
Bags to School  
Xmas4Schools  
And more.....



As you can see, there was and will be a lot going on, but these events take a lot of organising. This is where you come in! We are very short of reliable people who can commit some time to helping. It is a commitment and we know everyone is so busy these days with work and family, but just a few hours now and then would be very welcome. **If you are interested, please let us know.**

There will be more events coming up this year so watch this space!

### **Year Four's Badminton Skills Festival**

Last week, Year 4 went to Launceston College to take part in a Badminton skills festival. All of the children took part wonderfully and really seemed to enjoy themselves. They learnt several different skills, which can be used in all racket sports.



### **Cross Country Success**

A huge well done all of the children who participated in the Duchy cross country competition on Friday! The children had to battle mud, rain and a fast flowing stream (apparently) to finish the course. They all did fantastically and were in high spirits and cheered on other year groups as they were racing. They all made Windmill Hill Academy proud.





## 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. I thought I would send you a remind as we are striving to provide a safe learning environment for all pupils and staff.

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. 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 and staff safe.

### Packed Lunch Policy

As part of the allergy aware process, I previously sent out our reviewed packed lunch policy. Please refer to our website for this. It emphasises the importance of a well balanced packed lunch. This also applies to snacks at breaktimes. This should consist of fruit and/or a healthy snack bar. Key Stage One have fruit provided. Pupils have access to water in class and at lunchtimes. Please ensure that your child has a clearly named bottle in school at all times.



## 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.