

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Wednesday 30th September 2020



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 all had a restful summer break and are looking forward to the new school year ahead.

2020 has certainly been such a strange year and one we definitely didn't expect and won't forget. It still is an unsettling time but it has been lovely to see all of the children return to school at the start of this academic year. It has been a challenging start with all of the new routines and procedures to follow but I am grateful for all of your continued support.

We are very proud of how well the children have returned to school, have adapted to the 'new' normal and are back displaying their learning sails. The children have transitioned well into their new classes and are enjoying the new learning challenges.

You are probably aware that Mrs Sharpe is currently off at the moment and is about to undergo treatment for cancer. We send her our love and support. Mr Smith is currently covering the Year 3 class at the moment. We will keep you updated on this.

We also welcome Miss Edwards to our team who is the new Year Two Teacher and she has settled in brilliantly.

School Improvement: our Recovery Curriculum

Before the new academic year, the teachers spent a lot of time refining our long term curriculum map to reflect the emphasis on the wider curriculum. All year groups (Year 1 to 6) will continue to focus 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. Copies of the curriculum documents feature on the school website and the relevant ones shared via ClassDojo. The parent overview gives you a flavour of the learning taking place during the concept; the knowledge organiser which includes key facts the children need to know; and a homework menu for the children to carry out at home. Over the next few pages, look out for some of the excellent learning that the children have completed already.

As a result of school closures due to Covid-19, we have planned a recovery curriculum to ensure children settle back into learning quickly and continue to make accelerated progress. It focuses on the children's learning but also their well-being. A full copy of this is on the school website.

We have also had to put a contingency plan for home learning in place in the event of a partial/full closure. We received positive feedback in relation to the learning set previously (during school closures) and would continue it in this way with the additional of some online lessons. For full details, see the letter posted on ClassDojo or on the website.

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.



Year F

The children in Year F have settled in well to school life and have been getting to know each other.

There's been large scale building, digging, potion making, magical 'Min Pins', messaging, dinosaur eggs and much more, and it's only week 4! We are looking forward to seeing where our learning journey takes us.



Year 1

Well done to Year 1 for their positivity and enthusiasm for learning!

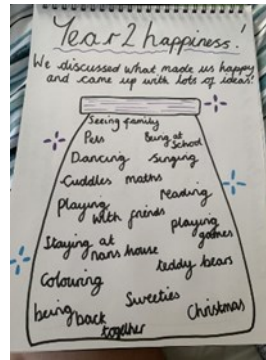
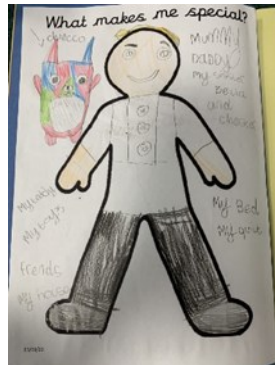
In class we have our Visible Learning Sail buddies who help us with our learning. They are; Resilient Tenacity Tom, Connecting Connie, Curious Clive, Self-aware Sophie and Reflective Ralph.

We have also been busy practicing retelling the story of The Three Little Pigs.



Year 2

Year 2 have made a super start to this year! We have been busy learning about the Spanish Armada, recapping our Year 1 knowledge and learning our story The Papaya that spoke, as well as thinking about what makes us happy and special. The past four weeks seem to have flown by and here is some of the learning we have done! Well Done Year 2!



Year 3

Year 3 have settled well into Key Stage Two and are enjoying all of the new learning challenges. One of which, is the 'Around the World' Multiplication Challenge.

Well done to Jude, Harry and Quintin Rout for getting to Italy.



And, well done to Jamie for getting to France.



Year 4

The children in Year 4 have settled in to being back at school wonderfully well and have been completing some really high quality pieces of learning.

In English, we have been focusing on the book *Escape from Pompeii*. One of the activities included writing a setting description based on an illustration.

All of the children's efforts were brilliant! Here are a few examples.

Thursday 17th September

L.I: To write a setting description based on "Escape from Pompeii".

As the volcano erupted, my beloved home was destroyed one house at a time. You could smell the molten lava destroying the once loved people of Pompeii. You could almost taste the people's tears as they fell to the floor. I could hear the muffled screams of last noises of Pompeii as it faded into the distance! As the smoke filled my lungs I don't know how I survived.

This is a great description! You've captured lots of different parts of the illustration.

Thursday 17th September

L.I: To write a setting description based on escape from Pompeii.

Task Ideas

You could taste the ash filling your lungs.
You could taste the bitter tears of helpless lives.

Touch Ideas

You could almost touch Pompeii's shoulder.
You could touch the ragging waves.

As the volcano erupted, I could remember Pompeii lying at Vesuvius' feet. I could almost taste the bitter tears of helpless lives. I could taste the ash filling my lungs. Pompeii crumbled before my eyes and I am still devastated like I was back then. I could hear people screaming and animals roar; it was horrid. I could almost touch Pompeii's shoulder, as I could touch the ragging waves. The smoke spread over the sky, it was hopeless. Everyone was melting into the lava, they all died. I barely escaped and I feel... scared for life.

You've used the senses to paint a vivid description in my mind. Fantastic!

Thursday 17th September

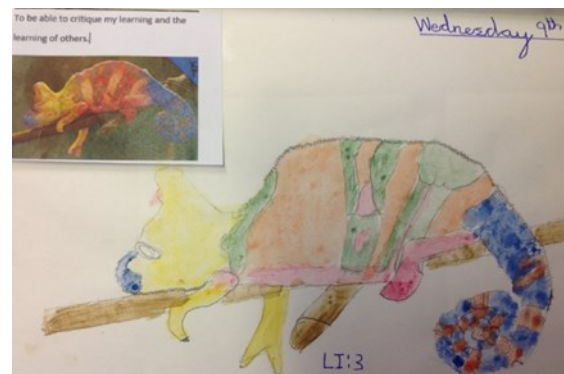
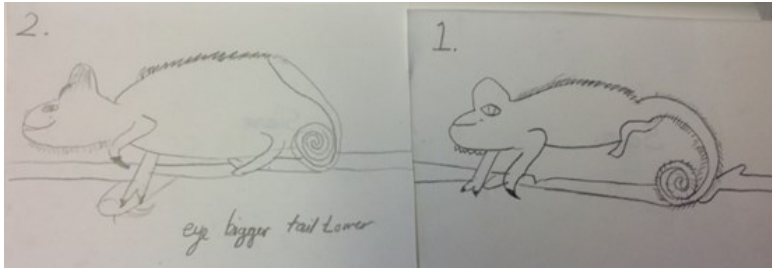
L.I: To write a setting description based on 'Escape from Pompeii'.

As the volcano erupted, you could smell the molten lava as it destroyed what was once the beloved city of Pompeii. The houses were like standing paper about to fall. I could hear the people of Pompeii screaming in fear for help.

I could taste the waves as they vigorously splashed around with smoke, ending countless lives. Then I could suddenly feel the tears of everyone before they disappeared under the thick blanket of magma.

Year 5

The term is well under way and Year Five have adjusted remarkably well with the new routine of the class and year group. Once they had re-established friendships and working relationships we prioritised Visible Learning and learning behaviours and, with Austin's Butterfly demonstrating the skills, the children learnt how to critique their learning and the learning of others. The whole class did a fantastic job of improving their art work of a chameleon (Reflective Ralph) and then transferred their skill to their writing - a great start to the year!



Year 6

Year 6 have settled in really well and are rising to the new challenges. They are also coping well with frequent hand washing or sanitising and trying to keep at a distance from people outside our bubble.

After a lot of staff deliberation, Head girl and Head boy were chosen as follows: Abi and Dillan. Maja and Zack were chosen as Deputies. They were all thrilled to have been chosen and are living up to their responsibilities. Well done!

We all listened to people who would like to be team captains and, although different to our usual team meetings in a classroom, the children read their applications into the camera which was then sent to each class and every child in school got to listen to why each person wished to be chosen and then they voted for who they would like as their team captains and deputies. The following children were chosen:

RED team: Zack and Poppy. Alfie and Flora

BLUE team: Lola and Jowan. Selime and Ewan

GREEN team: Maya and Logan. Aime and Scott

YELLOW team: Abi and Dillan. Emma and Bailey

Well done to everyone who wrote and read their applications – they all did so well.

Year 6 is a hard year with many challenges but we feel sure that the children will all do their best and it will be a good year!

Recognition of positive behaviour

Here is a reminder of how positive behaviour is recognised at Windmill Hill Academy, as featured in our behaviour policy. Our policy reflects our 'Rights Respecting' and 'Trauma Informed Schools' approach. Although, we are unable to have celebration assemblies altogether, we are ensuring the children continue to be rewarded but just in a slightly different set up, e.g. class assemblies.

- 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
- Raffle tickets for 100% in Accelerated Reader quizzes (a prize will be awarded at the end of term)
- Visible Learner of the half term
- Mathematician and Writer of the half term
- End of year trophies



Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
11th Sept	All	Alex Samantha	Antoni Meadow	Florence Lexie G	Ruby Alyssa	Blake Elise	Logan Abigail
18th Sept	Rosie Jakub	Merrick Nelly	Zachary Olivia	Harry Lilly	Harry Violet	Aimee Ella	Samuel Oliwia
25th Sept	Alfie H Florence	Aidan Hope	Franky Patrycja	Umut Abe	Oscar Kanisha	Marissa Jamie	Aris Poppy

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
11th Sept	Margo (Y1)	Phoebe (Y4)	Niamh (Y5)
18th Sept	Isabella (Y2)	Isla (Y3)	Abigail (Y6)
25th Sept	Isla (YF)	Emily (Y4)	Ella (Y5)

Positive Role Model

18th Sept
Joseph (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 Dillan (Head Boy), Abigail (Head Girl), Zack (Deputy Head Boy) and Maja (Deputy Head girl). I look forward to them supporting the school in their first duties.

Our house team captains have also been voted for by the children. The Year 6s thought creatively and recorded their speeches to share with the other year groups virtually. All year groups then voted virtually. Here are the house captains:

- Eastgate (green) - Aime, Logan, Maja and Scott
- Northgate (red) - Alfie, Poppy, Zack and Flora
- Westgate (yellow) - Emma, Dillan, Abigail and Bailey
- Southgate (blue) - Ewan, Lola, Jowan and Selime

Our Pupil Parliament meetings are now in full swing and this year they are organised into year group bubbles which have two pupil leads within each group (voted for by the children). The different groups consist of:

- Healthy Schools (Year 1)
- Outdoor (Year 2)
- Visible Learning/Rights Respecting (Year 3)
- Outdoor (Year 4)
- Eco (Year 5)
- Communities and Charities (Year 6)
- School Forum

Each pupil parliament group will be writing their action plan in the next couple of weeks. We look forward to seeing their plans and actions for the year.

Parental Engagement

We have worked really hard over the last year with parental engagement and we loved seeing the increase of parents we had in during the course of the year for different events. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are not going to be able to have any parental events for the time being, e.g. meet the teacher, learning showcases, reading drop ins, etc. This will also include parent consultations. Therefore, this time, we will be sending out a summary sheet to all parents on Friday 16th October. This will also include information on attendance and their reviewed and updated provision map if on the record of need. There will be the opportunity of a follow up phone call (by appointment) if required. More information to follow. The guidelines are also going to significantly affect Friends events and events at Christmas time.

ClassDojo has worked extremely well especially during school closures due to Covid-19. We will continue using this as our main form of communication and we hope to showcase as much of the people's learning as we can through this at the moment so you are aware of what they are learning. Therefore, please ensure you are regularly checking it. As we have to keep visitors to a minimum and this includes parents entering the school building, we have decided to keep the messaging facility on at the moment via ClassDojo.

But, please be follow the following guidelines:

- See if your question/query can be answered first before messaging, e.g. looking at previous ClassDojo posts or looking at our school website.
- If it is a general enquiry, please phone the school office and speak to Mrs Zoffman.
- Staff will only be checking and replying to messages between 9am and 5pm but please be aware that they will be teaching all day so will not be able to get back to you straight away.
- Please do not message end of day arrangements.
- Please do not message absences. Please phone and leave a message on the absence mailbox/speak to Mrs Zoffman.
- Please message in line with our code of conduct.
- If it is something that you do not want to message and you want to speak to someone in person, please phone the school office where a telephone appointment can be arranged. Please bear in mind this would need to be at convenient time, e.g. when the teacher is not teaching. We will only be having face-to-face meetings if there is no alternative (these have to be pre-arranged).

Attendance Figures for September 2020

The class with the highest attendance each week, receives an extra playtime and the attendance trophy. Our annual attendance target is 97%+.

Year	7th Sept	14th Sept	21st Sept
YF	N/A	95.2%	97.4%
Y1	97%	96.8%	99.3%
Y2	96%	92.5%	97.3%
Y3	99.3%	93.8%	97.3%
Y4	98.9%	96.5%	97.8%
Y5	98.6%	86.4%	99.3%
Y6	99.3%	90.3%	98.6%
Whole school	98.2%	92.8%	98.1%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th - 9th Oct	Collection for the Foodbank
16th Oct	Summary slips to go out
26th - 30th Oct	Half term
4th Dec	Christmas Decorations Day
TBC	Christmas Dinner
17th Dec	Christmas Party Day
18th Dec	Last day of term
21st Dec - 1st Jan	Christmas Holiday
4th Jan	INSET day
5th Jan	New term begins
15th - 19th Feb	Half term
2nd - 16th April	Easter Holidays
Week beg 10th	Y6 SATs week
31st May - 4th June	Half term
7th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check week
	Y4 Multiplication Tables check window (3 weeks)

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.



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.

If you, or your know any prospective parents would like to have a tour of our wonderful school, please ask them to phone the school where a pre-arranged appointment can be made for after school.

Year 6 – secondary transfer: All Year 6 parents need to 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. The deadline for applications is **31st October 2020**.

Message from the Friends of Windmill Hill Academy



Welcome to all parents as we begin a new school year. A special welcome to all new parents of Early Years children. Unfortunately, due to these unprecedented times of Covid-19, we are unable to invite you all to our first welcome meeting, where we would encourage as many of you as possible to join 'the Friends' and help us raise funds for our children. In the past we have arranged many terrific fundraising events and have provided our children with many things. However, this year we are unable to hold a Macmillan Coffee morning, a Monster disco, regular film clubs or even our usual Christmas Fair.

So, if anyone has a good idea of how we could do some fundraising this term, please let us know. In the meantime, if you would like to put your name forward as a new 'Friend' for when we can finally meet up again please let Mrs. Zoffman, Mrs Bassett or myself know and we will welcome you gladly. Thank you. So, until we can all meet up - stay safe.

Chair of the Friends: Mrs. Millard.

SchoolMoneyAPP (Eduspot)

We are still having technical issues with the SchoolMoney APP. This is due to the system being updated during the summer holidays but not all problems have been rectified yet. It will allow you to pay for breakfast club and/or school dinners for those in Key Stage Two but, unfortunately, you are still unable to pre-book menu choices online. We will keep you updated on this matter.



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) 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 a local carpark so please call the office to arrange one. These are free.

We appreciate your support regarding this matter.

SCHOOL HARVEST COLLECTION 2020



COLLECTION POINT HERE

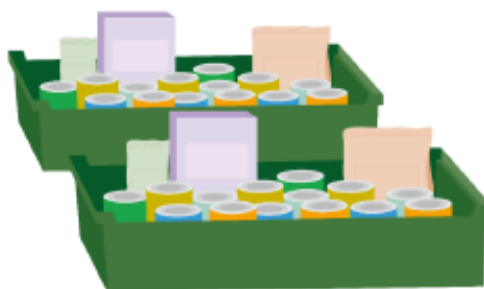
SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Breakfast Cereal
Fruit Juice
Jam
Porridge
Sponge Puddings
Sugar
Rice
Squash
Pasta Sauce
Tinned Fruit

*Don't forget...
You can help transform
more lives with a financial
donation too.*

DONATE NOW!

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



Launceston Foodbank
info@launceston.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1146082)

HARVEST COLLECTION (Monday 5th October - Friday 9th October)

As usual, we will be holding a harvest collection to support our local foodbank. However, instead of the children bringing items into school, we ask that you drop them into the boxes left outside the main entrance during the week of Monday 5th October. We will then quarantine the items before collection by the Foodbank the following week.