

Headteacher's update

Are parents the most under-used resource in schools? For behaviour, attendance and children's learning, research shares the benefits of engaging the whole school community. What can't we achieve when everyone is pulling in the same direction? **When parents are involved in their education, children do better on a wide range of measures.**

These positive effects include:

- Better behaviour
- More confidence and greater self-esteem
- Higher attendance rates
- A lower risk of exclusion
- More enthusiasm about learning
- Better results

When schools and parents listen to each other and work together, they have a really positive impact on attainment and pupil well-being. This is why it is so important that we work in partnership, from a child's first day at school right through to when they leave.

At West Drayton, although fortunate to have great links with parents, we want to further improve. Our parent information sessions have been well attended - thank you all who have attended.

Finally, if you have yet to do so, please sign up for the PIOTA app - this is our main source of communication. The website includes lots of information about the school. If you have any queries, please contact the office - let us know what the query is about so that we can direct you to the appropriate respondent.

Black History Month

Tuesday marks the beginning of Black History Month and the theme this year is Reclaiming Narratives. All Year groups will be taking part by deciding on a focus linked to their current curriculum. As always, there will be an opportunity for you to come in and see what we have been up to. Watch this space!



Dates for your diary

25th - 30th September

Scholastic Book Fair

1st October

Black History Month

2nd October

Y4 Parent Information Meeting (9:00 - 10:00 am)

3rd October

Favourites Day Menu

4th October

Y5&6 Online Safety Meeting with Parents

7th October

Help at Home Week

9th October

School Photography (Portraits)

18th October

Black History Month Exhibition

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 3A with 98.67%
2nd place: 5S with 98.62%
3rd place: 3P with 98.33%

It will be a non-uniform day for 3A on Friday 4th October. Well done!

What is Favourites Day Special Menu and why is it important?

Special Menu
Favourites Day

Thursday 3rd October

- Boston BBQ Chicken Wrap (G)
- Halal Boston BBQ Chicken Wrap (G)
- Margherita Pita Pizza (G, MK)
- Baked Wedges
- Baked Beans & Peas
- Chocolate Sponge (G, E)
with Chocolate Sauce (MK)
- Alternative Available
Baked Jackets with Baked Beans

BM2HalalNon & BM3HalalNon

Allergen Key -
CAPITAL LETTERS = contains, lower case = may contain
Celery and Celeriac (C), Crustaceans/Shellfish (CR), Eggs (E), Fish/AF, Gluten (G), Lupin (L), Milk (MK), Molluscs (MO), Mustard (MU), Nuts (N), Peanuts (P), Sesame Seeds (SE), Soya and Soya products (SO), Sulphites (SU)

pabulum
HONESTLY GOOD FOOD

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all schools including WDA.

This year, **all** children can benefit from free school meals, not just KS1.

Any school with 90% uptake of school dinners can receive extra funding. This is calculated on one day called a 'census day' - the next census day is Thursday 3rd October.

We need as many children as we can to have a school dinner on this date. We request all parents to participate and encourage children to choose school meals on **Thursday, 3rd October**.

Remember:

The meal is free, it will save you money

The meal is hot and nutritious
It will save you time

and...

School receives additional funding to spend on the children.

We work closely with our catering team who carefully plan and prepare meals for our children. These meals are prepared not only to fulfil the dietary requirements but something that is thoroughly enjoyed by children. If you have any questions please contact the school office team.



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Help at Home Week

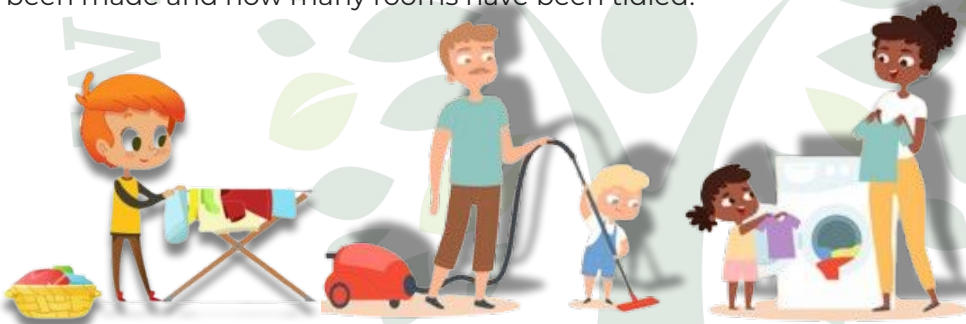
Part of West Drayton's curriculum offer is the '100 Club' - this provides your children with 100 opportunities to engage in a range of 'wow' experiences, develop essential life skills and further grow their knowledge. Each activity or experience that the children complete will earn them one stamp on their 100 Club passport. We want all children to fill their passports before they leave us in Year Six.

'Help at Home' week begins on **Monday 7th October** and incorporates numbers 11 and 33 on the **100 club list** - helping out at home and supporting a charity.

We would like you, parents and carers, to sponsor the children to complete household chores. This could be making their bed, washing up, tidying their rooms or washing your car. All money raised will be donated to the Park Federation's partner charity, ActionAid.

Although we want to raise money for good causes, we also want to teach children about kindness, responsibility and to appreciate those people who help look after them every day...you!

By the end of the week, we want to find out how many beds have been made and how many rooms have been tidied!



No Bikes/Scooters after 8:50am

Main Gate will be locked at 8:50am
and no bikes and scooters
could be let in.

Lost Property

Please ensure that all items of your child's uniform are clearly labelled with their name and class. This can help us return any lost items found around the school on the same day.

Y6 Visit to London Eye

On Wednesday Year 6 went on their childhood promise trip into London. It was an exciting adventure travelling on land, water and in the air! We travelled by train/tube to London Waterloo where we boarded a riverboat cruise. The tour guide was excellent and he taught us all about the different sites: Tower of London, The Shard, The Globe Theatre, London Bridge, Tower Bridge and Waterloo Bridge and HMS Belfast. We were very pleased to see the sun and blue skies after a wet start to the day! Year 6 impressed the adults and tour guides with their excellent questions. They also enjoyed waving at the public on each bridge as we passed under! We then went on the London Eye and enjoyed the amazing views!

The trip finished with a picnic and a chance to play in the playground before we headed back home.



PE updates

PE fixtures are already underway this term, starting with some friendly games. The girls 5/6 football team had their first friendly match against Cowley Saint Laurence and they won 4:1! Well done to Mia-Rose and Layla-Mae who scored the winning goals and well done to the whole team for demonstrating our hand pillar with their great teamwork. Unfortunately, the weather has meant some of this weeks fixtures had to be postponed, so this means next week we have a busy week with the boys 5/6 football team playing their first friendly against Oak Farm on Wednesday; a Netball match for the 5/6 girls and a football festival at Hillingdon Abbots FC. Keep an eye out in next week's newsletter for an update on these events!



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West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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27th September 2024
Edition 3

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



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Starting secondary school

If you have a child born between
1 September 2013
and **31 August 2014**

You must apply for a school place by
31 October 2024

For full details, key dates
and to apply online, visit
[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/
schooladmissions](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

or email
admissions@hillington.gov.uk



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www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions



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Weekly Champions



The Four Pillars are West Drayton's values that thread through the curriculum. Every day, we aspire to demonstrate and apply these values in everything that we do. We believe that the Pillars will help to prepare our children for today, the next stage of their education and beyond.

Each week, from each class, one child will be selected as the Weekly Champion. The champion is somebody who has consistently exhibited their class value of the week.

Year 1

Aima Asim
Sanah Kumar
Aria Omungo

Year 2

Umika Gupta
Feras Muhammad
Farah Javed

Year 3

Jessica Smith
Scarlet Rawlinson
Rajan Shokar

Year 4

Alayna Minhas
Ayati Yuvraj
Mashiyah Murad

Year 5

Matteo Negrea
Robert Creanga
Tiana Shetty

Year 6

Lola Jeff
Louie Martin
Vihaan Chandayapeta

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

Unlocking children's potential by knowing them, believing in them and providing opportunities to succeed