



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

www.westdraytonschool.com
01895 442904
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13th September 2024
Edition 1

Headteacher's update

A belated welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing summer and are now fully refreshed, ready for the new school year. A particularly warm welcome to our new children and their families - it's been a very smooth start.

The children's uniform is excellent—a credit to you all. Your efforts to ensure children are wearing the appropriate clothing, including gold polo shirts and black footwear, are appreciated and welcomed. I have asked teachers to remind children and parents of our high expectations if there's a concern. We will always try to help. Uniform contributes to the ethos of a school and gives our children a sense of identity. West Drayton jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts and fleeces are available from **PMG School wear**.

Thank you for your patience at 'drop off' and 'pick up' - you are always brilliant at supporting our safeguarding routines. Please continue to arrive on time, be courteous to others and follow instructions. Remember that the Office is closed before and during 'drop off' - The Office opens to parents at 9.15am.

Emails and the PIOTA mobile phone app are the main types of communication. It's important that your contact details are correct - please share any changes with the office.

Please do not hesitate to ask if I, or any member of the West Drayton staff, can help you with matters large or small.

Have a great weekend.

Richard Yates

Dates for your diary

18th September

Y3 Parent Information Meeting (9:00 - 10:00 am)

Y6 PGL Information Meeting (3:30 - 4:30pm)

20th September

Culture Club Meeting

25th September

Y6 Trip to London Eye

25th - 30th September

Scholastic Book Fair

1st October

Black History Month

2nd October

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

3rd October

Favourites Day Menu

9th October

School Photography (Portraits)

Homework Year 1 - Year 6

Along with daily reading and times table practice, weekly Homework will be posted each Friday on the Google Classroom. Children's logins for Google Classroom will be stuck in the front of their reading records. Children should complete the work on Google Classroom by the deadline specified by the teacher. Children will have activities set for English and Maths.

Google Classroom is a key tool teachers and children can use to communicate. Teachers will post messages along with tasks and children can ask questions and post evidence of their work.

Find out more about how to use Google Classroom on our [Parent Support Page here](#).

Please ensure your child has their Reading Record at home with them daily which contains logins for websites used in school.

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 5Z with 100%

2nd place: 3A with 99.3%

3rd place: Pear with 99.31%

It will be a non-uniform day for 5Z on Friday 20th September.

Well done!

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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 (C), 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 October 3rd.

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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Play Leaders

We would like to introduce to you our team of play leaders for this year. These children are taking on a leadership role at break and lunchtimes. Their role is to support various break time games such as: 4 square, basketball, circle games and snakes and ladders. They also look out for those who might need a friend to play with. Keep an eye out for them in the playground!

PE Kit

As it's the start of a new school year I would like to take the opportunity to remind you about our PE kit expectations. School PE kit is as follows:

- Black shorts/jogging bottoms
- House colour PE top with school logo
- Black plimsolls or trainers (black) for outdoor PE lessons

If children have PE in the afternoon then they come to school in their uniform, change for their PE lesson and then come home in their PE kit. If children have PE in the morning, then they come to school in their PE kit, change into their uniform at the end of their PE lesson and then stay in uniform for the rest of the day.

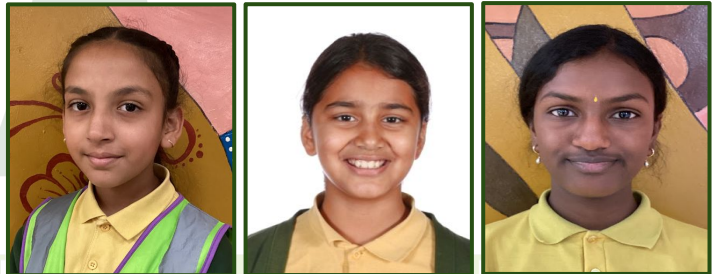
If children do not have the correct kit with them we will be providing spare kit for them to borrow. This kit will be washed weekly. This will ensure that no children are missing out on this valuable lesson.

Thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child is equipped for PE.

Many thanks,
Mrs Randall
PE Lead



Play Leaders 2024/25



Read & Shine

Thank you parents/carers for taking part in Friday's Read & Shine with your children. Reading is an essential part of school life and Read and Shine provides an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in a book before the day begins. Your involvement and presence can be very motivating and can further help build their confidence and foster a love for reading.



Culture Club

Next **Friday, 20th September** Culture Club will be meeting for their first meeting of the new school year. We will discuss upcoming events such as Black History Month, Diwali and Remembrance Day. Come along and join us if you can, we are always looking for new members to share their views and ideas!



Culture Club

Message for Y5 & 6 Parents

There will be **no snack time** from Monday 16th September. Children in Y5 and 6 get an early lunch, hence there will be no snacks during the breaktime.

Clubs 2024/25

This week, we saw the return of our before and after school clubs. The clubs will run weekly and give your child the opportunity to engage with different parts of the curriculum. Further club opportunities will be available and communicated in due course for Autumn 2.

If you have any new or used but in good condition **board games** that your family no longer uses, we would greatly appreciate your donations!

These games are used when it is wet play in school, and children need to stay indoor due to bad weather.

Thank you for your help!



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Who can help keep you safe at school?

Our Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Sall

Deputy Safeguarding Leads



Mr Yates



Miss Howard



Mrs Malik



Mrs Warren-Searle

Learning Mentors



Mrs Cox



Ms Wicks

Are you worried or concerned about yourself or a friend?

If you need someone to talk to, you can always talk to a trusted adult at school.

NEED
SOMEONE TO
TALK TO?

WE'RE ALWAYS
HERE FOR
YOU.



however you feel, ChildLine is here for you.

Safeguarding

At West Drayton Academy, the safety and well-being of every pupil is our top priority. To ensure this, we have a dedicated Safeguarding Team committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all pupils.

Our team is led by Mrs Sall, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Assisting Mrs Sall as Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mr Yates, Miss Howard, Mrs Malik and Mrs Warren-Searle. The Safeguarding Team works closely with pupils, staff, and families to address issues that may affect a pupil's well-being. Whether it's providing guidance on online safety, addressing bullying concerns, or offering emotional support, we are here to help.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at

safeguardingwda@theparkfederation.org or via the school office. Your child's safety is our top priority!

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK

Google Chromebooks were first introduced in 2011 as a budget-friendly alternative to Windows laptops. They have a cloud-based desktop operating system created by Google that performs internet-based tasks simply and quickly. Although primarily optimised for Google apps – such as Gmail and Google Drive – newer devices also support Android apps and offer a range of parental controls via the Google Family Link tool. Nonetheless, whilst these tools are comprehensive, there are some limitations which means there are a number of risks trusted adults should be aware of.

SETTING UP

SET UP FAMILY LINK

To do this, first install the "Google Family Link" app onto your smartphone to set up an account for your child. If you're setting up a new account, it's important you follow the setup process and sign in with your parent account, as this has access to special privileges. Once this is done, you can add your child's account to the Chromebook.

DISABLE GUEST MODE

If "Guest mode" or the ability to add new users is available, your child may be able to bypass the Chromebook's parental controls. To disable this, sign into the Chromebook with your parent account, head to "Settings > Manage other people" and turn on "Restrict sign-in to the following users" – from there, you'll be able to turn off the "guest browsing" feature.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

In your child's account, head to "Settings > People > Parental controls set up" to begin the process. This will confirm the child's account you want to enable parental controls for and will list the devices that can be protected. You'll then be asked to enter the email and password, before being prompted to ask your child to confirm the supervision via their password.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE, ALL THE TIME

As "internet-first" devices, Google Chromebooks are reliant on a Wi-Fi connection, with only limited support for offline tasks. This means your child has access to the internet at all times, with an enduring risk of being exposed to online harm, particularly as Family Link is only able to block most inappropriate content. Even if your child isn't searching for inappropriate websites and information, there's always the chance that they might see something that could upset them.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like most technology, laptops are addictive in nature, and you might find your child spending too long staring at their Chromebook – particularly given its support for Android apps, such as games and social media platforms. This could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks.

BEWARE OF MALWARE

Although Google's Chrome OS features a number of built-in security measures, that doesn't fully eliminate the risk of malware, which can be downloaded onto the machine via phishing emails or from downloading malware-laced content. This should be a particular concern if your child is taking their laptop into school, as the malware could find itself entering the school's network and infecting other pupils' laptops.

Advice for Parents & Carers

There are a number of safety features that you can enable to keep your child safe while using Google Chromebook:

- 1 Disable guest mode and control who can sign into your child's Chromebook
- 2 Restrict or block access to apps from the Chrome Web Store and the Google Play Store
- 3 Disable Incognito Mode so you can always track what sites your child has been on.
- 4 Manage the websites your children can visit on Chrome
- 5 Limit your child's ability to grant permissions to websites
- 6 Check Family Link to ensure the Chrome browser default is set to block sexually explicit and violent sites from being shown to children
- 7 Set bedtimes, screen-time limits, and lock devices when not in use



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Have you downloaded the Piota App?



Keep in Up to Date with Everything at West Drayton Academy with the PIOTA App!

West Drayton Academy have invested in an app to ensure good communication with parents. It's **free** to download. We hope having the app will make your lives easier and promote excellent communication. To download the app just search for 'PIOTA' in Google Play or the Apple App Store.



Features include:

- News – Catch up with all the latest fun, and topics
- Events – Save your favourite event, never miss a thing
- Information – Important school details and documents
- Messages – Alerts and notifications

The school will also be able to upload pictures, video, PDFs and create links to other resources.

How to use the App



In the side menu tap '**Settings**' then tap '**Channels**'

You can then select push notification groups that are important to your child or children (relevant year groups). This means you will be only alerted to messages that are relevant to you.

Please select the Urgent channel as well as your children's Year Group, to receive whole school messages.



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