

Principal's update

Safeguarding in schools is essential for keeping children safe. It is every school's priority. It means having:

- whole-school policies and procedures
- staff and volunteers confident in identifying and raising concerns
- leadership confident in responding to and referring concerns and working with other agencies to protect children
- teaching resources to promote wellbeing.

At West Drayton Academy, we have a brilliant Safeguarding Team who are unflinching in their determination to protect our children. It is a sensitive and often thankless role yet one that holds the greatest amount of responsibility in schools. We are fortunate to have them.

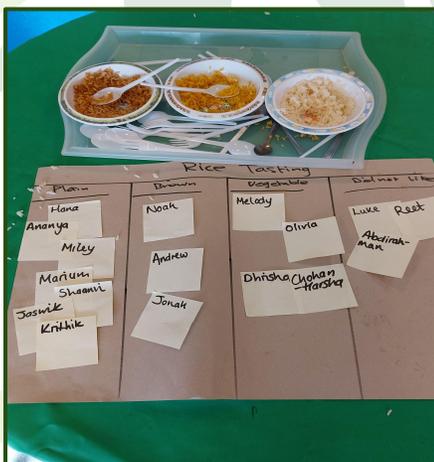
Today all staff completed their annual 'Prevent' training. Prevent training alerts teachers to the possibilities of "non-violent extremism". Next week, we will promote safer internet use. There are lots of excellent tips and advice in the 'parents' section on our school website. I would recommend that you take a look. Miss Gaughan regularly updates the online safety section on the school's website.

Be assured that I take safeguarding very seriously. Have a good weekend!

Richard Yates
Principal

Chinese New Year Celebration at School Nursery

As part of our understanding of the world and looking at different cultures, the Nursery children tried three different types of rice and voted for the one that they liked. They also made red lanterns which they decorated using Chinese symbols.



Dates for your diary

6th - 10th February
 Safer Internet Week
13th - 17th February
 Half Term

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

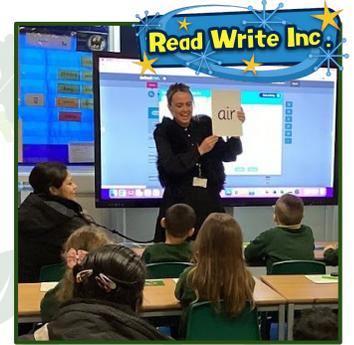
1st place: 3A with 97.8%
 2nd place: 6B with 97.4%
 3rd place: 2B with 96.2%

It will be a non-uniform day for 3A on Friday 10th February. Well done!

Phonics Workshop

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us this week for our phonics lesson and workshop.

Parents benefited from visiting their child in their phonics lesson as they were able to see first hand how we develop early reading skills at school. In addition, parents attended a workshop with our Reading Lead, Mrs Nel where they received invaluable information about our Read, Write, Inc phonics programme as well as how to support their child in preparing for the upcoming Phonics Screening Check.



Prevent Duty

Schools have responsibility for all aspects of children's safety and wellbeing. From 1 July 2015 all schools are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism". The statutory guidance refers to the importance of Prevent awareness training to equip staff to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism or forms of extremism. There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology. It can happen in many different ways and, as with managing other safeguarding risks, staff should be alert to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection. We can provide pupils with a safe place to discuss these issues so they better understand how to protect themselves. Today during the INSET day, staff completed this online training course on Prevent Awareness [Prevent Duty Training](#).

To find out more information, please follow this link: [Protecting Children from Radicalisation: The Prevent Duty](#)



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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Culture Club

At West Drayton Academy, we see the importance of celebrating diversity - this is the reason why we have created the 'Culture Club'. This is our parent group that regularly meets to discuss how to celebrate important dates from all ethnic groups and will be the voice for all ethnic groups that we have at school and in our community. The group will talk about our ethnic traditions, ancestry, history, society, nation, religion and culture.

Every half term, 'Culture Club' meets to;

1. discuss upcoming celebrations and events that are important to any one of the groups
2. suggest how school can action these celebrations and events
3. understand how school and community can do more to support each other.

If you wish to be part of our culture club please contact Mrs Malik on 07718492006.

Culture Club Upcoming Events

Wednesday 8th March

Holi Celebration

Friday 17th March

St. Patrick's Day

Monday 20th March

Nowrus Day

Wednesday 22nd March

Start of Ramadan

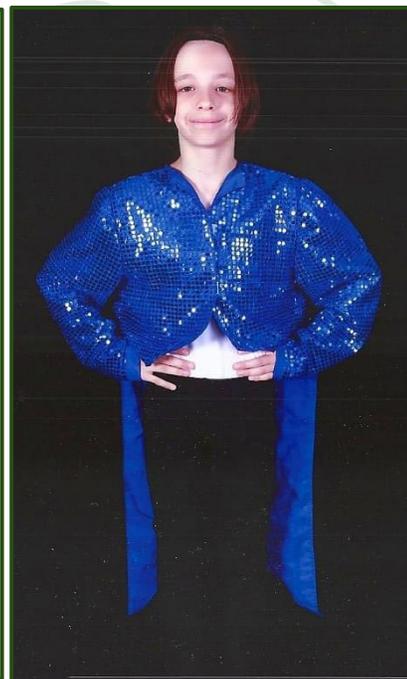
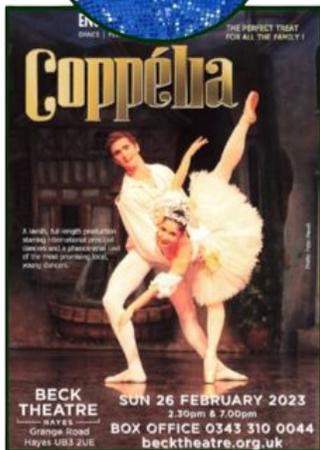


Ballet Prodigy

At WDA we celebrate our children's achievements, whether it is something they do in the school or outside.

Ezellino from Y5 has passion for ballet and has been practising it since he was 3 years old. He recently auditioned for English Youth Ballet. We are delighted to share that he has been selected to perform in Coppelia, and will be performing very soon at Beck Theatre.

Ezellino has started doing modern dance this year as well, and we wish him the very best for everything he is doing.



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

Healthy Eating at West Drayton Academy

Next week, the school house captains will be meeting to discuss their first project of the year, **Healthy Eating at West Drayton Academy.**

This week, they had the opportunity to listen to the ideas given from their year group team and will share their thought and opinions during the meeting. They will lead auditing tasks, pupil questionnaires and create actions ready to be shared next half term.

Eating Healthy foods and having a balanced diet is crucial in allowing children to develop healthy bodies and keep an active lifestyle. It will contribute to their successful learning, help maintain concentration and give them the vitamins and minerals necessary throughout the school day. At West Drayton Academy, we value our learning and understand that it requires energy to keep our hearts beating, brains active and muscles working.



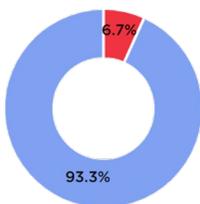
Votes for Schools

Last week, during Votes for Schools, we debated:

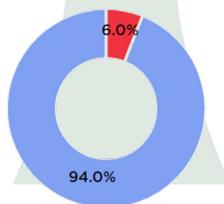
Do you know what disrespect looks like?

West Drayton Academy vs National results

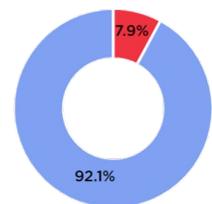
Your School



Regional (Greater London)



National



Coming up

Do we get enough rest?

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, voters are reflecting on the importance of rest and whether the pace of modern life prevents us from prioritising it.

