

Principal's update

Dear Parents and Carers, A belated Happy New Year to you all!

I would like to begin the new term by sharing my thoughts on reading and asking for your help. Reading is an important educational skill - it is the key that opens up most of a child's curriculum. At home and school, we share the responsibility of teaching children to read. It's no secret that activities at home are an important supplement to the classroom, but there's more to it than that.

There are things that parents can give children at home that the classrooms cannot give. Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers' understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.

Although I appreciate that lives are sometimes hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. Don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule. Just read to your child as often as you possibly can. If you have more than one child, try to spend some time reading alone with each child, especially if they're more than 2 years apart. However, it's also fine to read to children at different stages and ages at the same time. Most children enjoy listening to many types of stories. When stories are complex, children can still get the idea and can be encouraged to ask questions. When stories are easy or familiar, children enjoy these "old friends" and may even help in the reading.

Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile. Our goal is to motivate children to want to read so they will practice reading independently and, thus, become fluent readers.

Best wishes, Richard Yates

Dates for your diary

12th January

Y2 Library Visit

16th & 17th January

Parents' Consultations for Nursery

17th January

Parents' Evening
(Reception to Y6)
3:30pm-7:00pm

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

1st place: 3A with 96.7%

2nd place: 2CS with 95.4%

3rd place: 2BR with 95%

It will be a non-uniform day for 3A on Friday 13th January. Well done!

attendance
MATTERS



Reception Applications September 2023

The deadline to make application for Reception places for September 2023 is Sunday **15th January**. Please make sure to apply online through Hillingdon Council's website.

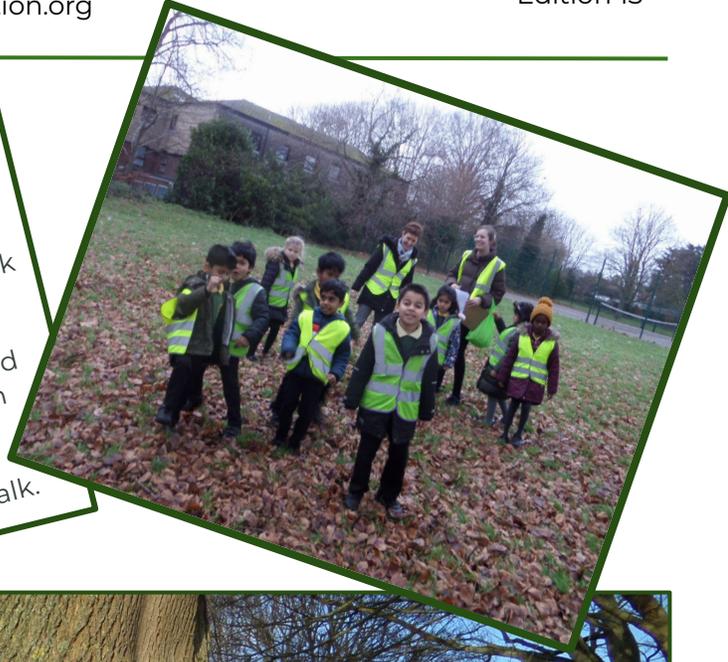


Walk in the Park

Year 1 students had a practical experience lesson as part of their English topic: Little Red Riding Hood.

Children went out for a walk in the local park and experienced the feeling of walking in the woods and around the trees. Just like Little Red Riding Hood, they looked around and enjoyed exploring the tall trees, fallen leaves and big bushes.

The little ramblers truly enjoyed their walk.



Votes for Schools

Recently, during Votes for Schools, we debated:

Should there be strikes in December?



West Drayton Academy vs National results



On Friday we will be discussing:

Is New Year an important holiday?

For the first Vote Topic of 2023, voters will be journeying across the UK and around the world to reflect on New Year and its significance to them and in other cultures.

Parent Survey

At WDA, learning and well being of our children is our core priority and we continuously strive to review what we do at the school in order to meet the needs of our children in the best possible way.

Parents' feedback therefore, is absolutely crucial to us and helps us to identify areas where school can support students and families in a better way.

We value your opinion and would appreciate it if you could take some time out to provide us with your valuable feedback by completing the survey below:

<https://forms.gle/i87zhRDucrvxXt9cA>

TAKE THE SURVEY

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE



Inclusion at WDA

Who are SEN pupils?

An SEN pupil is a child who has special educational needs. They may have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is:

- a significant greater difficulty with learning than the majority of others the same age, or
- a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the facilities generally provided for others of the same age.

How do we support SEN Pupils?

We recognise that many children will have SEN and believe that children can be helped to overcome their difficulties if they are provided with a differentiated, broad and balanced curriculum and appropriate intervention. When a child is identified as having SEND and is placed on the register at SEN Support we follow a the Graduated Approach. Records of SEN Support are written for children receiving SEN Support which detail the desired outcomes and provision.

To find out how we support children with special educational needs in school please read our policy. [SEN Policy](#)



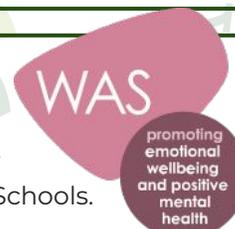
Wellbeing at WDA

This year we are very excited to have joined AwardPlace by Optimus Education to develop our emotional well-being and mental health for both staff and pupils within school and work towards achieving the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

Developed in partnership with the National Children's Bureau (NCB), the Wellbeing Award for Schools is intended to help schools prepare and equip themselves to promote emotional wellbeing and positive mental health across the whole-school community. NCB's vision is an education system where good emotional wellbeing and mental health are at the heart of the culture and ethos of all schools, so that pupils, with the support of their teachers, can build confidence and flourish. Evidence shows us that wellbeing is of central importance to learning and attainment, with high levels of wellbeing associated with improved academic outcomes.

To support us in our journey to supporting pupils' wellbeing, we are asking parents to complete a short survey led by Optimus Education. You will find the survey using the following link, <https://app.awardplace.co.uk/stakeholder-evaluations/user-survey/63b5a9ce88edf>. KS2 children will also have an opportunity next week to complete a Pupil Evaluation form.

We thank you for your support, the Wellbeing Team.



Regular reading impacts a child's success at school.
If not addressed early the educational gap widens...

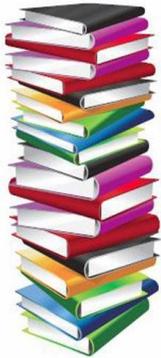
Child A



Reads 20 minutes per day

3,600 minutes per school year

1,800,000 words per school year



Scores in the 90th percentile

Child B



Reads 5 minutes per day

900 minutes per school year

282,000 words per school year



Scores in the 50th percentile

Child C



Reads 1 minute per day

180 minutes per school year

8,000 words per school year



Scores in the 10th percentile

Standardised Test Scores

By the end of grade 6, Child A will have read the equivalent of 60 school days, Child B will have read for 12 school days and Child C will have read for 3 days. Nagy and Herman, 1987.

10 Benefits of Reading Everyday

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.
2. Reading exercises our brain.
3. Reading improves concentration.
4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.
5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.
6. Reading develops a child's imagination.
7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.
8. Reading is fun!
9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.
10. Children who read achieve better in school.

To make optimum progress, children should be reading at home everyday and have lots of opportunities to talk about books and what they are reading.

Pupil Progress Meetings

This week, teachers across all year groups have had the opportunity to meet with SLT to discuss and review their classes attainment and progress. During our meeting, we identified focus pupils who are at risk of not meeting their end of year targets based on our recent assessments. Barriers to learning and actions required to support children were discussed at length. Following this, we have drafted action plans and scheduled interventions to support our focus pupils to make accelerated progress to enable them to reach their full potential!

We will hold another pupil progress meetings (PPM) which will provide us with an opportunity to review and measure progress against targets set following our next assessment cycle which will take place at the end of March 2023.





Triple P Group Course



Triple P Group - Six-week Course
 Tuesday 24th January 2023 – Tuesday 7th March 2023
 (Excluding half term – Tuesday 14th February 2023)
 1pm-3pm
 West Drayton Academy, Kingston Lane, West Drayton UB7 9EA

IS THIS YOUR FAMILY?

You want to create the happiest home life you can. You may have a few concerns about your child's behaviour - perhaps there's disobedience or you simply want to find out how to set up better routines for mealtimes or bedtimes. Whatever it is, you're interested in learning more about positive parenting and how you can apply it to your family.

Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) is an approach to raising children that aims to promote children's development and manage children's behaviour in a constructive and non-hurtful way. It is based on the use of good communication and positive attention to help children develop.

This six-week Triple P course will enable you to learn more about positive parenting and how you can apply it to your family. If you're ready for a more in-depth look at parenting strategies that really work, then this course is for you.

If you would like to be part of Triple P Group, please contact Mrs Malik on 07718492006

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West Drayton Academy PTA

WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

10 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTA

1 Support the school

The PTA is vital to the success of the school. Funds raised enrich your child's learning and make every student's experience better.

2 It's flexible

Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think.

3 Be better connected

Create closer links with other parents, teachers and staff. If you're new to the school, the PTA is an excellent way to find out how things work and become part of the community.

4 Change the school for the better

Work with the school and other parents to see where improvements can be made, and implement them. Fundraising is a great way to support the school.

5 Create lasting memories

Our children are only at school for a few years, but they will remember the difference we make for a lifetime. They will cherish the activities and games we fund, learn using resources we buy, and remember the events we hold. Help keep the PTA going so future pupils can benefit too.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE
PLEASE JOIN OUR COFFEE MORNING
FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 9AM



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
MRS MALIK.**