

## Headteacher's update

Are parents the most under-used resource in schools? From behaviour and attendance to learning outcomes, research shows 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 days at school right through to when they leave.

At West Drayton, although fortunate to have great links with the large majority of parents, we want to further improve. Our parent information sessions have been well attended - the final session (Y5 and Y6) is on Monday next week. Autumn parents' meetings are scheduled for w/b 17.10.22. In addition, there's a 'Meet the Academy Council' session on November 2nd.

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.

## Dates for your diary

### 3rd October

UKS2 Information Meeting

### 28th September - 3rd October

Book Fair

### 10th - 14th October

Help at Home Week

### 14th October

Black History Month Exhibition

## Attendance

The class with the best attendance this week is:

- 1st place: 5Z with 98.6%  
2nd place: 4R with 98.5%  
3rd place: 1A with 97.6%

**It will be a non-uniform day for 5Z on Friday 7th October. Well done!**

## Head Pupils

Every year, in year 6, two Head Pupils are elected. These pupils represent the children of West Drayton Academy throughout the school year. The Head Pupils are role models for all children in terms of their behaviour and attitudes towards school, they are confident in speaking with pupils, adults and in front of others and they are reliable and responsible members of our community. During their time as head pupils, children will represent the school at events, meet and greet parents and other visitors to school and will have a range of public speaking opportunities. Children in year 6, who wanted to apply for the role, were asked to prepare a short speech on the topic: *How are the four pillars represented at West Drayton Academy?* The final speeches were performed this week and our Head Pupils, and the prefect team, will be announced next week. Look out for an introduction to our Head Pupils in next week's newsletter.



## Black History Month

Black History Month is celebrated during the month of October. It is a time for reflection and positive changes for the future. This is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the outstanding contributions that Black people have made to society across the globe, both today and historically.

We have already started thinking about the importance of the month with a whole school assembly that was held on Monday. The children spent some time thinking about how black people have been treated unfairly throughout history. We also thought about The Windrush Generation and how families who moved to Britain would have felt when they arrived and were not treated fairly. We learned about Benjamin Zephaniah, the namesake of a year 5 class at school, whose parents were part of The Windrush Generation and how he has used poetry to have his voice heard.

The Culture Club are looking forward to hosting their first event this year- an exhibition of all of the learning that has taken place across Black History Month. Please join us after school on Friday 14th October and have a look at some of the work the children have produced.

## Year 5 Pupil Corner

Come on down to The Travelling Book Fair at WDA! This week, from Wednesday, The Travelling Books 'Book Fair' came to WDA. Children and parents were able to buy a wide range of interesting children's best sellers and some adult books that are fantastic to read. At amazing prices, you don't have to drive all the way to a Tesco to spend a lot of money- prices range from £1.00-£4.99. Come on down quickly and delve into the magical world of a new book. They are only here until Monday 3rd of October. [Click here](#) to pre-pay for books ahead of Monday.

By Dylan Attwell and Kai Colin



## Votes for Schools

Last week, during Votes for Schools, we debated:

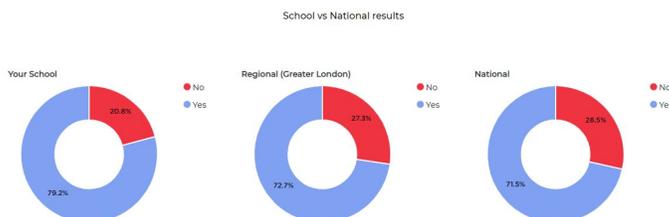
**KS1: Can the fashion industry slow down its impact on the environment?**

**KS2: Would you buy second hand clothes to help the environment?**

**On Friday we will be discussing:**

Are actions more important than words?

Here are the results:



## Kidzania

This Wednesday, Year 4 travelled to London for their trip to Kidzania. The children were extremely excited but also exceptionally well behaved throughout the day. On arrival, the children were given 50 kidzos (kidzania currency), they learnt how to earn and spend their currency. The children had to get themselves jobs to earn money; we had delivery men and women, pilots, DJs and air conditioning engineers to name a few. It was great to see the children being independent learners and being responsible for their own time management.

After a long day of hard work, the children collapsed onto the coach after a hard days work! Well done for excellent behaviour, showing eagerness to try new things and perseverance.



## Lockdown practice

This week, the children experienced a 'lockdown' drill, some for the very first time! Whilst we are not legally required to have a lockdown procedure, it is necessary to practice what to do in an emergency situation.

Although most people use the term 'lockdown' to refer to getting everyone into a safe place and sealing the exits, it's actually one element of a wider practice known as 'in vacuation'. 'In vacuation' is the process of getting everybody inside and safe, and securing the building. **In most cases, pupils will be able to stay in their classroom during an invacuation, and the school day can continue as normal, just with everyone staying indoors.**

Lockdown goes a step further, in that everyone on the premises – staff, pupils and visitors – are moved away from the potential danger to a place where they can't be seen from outside the building. 'Lockdown would only be used in more extreme circumstances where there is a serious and current threat to the safety of those in the building.'

Talk to your children about 'lockdown'. Do they understand what to do and why we practice? Staff and children did a brilliant job.



## 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.

