



West Drayton Academy Newsletter

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September 9th, 2022
Edition 1

Headteacher's update

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. At Pick up, for years one to six, we are continuing to deploy a 'one way' system.

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth, we now know that the official date of the State Funeral is 19 September. This day will be a bank holiday and settings that are normally closed on a bank holiday should close on this day as a mark of respect. This will include schools.

For all schools, normal attendance is expected throughout the national mourning period, other than the bank holiday. The bank holiday will mark the end of the mourning period.

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

Richard Yates

Dates for your diary

16th September

Culture Club Meeting
(9:00 am)

19th September

Queen's State Funeral
(Bank Holiday)

20th September

KSI Parents' Information
Meeting (9:00 am)

23rd September

Jeans for Genes Day
Jeans should be worn.
Donations for this charity can
be made via ParentPay.

Attendance

The class with the best
attendance this week is:

1st place: 2CS with 94.7%
2nd place: 4R with 93.8%
3rd place: 5S with 93.1%

**It will be a non-uniform day
for 2CS on Friday 16th
September. Well done!**

Homework Year 1- Year 6

Along with daily reading and times table practice, weekly Homework Digital Packs will be posted weekly each Friday by Y1- Y6 class teachers with activities to support your child's learning. Children should sign it at least four times a week and engage in the tasks assigned. Homework should be returned on Google Classroom by Thursday with supporting evidence of their work- pictures attached, screenshots of completion, scores from quizzes.

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 educational websites e.g BugClub, Mathletics, TTrackstars (to return), Mirodo (Y5), SatsCompanion(Y6).



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

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.

Our first meeting is on Friday 16th September at 9am. If you wish to get involved in this wonderful club or if you have any events that you want us to know about, please contact Mrs Sall or Mrs Malik at wdaoffice@theparkfederation.org, where we can provide further information.

Clubs

This week, we will see the return of our lunchtime and after school clubs.

If your child has been allocated a club for this half term they will receive a letter outlining their club details.

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.

Votes for Schools

Votes for Schools provides weekly resources for teachers in the UK to prompt discussion on a challenging current issue. Students vote and comment and we ensure that their voices are heard and have an impact. Sessions provide opportunities to explore SMSC, British values, Prevent, Pupil Voice and support PSHE and Citizenship teaching. Children have the opportunity to discuss and debate with their peers. Vote results are published and used by charities and organisations who are interested in what children have to say on a topic. For example, the result of one vote was used in Parliament to support a change in the laws around domestic abuse.

Votes for Schools sessions happen in school every Friday afternoon. This week, children will be discussing:

KS1: Will the Lionesses' win get more girls playing football?

KS2: Will the Lionesses' win create long-lasting change?

The results of our vote will be published in next week's newsletter.



Reading

Reading is one of our priorities at WDA, this year we will be focusing on promoting a love of reading across school.

There will be greater opportunities for children to be involved in choosing, recommending and reviewing books. To entice and encourage children to read, we will be developing our reading corners and book displays. There will also be lots of exciting initiatives launched throughout the year such as inviting authors into school, organising a readathon and running book clubs to name a few.

Furthermore, we will be improving the representation and diversity reflected in books both in our school library and classrooms. It is important that children have access to books that reflect the society we live in, and BAME pupils feel represented and valued.

Last but certainly not least, we also look forward to opening up a new children's library which will allow children to access books before and after school as well as lunch times.

How to get the best out of family life



The Building Blocks of the Nurturing Programme



At West Drayton Academy we will be running the 10-week Nurturing Programme Family Links for parent and carers

What is the Nurturing Programme?

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.

The Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

A tried and tested programme, it helps us think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel.

What does it cover?

Over the 10-week Programme, you will look at lots of different topics, including:

Understanding why children behave as they do

Recognising the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs)

Exploring different approaches to discipline

Finding ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children

Learning the importance of looking after ourselves

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST OR TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE TEXT FAMILY LINKS TO 07716 492006 WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS AS SPACES ARE LIMITED.

MRS MALIK - FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

Year 6 Head Pupils

Year 6 is a special year. Not only is it SATs year but it is also a year where we ensure our students are ready for their next step in education.



To assist with this, the leadership programme has been designed to provide our pupils with the opportunities to lead a range of activities and responsibilities across school. These range from trolley monitors, head pupils, KS1 reading buddies and librarians. We hope these opportunities empower the children to have self-belief and view themselves as the role models we know they are.

Y6 pupils wishing to apply for the role of head pupil are invited to an interview on Wednesday 14th September where they will present a 2 minute presentation on the topic: What do the 4 pillars mean to West Drayton Academy?

