

Principal's update

Oracy is one of our school priorities this year; '*High-quality oracy education that empowers all pupils to communicate confidently & effectively*'. We are working with Voice 21 to support our work on this.

Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language, listening and communication.

Oracy will become the fourth "R" of education, with equal status to reading, writing and arithmetic. How will oracy support your children?

- Help prepare us to be confident, fulfilled future citizens.
- Counter increasing polarisation and misinformation.
- Oracy is a key foundation for reading, writing and academic progress across school.

Our work on oracy begins next week - so, for the remainder of this term and this academic year, ask your children how they are developing their oracy skills!

We have committed to working with Voice 21 for 3 years and this year, we will be part of the 'Discover Oracy Classroom Practice' programme.

Have a terrific weekend all.

Richard Yates
Principal



Dates for your diary

26th January

Y5 Assessment Week

28th January

Y1 Reading Museum (1S and 1M)

Y2 Visit to Palace Tandoori
Football against
Rabbsfarm

Y4 Girls PSD & Hillingdon
Football Tournament

29th January

Netball against John Locke

30th January

Y1 Reading Museum (1D)

2nd February

Y6 Assessment Week
Y6 Visit to Imperial War
Museum

3rd February

Reception Planetarium
Y6 visit o Imperial War
Museum

Attendance

The class with the best attendance this academic year is:

1st place: 6M with 98.4%
2nd place: 5R with 97.86%
3rd place: 2B with 97.3%

It will be a non-uniform day for 6M on Friday 30th January. Well done!

Never miss out on what's happening in the school!

Download the Piota App for all school updates and be sure to follow us on Instagram for weekly updates

@WestDraytonAcademy





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Edition 18

Attendance Expectations

West Drayton Academy expects all pupils to attend school regularly and be punctual because good attendance supports learning, progress and future success. Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school each day the school is open.

School day and registration

Pupils must be in school by **08:40 am** for a 8:50am start. Children are registered at the start of the morning and afternoon sessions.

Reporting absence: Parents/carers must notify the school on the first day of absence and every day thereafter by 8:00 am, stating the reason for the absence.

Medical appointments: Should be in writing. Where possible, appointments should be arranged outside school hours.

Leave of Absence & Unauthorised Absence

General rule: Holiday and other term-time absences are strongly discouraged and are not authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.

Exceptional leave: Must be requested in writing to the Principal at least 15 working days in advance.

Unauthorised absence: May lead to Local Authority involvement and fixed-penalty notices served to parents/carers.

Monitoring & Follow-Up

Daily monitoring: The school tracks attendance and patterns of absence on a daily basis.

Communication with families: If your child's attendance falls below 96%, the school will write to parents and may arrange meetings to offer support.

Support and sanctions: Persistent non-attendance can result in escalation to education welfare services and statutory action, including penalties.

Promoting Good Attendance

Good attendance is acknowledged and rewarded by the school on regular basis. Positive attendance habits are encouraged as part of pupils' overall preparation for future learning and life.

Legal Framework and Penalties

The legislation states: *"If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence."*

— Education Act 1996, Section 444(1)

Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in: A fixed penalty notice of £80 or £160 per parent, per child and where cases of persistent non-attendance may be referred to Magistrates' Court, which can lead to higher fines or a criminal record.



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HEALTH

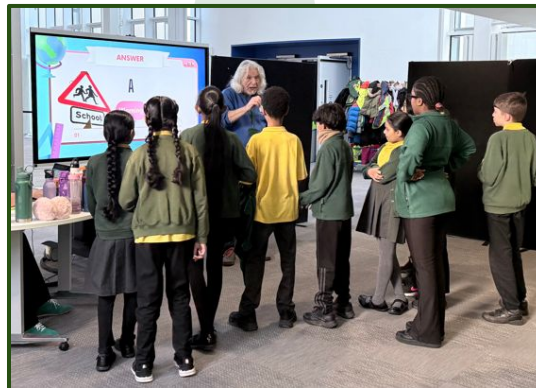


Year 6 Trip to Brunel University

On Tuesday afternoon Year 6 travelled by bus to Brunel University for the annual Junior Citizens Event.

Children took part in workshops given by: the police looking at knife crime and grooming; Coram Life education about social media; the RNLI learning about water safety; the London Borough of Hillingdon sharing important messages about cycling/road safety; TfL to learn about safety on public transport; nurses educating children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and the fire brigade sharing key messages such as "Get out, Stay out, Call 999". The sessions shared some really important messages and we were so impressed with the children's engagement throughout the afternoon. Well done Year 6! Thank you to the parents who came with us on the trip, your support was really appreciated.

This event was part of the children's 100 Club experiences: 61. Learning about fire safety & 17. Navigating public transport.



Nursery's Space Mission

This week, our Nursery explorers have been inspired by our class text, *Look Up!* by Nathan Bryon. Just like the main character, Rocket, the children have been busy preparing for their own missions to space! In our story the children were introduced to the first African American astronaut Mae Jemison and learnt about space and how a space rocket launches.

Using a variety of junk modelling materials, the children designed and built their very own space rockets. This activity supported their fine motor skills, working together and their communication and language.



Votes for School

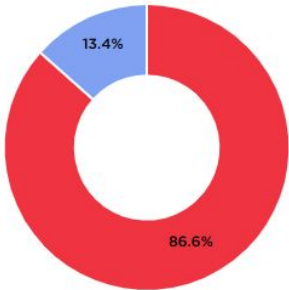
This week, during Votes for School, we discussed:

Is it easy to challenge stereotypes? (KS2)

Is it easy to work out what people are like? (KS1)

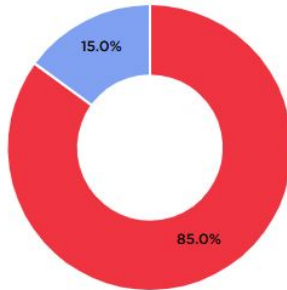


Your School



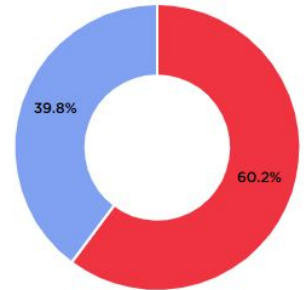
No
 Yes

Regional (Greater London)



No
 Yes

National



Coming up:

Should there be a social media ban for under 16s? (KS2)

Should children stop using social media? (KS1)

Children will have an opportunity to discuss whether there should be a social media ban for under 16s in the UK, based on the recent ban in Australia.



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Breathe In, Stress Out: Parent Yoga is Coming!

Need a moment of calm in your busy schedule? Join our upcoming school yoga sessions! All levels are welcome—from "first-timers" to "zen masters."

Interested! Please contact Mrs Malik our Family Liaison Officer or whatsapp YOGA to 07718 492006 to express your interest.



WDA Walking Basketball

Do you love Basketball?
Did you used to play?
Have you always wanted to play?
Are you looking for a way to get fitter?



Walking Basketball is all the excitement and fun of Basketball but at a walking pace making and is suitable for all ages, genders and abilities. Come and join us at West Drayton Academy every Wednesday from 9.00 – 10.00am!



Walking Basketball is great for anyone. These sessions are all about having fun, staying social and improving physical activity! Spaces are limited. To express your interest please text Basketball on 07718 492006 or speak to Mrs Malik, Family Liaison Officer.



CATEGORIES FOR JUDGING:

- Most creative idea
- Best use of colour/material
- Most lifelike portrait
- Funniest portrait

Theme:
 Create a portrait
 of a famous
 person in a **FUN** or
UNUSUAL
 setting!

RULES:

- Use Any Medium (pencil, paint, collage)
- A4 or A3 size
- Entries should include the name of the person and the 'place' they've been reimagined

DEADLINE: Monday 9th February. Hand in to Mrs Patel

3rd place
 (1 winner in each phase)
 5 Dojos

2nd place
 (1 winner in each phase)
 10 Dojos

1st Place
 (1 overall winner)
 20 Dojos and a trophy



**WE NEED
YOU!**

 **The PTA is restarting!**

We are relaunching as Friends of West Drayton Academy, bringing families and staff together to support our children and school.

Why Join?

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As well as fundraising, the PTA organises events which add so much to our children's school experience.

HAVE FUN

Being a part of a team is a fun and rewarding experience.

FEEL INVOLVED

Every parent is welcome to the meetings and new members are always welcome. Please consider coming along to meetings or volunteer a few hours of your time at an event.

First Friends Meeting – Everyone Welcome



Date: Friday 6th February

Time: 2:30pm

Location: School Hall

**Can't make this meeting?
Still register your
interest with Mrs Sall**

Supporting our school • Building community • Making a difference

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.



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CHAMPION OF THE WEEK

THE FOUR PILLARS ARE WEST DRAYTON'S VALUES THAT THREAD THROUGH THE CURRICULUM. EVERY DAY, WE ASPIRE TO DEMONSTRATE AND APPLY THESE VALUES IN EVERYTHING THAT WE DO. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PILLARS WILL HELP TO PREPARE OUR CHILDREN FOR TODAY, THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATION AND BEYOND.

EACH WEEK, FROM EACH CLASS, ONE CHILD WILL BE SELECTED AS THE WEEKLY CHAMPION. THE CHAMPION IS SOMEBODY WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY EXHIBITED THEIR CLASS VALUE OF THE WEEK.

Year 1

Aizal W

Salar Khan A

Hareem A

Year 2

Naty G

Amreen S

Abdirahman A

Year 3

Vedhika K

Alaya S

Asala I

Year 4

Johnny M

Mohammadarsh J

Vedhansh S

Year 5

Hanish K

Nanmaaran S

Riya G

Year 6

Aminah A

Fatima K

Dhruva U

BELIEVE • EMPOWER • ACHIEVE

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



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MULTI-SPORTS CAMP **SPORTS PLUS HOLIDAY CAMP**

**BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, NETBALL,
TENNIS, DODGEBALL, STREET DANCE
AND MANY MORE!!**

9AM - 3PM

**WEST DRAYTON ACADEMY
MON 16TH TO FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY
HALF TERM**

**1DAY: £20 | 2DAYS: £36 | 3DAYS: £51
4DAYS: £64 | 5DAYS: £75**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION OR TO
BOOK ON SCAN THE
QR CODE OR CONTACT**

01932 568 570



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