

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Friday 22nd October 2021

We have now approached the half term break and it has been great to reflect on all of the successes of this half term. It has been lovely to see all children settle into their new classes and enjoying the new learning challenges on offer.

Bertie has also really enjoyed his first half term in school and has loved making friends with you all. He is now certainly part of the WHA team!

This half term's learning connection block has been 'Rebellion and Invasion' and it has been great to see and hear all of the learning that has taken place both at school and at home (their home learning looks wonderful!). The children have enjoyed sharing their learning with each other and Bertie and I have enjoyed hearing and seeing their new learning. It is clear that they have been demonstrating the different Visible Learning Sails and making good progress.

Our next learning connection block is, 'Natural Elements'. As mentioned before, all year groups (Y1—6) will be focusing on the same learning connection block at the same point but focus on a different concept. Copies of the parental overviews and knowledge organisers are available via the school website and ClassDojo.

I am pleased to say that Mrs Sharpe has responded really well to treatment and we look forward to welcoming her back to school after the half term break. Mrs Sharpe will be transitioning back slowly with Mr Smith supporting the process.

We look forward to hosting our parental consultations the first week back after half term (on the Tuesday and Wednesday after school. If you haven't already signed up for a slot, please do so on Monday – the boards are outside of the main entrance.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing the children return to school on Monday 1st November.



School Improvement: Visible Learning

Miss Jones, Miss Callow and I, as well as other members of the team from our Trust had the pleasure of presenting at the CAPH (Cornwall Association of Primary Heads) Conference today. We talked about the positive impact we have had so far during our Visible Learning Journey. It was wonderful to showcase and celebrate the pupils' successes today.

Why not ask your child which learning sail(s) they have been working hard on this week/this half term?



We are trying to be an 'Eco friendly' school so we don't send home newsletters. Black and white copies are available in the foyer. It will also be available on the website under 'Newsletters' in the 'Parents' tab and will be posted on ClassDojo.



Year F

As part of their story telling, Year F have been learning the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. They received a letter from The Hen asking for help to make some bread! The children learnt all about instructions and what we use them for. They were able to sequence the recipe and work together to make some bread!



The children then transferred what they knew about instructions to help them sequence and follow instructions for making a scarecrow. Why not come and see him in the Year F outdoor area?



Year 1

In Year 1, we have been using a wide range of resources to support and extend our maths learning. We have practised comparing and ordering numbers and learning how to record our addition calculations, as number sentences using mathematical symbols. We have also been focusing on developing our teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills in both our indoor and outdoor learning.



Year 2

As part of their art and learning connection block, Year 2 have been learning the use of collage. We have linked this to the Spanish Armada by creating silhouette ships! The children learnt all about using different sizes pieces and how it would impact our final piece. We also looked at the most effective way to glue our tissue paper to our creations!



Year 2 have also been working hard to develop their spelling skills this half term. We have been using rainbow spellings to help us identify the graphemes within words and it is great fun. Why not try and do this at home?



Year 3

During the month of October, Year 3 have continued to learn survival skills during their much-loved **Wild-Tribe** sessions: drilling; hammering; sawing; constructing; designing; shaping natural materials. In class, Year 3 have engaged in weekly **scientific investigations**, exploring the influence of friction on objects and the power of different types of magnets. Year 3 have enjoyed learning to play the **violin** and have all proved themselves very resilient in the process. Year 3 have been **reading** a variety of text (fiction and non-fiction) and have been using their recently learnt **writing skills** to create informative leaflets, diary entries and narrative poems.



Year 4



In PE, Year 4 have been focusing on Netball this half term.

We have worked on our passing skills. We can now complete overhead passes, chest passes and bounce passes.

We have also been able to work on the footwork needed to play netball correctly.

In Science, Year 4 have been focusing on the topic of electricity.

We were able to create an experiment to test whether equipment in the classroom are conductors or insulators.

We have also been able to discuss the importance of the power of a battery in making a light bulb work.



Year 5



As part of this half term's learning connection block, Year 5's Design and Technology learning has linked to this with the focus on making structures in the form of Viking ships. The process has involved researching, planning, making prototypes, making the Viking ships and then evaluating their effectiveness.

The children have displayed a range of the learning sails including curiosity, resilience and tenacity and connect.

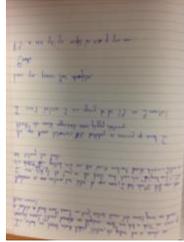




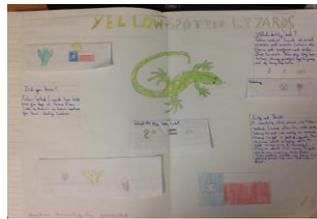
Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed their intensive swimming course this half term. They were at the pool every afternoon for two weeks and they all made very good progress, although they were exhausted by the end! Well done Y6!

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed doing the World War Two history topic this half term. They have learned about The Blitz, what it was like to live with blackouts every night and how to protect themselves during the war. They also learned about how their parents had to learn to live with ration books and how to try to make the food go around the whole family and how to 'make do and mend' with their clothes. The children found out about evacuees and thought about what it would be like to have a label around their neck and leave their parents behind at the railway station and go off with a small suitcase to live with a family they did not know in a safer part of the country. They all wrote a letter home to their parents.



In English, the children have been looking at non-chronological reports – The Yellow Spotted Lizard – taken from the book we have been studying – 'Holes'. They all produced an information poster warning against the dangers of the Yellow Spotted Lizard.



Harvest Festival Collection

Many items were donated to celebrate our Harvest Festival this year.

All donations have been given to the Launceston Food Bank to support local families in these challenging times.

We thank you for your generosity.

Amazing Achievements

Stars of The Week							
	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1 st Oct	Arlo Amelia	Ebony Archie	Coen Evie	Tomasz Leo	Jamie Harry	Elias Emily	Callie Harry
8 th Oct	Archie Imogen	Florence Maja	Imogen Rosann	Zachary Imogen	Seth Dexter	Meg Jayden	Elise Lola
15 th Oct	Effie Abigail	Julia Bobby	Alex Isla	Talia Max T	Lilly Jack C	Violet Phoebe	Benjamin Raegan
22 nd Oct	Ivanka Ozan	Harrison Isla	Aidan Yushang	Jack Sarah	Jack H Abe	Izabella Jacob	Aimee Lowen

Respect and Kindness			
	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
1 st Oct	Merrick (Y2)	Jude (Y4)	Blake (Y2)
8 th Oct	Elsie (Y1)	Ella (Y3)	Poppy (Y5)
15 th Oct	Harry (YF)	Lexie G (Y4)	Niamh (Y6)
22 nd Oct	Isla (Y2)	Tomasz (Y3)	Violet (Y5)

Positive Role Model
1 st Oct
Millie (Y4)
15 th Oct
Chelsee (Y5)

Writers and Mathematicians of the half term							
	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Writers	Fenris	Holly	Hannah	Zachary	Florence	Zak	Brooke
Mathematicians	Amelia	Harry	Hope	Elif	Quintin	Jacob	Casey

Visible Learners of the half term						
Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Eda Jiawen	Ebony Freddie	Scott Margo	Meadow Antoni	Quintin Seth	Emily Chelsee	Alex Esther

Attendance Figures for October 2021

Our annual attendance target is **97%+**. Our whole school attendance figure last year was: **96.4%**. This is an increase from previous years but let's all work together to achieve 97% or higher this year.

We understand in some circumstances absence cannot be avoided, e.g. sickness, diarrhoea, Covid-19 symptoms. However, if it is just a cold or similar they are okay to be in school. Please note, that holidays cannot be authorised during school term time so please bear this in mind when planning ahead. By not being in school, it has a significant effect on their learning, as well as their social skills, building relationships, self-esteem etc.

It is also important that children are not late to school. Remember all year groups will start at 8.50am and finish at 3.15pm.

We closely monitor our attendance and have to inform the Education Welfare Officer if individuals fall below 95%.

The class with the highest attendance each week, receives an extra playtime and the attendance trophy.

Each term each child can earn a different colour attendance badge. And, for each term within the year, they can earn themselves an additional bronze, silver or gold badge.

Year	1 st Oct	8 th Oct	15 th Oct	22 nd Oct
YF	93.2%	90%	85.4%	87.4%
Y1	95.9%	97.3%	98.7%	90.7%
Y2	97.4%	92.5%	91.8%	98.5%
Y3	97.9%	98.6%	97.9%	94.3%
Y4	95%	98.5%	99.3%	97.7%
Y5	98.9%	96.4%	98.9%	97%
Y6	93.2%	95.7%	96.6%	96.5%
Whole school	96%	95.9%	95.5%	94.9%

School Money APP (Eduspot)

A HUGE thank you for all of your support with Eduspot and booking school lunches. We nearly have the whole school using it and it really is speeding up the morning routine so we can fit more learning in.

The menu choices are on there, right up until the Christmas holidays, for you to select your child's choices. All menu choices, including packed lunches, need to be booked by midnight each Sunday evening for the week ahead.

Breakfast club and our after-school wrap around club must also be booked and paid on there the evening before it is required at the latest.



Dates for your diary

Please note that the term dates for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are on our school website for your reference.

2nd and 3rd November	Parent Consultations
8th November	Whole School Photos
15th November	Anti-bullying week
3rd December	Decorations Day
15th December	Christmas Dinner
16th December	Christmas Party Day
17th December	Last day of term
4th January	INSET Day
5th January	Start of the Spring term
10th January (2 weeks)	Year 2 swimming sessions
21st – 25th February	Half term

Reading gives us wings!



More Books for our Library!

The Cornwall Library service van visited us again last week. 146 new books were chosen for both Key Stage 1 and 2. We now have a very well stocked library here at Windmill with more than 2,000 books!



Our wonderful Sparkle Room

To help with the redevelopment of our Sparkle Room, The Friends of Windmill Hill Academy applied to the Cornwall Community Foundation to ask for funds to buy equipment. We were very lucky to receive a grant of £1000+ through Headstart Kernow. Mrs Williams bought material and made cushions and blinds for the room. We now have a well-equipped room to support with our Trauma Informed School approach. Many children have benefitted from this facility already so it is certainly money well spent!

