

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter



Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners

Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Friday 30th April 2021



We hope you all had a lovely Easter break and managed to get outside and enjoy some of the lovely sunshine.

We are hoping for continued sunshine over the next few months so please make sure children bring a sunhat to school and wear sunscreen.

The children have definitely been displaying the learning sail 'curiosity' when learning about their new learning connection block 'discoveries'. Have a look at some of their learning on the following pages.. Don't forget that copies of the curriculum documents feature on the school website. The parent overview gives you a flavour of the learning taking place during the concept; the knowledge organiser which includes key facts the children need to know; and a homework menu for the children to carry out at home.

Today, your child(ren) will come home with a learning review slip. This includes your child's successes, next steps and attendance. If you require a follow up telephone appointment with your child's class teacher, you will need to phone the office to arrange one at a mutually convenient time.

We are really proud of how much progress the children are making and they certainly demonstrate lots of resilience during the challenges this year has brought with Covid-19. Please continue to support with reading, phonics and multiplication practice at home—it really helps to support their learning in school. If you need any support with this, please speak to your child's class teacher, and they will be happy to help with ideas.

Thank you for completing the Visible Learning surveys. I will be sharing more of an insight into our next steps over the next few months. *Why not ask your child what the learning sails are and how they demonstrate these in class?*

School Improvement: School site

You probably have noticed that we have had new fencing and gates installed. This was all finished over the Easter holidays. We were lucky enough to receive a grant to carry out these works. The fence borders the whole boundary of the school and makes every area a safe space. We urge you to use the garden or the steps as access in the mornings and afternoons but if you do need to use the front access please use the side gate for your safety.

I have also applied for further grants to continue to develop the school garden. We have already received funding from the Youth and Town council and have started to put this to good use. I am working with a few of the pupil parliament groups and they have planned the next projects and how to use the money to support these. The money will help to support the development of the whole area, including redevelopment of the pond area, nature area with natural habitats, more log seating etc. We will keep you posted on its redevelopment.

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

'What will you find in the garden?'

Year F have started exploring what they might find in the garden. They have taken part in bug hunts (being careful not to hurt the bugs they find and ensuring they put them back!). They have also used non-fiction books to find out information about them!



The children have also been learning the 'Jack and the beanstalk' story. Why not see if they can retell the story for you?



Year F have also continued with their weekly 'Wild Tribe' sessions.

Year F have also been demonstrating curiosity in their maths learning. They have been exploring how teen numbers are made, with a particular focus on partitioning these numbers in different ways.



Year 1

In Year 1, we have been playing maths games outside. We have been exploring using tens frames to help us add two numbers together.



Year 2

Year 2 have been very lucky and we started music this week with Mrs Gilbert this week!

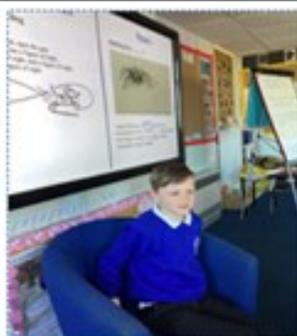


Year 2's favourite lessons are writing, maths, PE, science and music!

Year 3



In **History** Year 3 are currently learning about Britain during the stone age. During this week's **Art** lesson, Year 3 used modelling clay and match sticks to create sculptures of stone age housing to gain a better understanding of what life would have been like 10,000 years ago.



In **English**, Year 3 changed the animal characters in a poem and then took up the challenge to input adverbs into each verse. Year 3 also had to re-read their adapted verse, without looking at the text, and identify the punctuation within it.



In **Maths**, Year 3 completed a whole school Maths challenge. The aim was to complete and adapt a game involving arrays.



Year 4



In **Maths**, Year 4 completed a Maths challenge last week. The children needed to complete a game involving arrays.



It's great to have Brenden in again teaching Cricket to the children. They all really enjoyed it and got involved.

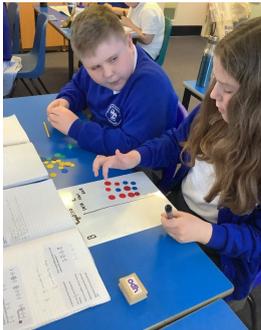


During **Science**, we completed a sound survey around the school grounds. We walked to different places in the school and listened for any sounds.

Year 5

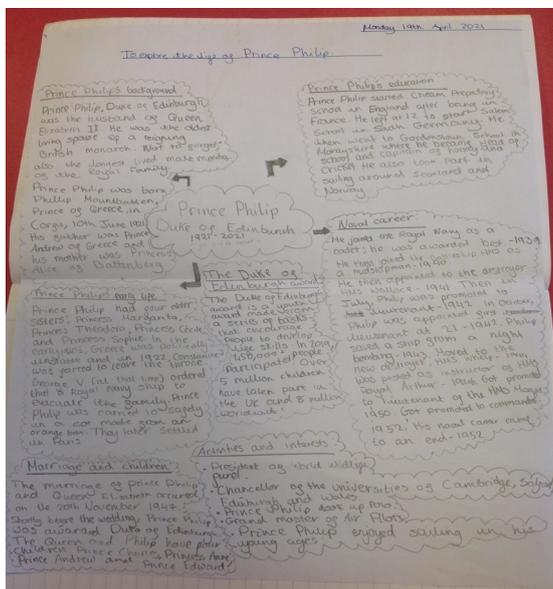


Year 5 have settled back in to school and have enjoyed some fun activities. They have been getting some fresh air while learning during wild tribe and cricket and came up with their own set of rules for a game during the whole school maths challenge.



Year 6

As a mark of respect after the death of our dear Queen's beloved husband—His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Year 6 researched his life and many achievements throughout his 99 years. They created an information poster to show what they had learned. Lola said, "I hadn't realised quite how much Prince Philip had done in his lifetime and how much he had supported our Queen." In addition to the posters, each child used sketching pencils or charcoal to create a picture of Prince Philip focusing on line and tone.



Amazing Achievements

Stars of The Week

	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
1st April	Alex Rosie	Ella Adem	Max T Laura	Oliver Siqi	Poppy Jacob	Autumn Alex	Dillan Oliwia
23rd April	Jason Elsie	Ella Merrick	Franky Tomasz	Samuel Sienna Mac	Meg Jayden	Brooke Harry	Zack Dominika
30th April	Louis L Lilly	Sol Margo	Talia Buddy	Quintin Lexie G	Elias Violet	Lola Caitlyn	Bailey Aime

Respect and Kindness

	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
1st April	Samantha (Y1)	Seth (Y3)	Lohen (Y5)
23rd April	Zachary (Y2)	Emily (Y4)	Oliwia (Y6)
30th April	Elsie (YF)	Lilly (Y3)	Elsie (Y5)

Positive Role Model

1st April
Abigail (Y6)
30th April
Marissa (Y5)

Raffle ticket winners

23rd April
Scott (Y1), Ivy (Y1) and Isabella (Y2)

Attendance Figures for April 2021

Our annual attendance target is 97%+.

Year	1st April	23rd April	30th April
YF	95.8%	90.3%	96.6%
Y1	97.4%	98.6%	98.6%
Y2	84.1%	95.4%	96.2%
Y3	94%	99.3%	98.6%
Y4	95.5%	99%	99.3%
Y5	92.6%	94.2%	95.9%
Y6	94.4%	98.1%	98.9%
Whole school	93.4%	96.4%	97.7%

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th April	Spring Learning Review slips to parents
19th May	Bag 2 School Collection
31st May - 4th June	Half term
9th July	Reports to parents
Week beg 12th July	Whole school Transition week
21st July	Last day of term for pupils
22nd and 23rd July	INSET Days
6th September	INSET Day
7th September	Pupils return to school

We hope to have more events in Summer 2 but this will rely on the easing of restrictions and Government guidance. We will keep you posted.

School Uniform

Our school has a very practical but smart uniform. It follows a colour scheme of royal blue and grey/black and consists of:

- A white shirt, blouse or polo shirt
- A royal blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
- Black or grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Blue and white gingham dress (Summer months)
- Flat black shoes

It is essential that children have a change of clothing for PE.

This should be:

- Black or grey shorts
- White t-shirt (not vest or crop top)
- White/black socks
- Black or grey joggers or leggings
- Additional school jumper or a fleece (recommended for the colder months)
- Plimsolls or flexible soled trainers (strongly recommended for wet weather)



We understand that during increased Covid restrictions that it was difficult to source uniform due to demand and shop closures. But, now that restrictions have started to ease, it should be much easier to source.

Uniform can be purchased from Price and Buckland at <https://price-buckland.co.uk/>

Select the school finder tab from the menu and view the range. You will notice that you can now buy cardigans, as well as jumpers. There is also the option to buy additional items, such as PE shorts/t-shirts. Please note there is no requirement to purchase the t-shirts/shorts/fleece advertised on the website, but there is the option to should you wish. Please note, the fleece is not to be used in place of a school jumper/cardigan and is only to be used as an extra layer in the winter months or for PE. Similarly, that the hoodie is only to be used for PE.

It is essential that all items of clothing are CLEARLY named.

Please remember that we have our uniform donation station which is well stocked and lots of nearly new items on there. Please contact us if you would like any items.

The wearing of jewellery and makeup is not appropriate. Children who have their ears pierced may wear small studs or rings.

SchoolMoneyAPP (Eduspot)

Thank you for your support with Edupot and booking school lunches—it really is speeding up the morning return so we can fit more learning in. We require ALL parents to use the APP to book and pay (if applicable) for school dinners or select if they are a packed lunch. This is to be done in advance by the end of the day on a Sunday prior to the week ahead. You can currently book right up until half term. If you have not pre-booked and paid (if applicable) a required school dinner, you will be contacted to provide a packed lunch for your child. If you are having any problems, please contact Mrs Zoffman.



Bag2School

It is the perfect time to have a good clear out at home and we welcome donations to our Bag 2 School collection. Please bring your donations into school (use own bags) on the morning of collection (19th May) and leave outside the main entrance. Items collected - men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories. (No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please). All funds raised will go to the Friends of WHA.

End of Day Arrangements

Thank you for returning your end of day arrangements forms. If you haven't, please can you return very soon. If you need a replacement, please see Mrs Zoffman in the office.

For safeguarding reasons, pupils will only be able to be picked up by those listed (unless notified by 2.30pm on the day by the parent). This also applies to those in Y4/5/6 walking home - they will only be able to walk home if permission has been given on the form.

Windmill Breakfast Club

Windmill Hill Academy has provision for before school opens in the form of a Breakfast Club. It has fully opened in line with the Covid-19 regulations for breakfast clubs.



If you are in need of childcare before the school day commences, why not book into the Breakfast Club where they can safely eat breakfast and play within their class bubbles between the hours of 8am and 9am. They will be supervised by two qualified staff, Mrs Williams and Mrs Rutherford, for the duration of their stay before being escorted to their classrooms at the appropriate times.

There is a small charge for attending the club: £3.00 per session which includes breakfast of cereals, toast, fruit and juice or milk. If you are in receipt of Child's Tax Credits you may be able to claim the childcare costs back when filling in your annual award. Receipts can be arranged for this (please speak to Mrs Williams). Also, children who are in receipt of free school dinners or PPG, the cost is £2 per session.

Booking onto the club can be done online through the EDUSPOT app www.eduspot.co.uk whereby you can book the days you require and pay for them too. It's so easy! You will have to set up your information with a current email address and mobile number.

If you need any more information with reference to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

