

Windmill Hill Academy

Monthly Family Newsletter

Inspiring Passionate Life Long Learners



Mrs A Bassett
Head of School

Thursday 30th September 2021

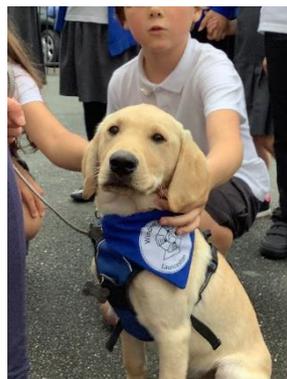
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all children and parents, including our new families, to the new academic year at Windmill Hill Academy. It now seems like the summer holidays are a distant memory but I hope you all had a restful break and are looking forward to the new school year ahead. We look forward to our usual WHA special events being able to return this year – we will keep you updated on these.



We are very proud of how well the children have returned to school after the summer break and are already displaying their learning sails. The children have transitioned well into their new classes and are enjoying the new learning challenges.

Before the new academic year, curriculum leaders and teachers spent a lot of time refining our long-term curriculum map to reflect the emphasis on the wider curriculum. All year groups (Year 1 to 6) will continue to focus on the same learning connection block at the same point but focus on a different concept. The aim of this is to widen the children's curriculum knowledge and skills but to also build on the pupils' learning year upon year. For this half term, the learning connection block is called, 'Rebellion and Invasion'. Some classes are focusing on local history, the Romans or World War Two. Copies of the curriculum documents feature on the school website and the relevant ones shared via ClassDojo. 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. Over the next few pages, look out for some of the excellent learning that the children have completed already.

Finally, I think it is safe to say that Bertie has settled into school life here at Windmill Hill Academy brilliantly! Not only has he made friends with the pupils, but also with the staff and parents too! He loves all of his daily attention in the forms of strokes, cuddles, walks, playtime and 'Bertie' time and he certainly supports with everyone's wellbeing.



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

Settling into Year F

Year F have had a brilliant start to school life at Windmill Hill Academy and have quickly picked up their new routines. The children have made new friends and enjoyed exploring the Year F environment.



Fantastic Phonics!

Year F have begun their phonics learning and have impressed us with their newfound skills and knowledge.



Year 1

Well done to everyone in Year 1 for a fantastic start to the term! We are very proud of how you have settled into Year 1. So far, we have been busy practising our maths skills, retelling the story of the Three Little Pigs and learning all about the Great Fire of London.



Year 2

Class 2 have adapted to life in Year 2 extremely well! They have had the opportunity to explore the new areas of the classroom. The class favourite is the construction area! We are currently learning about the Spanish Amada and enjoying Wild Tribe on a Wednesday afternoon.



Year 3

An Incredible start to Year 3's (Key Stage 2) Journey!

Year 3 So Far:

- **English:** we have been reading a variety of text (Poetry; News and Informative articles). Year 3 have been learning how to persuasively write with the intention to create an informative leaflet to entice more people to come and visit Launceston. Superb learning!
- **Maths:** our focus has been Place Value and weekly continued practice of our multiplications. Year 3 have enjoyed the 'Around the World' maths challenges too.
- **Science:** Year 3 have engaged with scientific enquiries, with a focus on forces (push and pull).
- **Wild Tribe:** This has quickly become one of Year 3's highlights of the week. Year 3 have had great fun exploring and playing games in the wild and natural environment. Furthermore, Year 3 have learnt valuable skills in craft and team building.



Year 4

In Music, we have started to learn violins and cellos with Mrs Gilbert. This will be taking place every Thursday until Christmas.



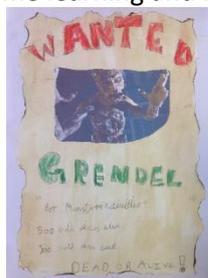
In Science, we have been focusing on creating simple circuits. After creating simple circuits, the children moved on to exploring the differences between conductors and insulators. The children realised that some materials were conductors, and some weren't.



Year 5

The school's learning connection block this half term is 'Rebellion and Invasion'. Following on from their study of Romans in Year Four, Year Five are studying the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. This week, we have learnt how and why the Vikings came to power and started to research Viking long-boats for our DT project. Look out for the final products.

Some of the children have started to produce some great home learning and look forward to seeing what each person has done during sharing time.



In science, we have been learning how Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravity and measuring mass and weight.

We were lucky with the weather managed to develop out invasion games skills through netball. Some of us still find footwork difficult, but we are all improving defending and marking.



Year 6



We have been enjoying our text called 'The Barrow Quest' which is about a young boy who was given the task of saving his tribe by trying to find the local magician. He had to be brave, conquer his fears and make lots of difficult

decisions.



After reading two chapters we went out into the garden and enjoyed acting out one of the main scenes before having to go back to class and begin writing our own version of a quest story.



We also wanted you to see this wonderful painting; painted in oils by Barnaby at home.

He got his inspiration from watching 'The Joy of Painting' by Bob Ross on TV. It is an amazing painting showing depth and shadow and it evoked much conversation in class.

Well done Barnaby!

Parking

You are welcome to use our drop and go system in the mornings from but there is strictly NO parking in our school car park apart from if you have asked for a permit due to having a disability. However, you all are able to apply for a parking permit to park in one of the local car parks for a short stay.

Please enquire with Mrs Zoffman in for more information.



Recognition of positive behaviour

Here is a reminder of how positive behaviour is recognised at Windmill Hill Academy, as featured in our behaviour policy. Our policy reflects our 'Rights Respecting' and 'Trauma Informed Schools' approach.

- Regular verbal praise and appreciation
- Stickers
- Celebrating success with others
- Person of the week
- House Team points (ClassDojo points)
- Golden time
- Celebration assembly rewards
- Stars of the week (with the option to spend time with Bertie during a Friday lunchtime)
- Respect and Kindness trophies
- Positive Role Model Trophy
- Raffle
- Attendance trophy for the class (and extra playtime) and end of term/year badges
- Karate reading bands
- Raffle tickets for 100% in Accelerated Reader quizzes (a prize will be awarded at the end of term)
- Visible Learner of the half term
- Mathematician and Writer of the half term
- End of year trophies



Amazing Achievements

Stars of The Week							
	Year F	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
10 th Sept	Harry Wyatt	Holly Louis L	All	Zachary Chloe	Florence Siqi	All	Alex Lily
17 th Sept	Eda Jiawen	Alfie Paige	Noah Rosey	Buddy Talia	Sienna Oliver	Casey Yujie	Oliver Ava
24 th Sept	Fenris Zia	Harry Lilly	Scott Taya	Elif Franky	Violet Isla	Iannis Chelsee	Ella Henry

Respect and Kindness			
	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
10 th Sept	Autumn (Y2)	Millie (Y3)	Phoebe (Y5)
17 th Sept	Freddie (Y1)	Quintin (Y4)	Casey (Y6)
24 th Sept	Imogen (YF)	Talia (Y3)	Alyssa (Y5)

Positive Role Model
17 th Sept
Brooke (Y6)

Attendance Figures for September 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 from September 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	10 th Sept	17 th Sept	24 th Sept
YF	94.4%	90.6%	90.7%
Y1	98.9%	96.3%	94%
Y2	100% ★	99.3%	97%
Y3	93%	96.4%	96.4%
Y4	88.5%	89%	93.8%
Y5	93.2%	91.3%	96.4%
Y6	99.5%	94.2%	97.4%
Whole school	94.4%	94%	95.4%

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 half term for you to select your child's choices. Please note, that the tomato pasta is now also available. All menu choices, including packed lunches, need to be booked by midnight each Sunday evening for the week ahead.

If you are having any problems with it, please contact Mrs Zoffman who will happily help you.



Dates for your diary

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

Wk beginning 4th October	Harvest Collection
20th October (10am)	Prospective Year F Parent Tour
Wk beginning 25th October	Half term
2nd and 3rd November	Parent Consultations
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