



West Green Primary School Newsletter

October 2022



IN MEMORY OF HRH QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Dear Parents and Carers

Just after the school term started we shared the grief of the nation in mourning the death of Queen Elizabeth II. We take comfort in the fact her passing was peaceful and, as with anyone who has lost their mother/sister/aunt/cousin/grandmother, our thoughts and best wishes are with her family.

Despite this sad news we have had a good start to the Autumn term. Our Reception class have settled in well and are getting to know their way around the school. The children in all classes have returned to school with an excellent attitude and have thrown themselves into their learning in their new year groups.

It has been lovely to see the children return to school so refreshed. It must have been all that lovely sunshine we had during August.

Kind regards

West Green Primary School

COME & SHARE OUR LEARNING

We had a lovely time this term when some parents joined us for the *come and share our learning* morning. The children were keen to show their parents what they have been learning in school, and hopefully the parents and carers were able to pick up some tips on how to help their children continue with their learning at home. We had over 100 parents join us in school which is an amazing turnout. This is our first come and share our learning that we have been able to invite parents to since the pandemic, and it was lovely to be able to fully accept visitors in through our school doors again. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us, we do realise that some parents were not able to attend due to work commitments. If you were not able to attend and have any questions about come and share our learning please speak to your child's class teacher. Our next come and share our learning will take place on 1st February 2023, from 9:00-10:00a.m.



A note from... The Governors

Praise for the School

The governors have suggested that we share some of the praise for the school that we regularly receive. It's so nice when parents, visitors and outside partners let us know we are doing well. It really makes the job worthwhile. Here are just a few of the things people have said recently:

"This is one of the nicest schools I've worked in." (Supply Teacher)

"Thank you for creating a fantastic atmosphere for children to grow and learn." (Parent)

"I just wanted to say thank you for such a lovely day with your class". (Trip Organiser)

"It was a pleasure to be in such a lovely, friendly school and have the privilege of being in your classroom." (Teacher Training Tutor)

"He has always loved coming to school and that is a testament to the dedication of you all and the amazing environment you have all created." (Parent)

Staffing Updates

There will be an update in the next newsletter regarding Mrs Spence's retirement.



A new Learning Support Assistant has joined our Year 3 class this term. We are very pleased that Mrs Mouni has joined us, she has settled in really quickly. The Year 3 children are really enjoying having her assist in the classroom. A very big welcome from all of us at West Green Primary.



Miss Tame, one of our Middy Meals Supervisors has gone on maternity leave for a well earned rest before she is joined by her new arrival. We wish her all the best and hope to see her in the near future.



Due to the temporary departure of Miss Tame, we have been joined by Mrs Salman who is a new addition to our Middy Meals Team. The children are really enjoying getting to know her.

We will keep you updated on our new starters as and when they arrive. You can find information on school jobs that are currently available by visiting: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/jobs/school-jobs/> You can then type in the location where you are searching for jobs, i.e. Crawley, Horsham etc.

YEAR 6 JUNIOR CITIZEN EVENT

Year 6 benefitted from a visit to the Hawth to take part in the Junior Citizen event. This is a free event provided by Crawley Borough Council.

This event is open to all Year 6 children across the borough's schools, teaching ten and eleven year olds to identify all kinds of potentially dangerous situations, providing advice on what to do and helping them learn valuable life skills to encourage responsible citizenship.

Our Year 6 class had a great day, their class teacher said...

"Year 6 went to the Hawth for the Crawley Junior Citizen exhibition where we learned about personal safety around town, how our water system works, as well as some tips for looking after the environment. It was a really informative morning and the whole class were spectacularly well behaved, as well as confident about what it takes to be a good citizen!"

Mr C Parry
Year 6 Teacher



YEAR 6 EVACUATION DAY

This term Year 6 have been reading the book Goodnight Mr Tom, which is about a young boy who is evacuated to the countryside during the Second World War.

Year 6 had a lovely surprise as they were taken by coach to experience a World War II Evacuation Day experience, which involved a ride on a steam train and other activities. This trip was organised so that the children could put themselves in the shoes of 1940's evacuee children leaving the city and heading for the countryside, often for the first and only time in their lives. Please see over the page for some photos of their day.

The Year 6 teacher comments:-

On 7th October, Year 6 experienced a real-life evacuation, when they were whisked off to an unknown destination in the countryside. It turned out that they were off to the Bluebell Steam Railway where they were immersed into the world of an evacuated child during the Second World War. Everyone came dressed up in their best 1940s attire, including the teachers, and we thoroughly enjoyed this trip back in time. It brought the experience of evacuees to life for us and allowed us to understand how they might have felt during this very difficult time in history.

Mr C Parry
Year 6 Teacher



YEAR 5 VIKING DAY

Year 5 had a Viking Day this week. Their outfits were brilliant! Here is what some of the Year 5 children had to say...

Today in west green primary school we had viking day!

We made ^{viking} ~~our~~ helmets by using paper/card strips.

We also did tug of war but the rope snapped
by Francesca

Today we made beautiful helmets and we did tug of war it was really fun. In the morning as well we had cool activities like colouring and word searches.

Aaliyah



These year 5's had a Viking day! On their Viking day the first thing they did was Viking colouring. Next they made their awesome viking helmets (and they got to paint them.) After that they did tug of war. Then they got to do colouring and last they painted Viking shields.

Suzanne



CLASS PHOTOS

The individual student photos have been taken, and by now you will all have received the proof of your children's photos. It is entirely your choice whether you purchase a copy of the photos. Please do not feel obliged to buy a copy, only purchase one if you really want one. The closing date for orders is Tuesday, 1st November 2022. As you can see below, even the staff get to have their photo taken...



SCHOOL COUNCIL CAKE SALE

The children who represent the school council organised a cake sale for the last day of term to raise money for wet play equipment. The donations of cakes and home baked goods we have received from the parents and children has been absolutely outstanding. We cannot thank you enough for your generous donations. We will update you in the next newsletter with the total amount our hard working school council representatives made from the sale.



YEAR 4 SWIMMING

Year 4 started their swimming lessons this term. It is part of the national curriculum that the children are provided with swimming lessons. Love it or not, it is so important that children learn to swim. Whether they are born to swim, or just learn the basics, does not matter. In learning to swim, it could save their life (or someone else's) one day. This is an important part of their learning and all lessons must be attended unless there is a genuine reason why a child is not able to participate.

DRUMMING LESSONS

Year 3 and Year 5 have started their drumming lessons on a Friday afternoon. They are learning to play the djembe drums. The children are really focussed and it is a great way for them to end the week. The noise is incredible and can be heard down the far end of the school.

NO NUTS REMINDER

We repeat this message at the start of every new school year for the benefit of new parents. We are a 'No Nuts' school. This means that no food brought into school by either children or staff should contain nuts. This includes Nutella (there are other alternative chocolate spreads available that do not contain nuts). Food allergies are on the rise and our main priority is to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

48 HOUR REMINDER

All parents please note that if your child should be unfortunate enough to suffer from diarrhoea or vomiting (D&V) then you need to keep them off school for 48 hours from their last bout of D&V. These are not rules that we have made up, they have been put in place by WSCC to reduce the spread of stomach bugs. If your child is returned to school before the 48 hours has elapsed we will contact you so that you can collect them and take them home again.

COST OF LIVING CRISIS — WHERE TO FIND HELP IF YOU NEED IT

The current cost of living crisis is a worrying time for a lot of people, and not something many of us have had to face before on this level. We as a school will help in any way we can, especially if you feel it is affecting your child/children. If you are struggling, please contact the school and even if we can't help directly we may be able to point you in the right direction. In the meantime, listed below are some contact details that may be of assistance to either your family, or someone that you know.

turn2us

This website is designed to help you find out if you are able to get help with your energy bills. There are many grants out there you may not know about. Some energy suppliers have their own grant scheme in place. You can ask your supplier if they have a scheme, and what the criteria is for claiming a grant. Turn2us also has other useful links in relation to other household bills e.g. water bills. To search for grants that you may be eligible for, you can use an easy tool on <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>. Tel: 0808 802 2000

StepChange Debt Charity

If you are worried about any debt, you can contact the StepChange Debt Charity for free advice on <https://www.stepchange.org>. Tel: 0800 138 1111

Food Banks in Crawley

Food banks have become a necessity for many people in the last few years. The need for this service is constantly increasing. There are a number of food banks in Crawley, if you do a web search you should be able to find some details. Listed below are some contact details to help get you started:

Freeshop - info@freeshopcrawley.com - Tel: 07861 907133

Crawley Food Bank Partnership (they are The Easter Team and also Crawley Open House who are working together)

Tel The Easter Team: 07940 900948/Tel Crawley Open House: 01293 447702

Government and Local Council Resources

The government has launched a new online tool to help people check the benefits and financial support they might be able to apply for. You can check at:

www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support

Your local council may be able to help you pay for things like:

- Energy and water bills;
- Food;
- Essential items such as clothes or even an oven.

This help is known as Welfare Assistance or the Household Support Fund. Each council runs its own scheme. The help they offer, and who can get it, varies. Ask your local council if they run one of these schemes. You do not have to be in receipt of benefits to get help from your local council. If you are in receipt of benefits, they will not be affected if you get help from one of these schemes. See overleaf for information on the WSCC Community Hub.



COMMUNITY HUB

WSCC have a community hub for anyone who may need help. You can request support from the Hub, including accessing the Household Support Fund, and where to get advice.

WSCC are focused on making sure they continue to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Contact options are as follows:

- If your request is urgent, for example, you are going to run out of food within the next two days, please phone 033 022 27980 so that they can make sure you get the help you need as quickly as possible.

Also available are:

Option 1 - Government support and advice

Visit GOV.UK to find a full breakdown of the latest Government information.

Option 2 - Local support

Some help can be provided by district and borough councils, including support and advice about housing and rent payments.

Option 3 - Household Support fund

Support is available for households in most need through the Household Support Fund, according to eligibility criteria. If you are of state pension age, live in West Sussex and are struggling with energy bills, food or water bills, please contact the Community Hub to discuss your needs and apply for support from the Household Support Fund.

If you are not of state pension age and have less than two days supply of food, please phone the Community Hub on 033 022 27980, to discuss support options which may include signposting to other organisations.

On the web you will be able to find a form to request support.

Option 4 - Carer's support

If you need to talk or find out information about what is happening locally, Carers Support West Sussex can offer you guidance and a listening ear. Their fully trained staff can be contacted via email, phone or online chat, where they will be able to help you.

You do not need to be in a caring role to benefit from this service.



Vacancy Premises Officer

Would you, or someone you know, like to work part time and be part of our school community?

We would like to appoint a conscientious, dedicated Premises Officer to join our school team. We are looking for a practical and well-motivated person who can work on his or her own initiative.

As Premises Officer, you will ensure that the school environment is cared for and maintained to a high standard. Your personal qualities will include versatility, good communication skills, and a commitment to the role.

We are a fantastic school to work in, with supportive staff and friendly children. We think that you will find that we have something a bit special, a 'family atmosphere' that comes from being a small school.

The successful applicant will;

- Possess some appropriate skills such as; building management, maintenance, D.I.Y., caretaking and gardening
- Be able to learn new skills appropriate to the role
- Have the ability to maintain accurate records (both written and computerised) for premises and health and safety compliance
- Be flexible to meet the needs of the school

Training will be provided as required for the successful candidate.

Location: West Green Primary School, West Green, Crawley, RH11 7EL

Grade: 5 point 7 £20,444 plus Crawley Weighting allowance £561.00 per annum, pro rata for hours worked (approx. £10.60 per hour)

Hours: 20 per week, Monday to Friday, 52 weeks a year with 23 days paid annual leave

Working hours to be agreed with the successful candidate Consideration would be given to options of:

Just mornings 7:00am to 11:00am

Or

Just afternoons 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Or

Split shift 7:00am to 9:00am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Please see our application pack for full details of hours, salary and full job description.

If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01293 526679 to arrange a tour .

To apply – please complete the application form and email to:

sbm@westgreenprimary.com

or post to

Headteacher, West Green Primary School, West Green Drive, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 7EL

Timescale

Closing date: 28th October 2022

Interviews: Early November 2022 (or earlier if suitable applications are received)

Should you have any queries or wish to have an informal discussion about this post, please contact Annette Tomsett, Business Manager by email sbm@westgreenprimary.com

West Green Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

This appointment will be subject to the school receiving satisfactory references.

The post is subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring (DBS) check in line with the school's policy towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

West Green is committed to equal opportunities; we welcome applications regardless of ability, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion.



CURRENT GOVERNMENT COVID ADVICE

Most people can no longer access free testing for COVID-19. The risk of becoming seriously unwell from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections is very low for most children and young people. If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or you do not feel well enough to go to work or carry out normal activities, you are advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

If a child or young person under 18 has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

SAFEGUARDING

Keeping Children Safe in Education – Online Safety Update

Keeping Children Safe in Education is an important document that schools use to ensure that their safeguarding practice is up to date and effective. This year's update asks that we inform parents about how we keep children safe online.

In school we have a filtering system called 'Surf Protect Quantum' which stops children and adults accessing inappropriate content online while in school. With real-time updates and advanced filtering systems, including for encrypted sites, this software keeps the children safe very effectively.

In addition to this we have another level of protection called 'Smoothwall'. Smoothwall looks at what people are doing on the computers in school, both on and offline, and sends alerts to the management of the school if inappropriate activity is detected. This includes inappropriate searches conducted, whether or not the site was able to be accessed. It also includes other things that might be a concern that we could help with, for example if someone searched for 'how to stop feeling sad'.

The document also asks that we let parents know which sites children are going to access. Obviously, if children are doing research on their history topic for example, it is impossible to say which specific sites they are going to access. However these will generally be things like BBC learning pages, information sites such as Wikipedia and so on. Teachers may also direct children to specific sites such as Scratch or Times Tables Rockstars to do specific activities. After consultation with the Crawley Locality of schools and the Governing Body of West Green, we have agreed that we are meeting our duty to parents and carers by assuring you that we will only ask children to access sites we feel are appropriate to their learning and are carefully filtered by Surf Protect Quantum.

The document also places duty on schools to explain how and when children will be contacted online by school staff. The only occasion this might happen is if we re-activate Class Dojo or a similar platform for home learning, should the need arise. School staff will not make contact with children in any other way including email, text, through a third party website or by means of any other technology.



CHANGE OF DETAILS

If any of your contact details change (address, home phone, mobile etc), please inform the school office so they can update the school records accordingly.

MEDICATION

From time to time we will sometimes administer paracetamol to a child if they are feeling unwell, but it is not necessary to send them home. The brand we use is either Calpol paracetamol 6+ sachets or meltlets (so cannot be administered to anyone under 6 years old). For this to be administered to your child you will have needed to have signed a form giving your permission. We will always telephone you to get your permission before we administer any paracetamol, but without the signed consent form we cannot administer it in any event. If you have already signed a permission slip you do not need to do anything else. The above is also relevant for antihistamine's. We use Piriton, but only if the parent has provided written consent and also verbal consent just before it is administered.

TRIM TRAIL AND TYRE TRAIL

At the end of the school day it has been noted that parents are allowing their children to play on the trim trail outside the classrooms. If you do allow your child to use the trim trail (or tyres) at drop off/collection time it is **your responsibility** to ensure they use it safely. Please keep an eye on your children at all times during drop off/collection to/from school to ensure their safety.

UNIFORM

We no longer take school uniform orders via the school office. When you require new uniform for your child you can order it from: www.myclothing.com

Tel: 0800 069 9949

MOBILE PHONES

Please can you remind your child that if they bring a mobile phone to school with them, they must **not** use the phone whilst on the school premises. All phones must be turned off when your child has arrived at school, and handed to their class teacher. All phones will be returned at the end of the school day.

BIRTHDAYS AND TREATS

We love birthdays, and we love celebrating them even more! If you provide sweets for a class in order to celebrate your child's birthday, we would ask that you ensure they are individually wrapped, nut free and, if possible, vegetarian. This will mean all of your child's classmates can celebrate their birthday with them. We are not able to hand out any cakes or sweets that are homemade.

Also, from time to time throughout the school year, we will give out sweet treats to children. We will ensure we always meet a child's dietary requirements. **Please inform the school if you do not want your child to be given any sweet treats.**

ASTHMA INHALERS/AUTO INJECTORS

If we hold an asthma inhaler or auto injector for your child, please be aware that we need two, one in the classroom, and one in our medical room. When that item is out of date we will contact you and ask you to provide us ones that are in date. **Please make sure that you provide us in date items as a matter of priority. It is for your child's safety and must be acted upon immediately.**

FILMS AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER (AND THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR)

Mainly at Christmas and Easter time we will sometimes arrange for the children to watch a film as an end of term treat. The films will either be a 'U' or 'PG' certificate. We would never show a film that we judged to be inappropriate. **However, if you do not wish your child to watch a 'PG' certificate film then please let the school office know so that a different film can be chosen for your child's class to watch.**

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Please remember that we are a 'No Nuts' school. This means that no food brought into school by either children or staff should contain nuts. This includes Nutella (there are other alternative chocolate spreads available that do not contain nuts).